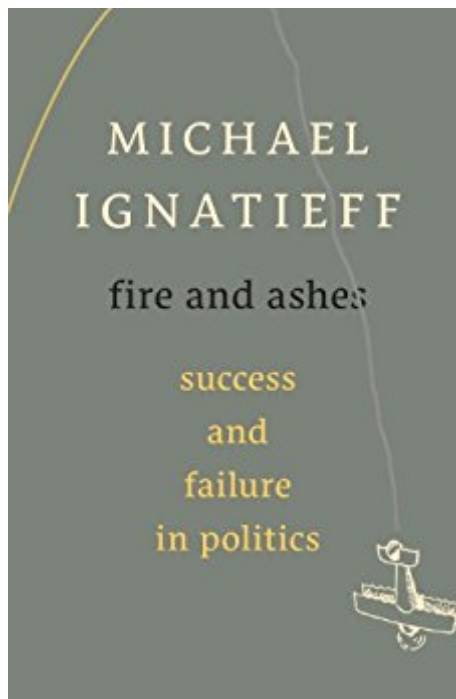


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# Fire And Ashes



## Synopsis

In 2005 Michael Ignatieff left Harvard to lead Canada's Liberal Party and by 2008 was poised to become Prime Minister. It never happened. He describes what he learned from his bruising defeat about compromise and the necessity of bridging differences in a pluralist society. A reflective, compelling account of modern politics as it really is.

## Book Information

File Size: 541 KB

Print Length: 220 pages

Publisher: Harvard University Press (November 19, 2013)

Publication Date: November 19, 2013

Language: English

ASIN: B00I4Q445O

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #531,191 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #133

inÂ Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical > Canadian #142 inÂ Books > Politics & Social

Sciences > Politics & Government > International & World Politics > Canadian #184 inÂ Kindle

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## Customer Reviews

There's Iggy Pop and Iggy Flop; one is a brilliant musician who delivers what audiences want and does it in style, the other is a clueless politician. This book is about the politician who discovered the Liberals are not Canada's natural rulers, especially when led by a tone deaf expatriate. As in his last campaign, when he blithely led Liberals into their worst defeat in Canadian history, Ignatieff fails to explain why Liberals are better than Conservatives, and why after thirty-plus years outside the country he was not "Just Visiting" in his adventure in politics. Consider: John McCain, in his first campaign for Congress, was criticized as a carpetbagger who had just moved into Arizona and the district. McCain said the charge was true, explaining the longest he'd ever lived in one place was the Hanoi Hilton (a North Vietnamese prison camp). He won by solid margin. Ignatieff had almost

three years to explain his time outside Canada, just as he had ample time to create a dynamic alternative to the Conservatives. Even in retrospect, he fails to deliver. He just doesn't get it. The smoke and mirrors of a political campaign are as elaborately choreographed as a Mexican Luche Libre wrestling match; campaigns are a test of every possible strength and absurdity. Ignatieff just stood blankly in the 2011 campaign, thrilled by a new adventure as if the faithful at his rallies were enough to give him victory. Canadians wanted new ideas in 2011, which is why the New Democrats, Canada's socialist and "natural also ran party" surged into second place, displacing the Liberals to a dismal third and their worst defeat. Why? In brief, New Democrats offered a new vision. The Liberal campaign, in effect, was based on "A new job for Ignatieff!"

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