

Ian Mitchell's Scotland-related (video)  
**BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS**

54 – *Scottish National Party Leaders*  
(25 May 2020)

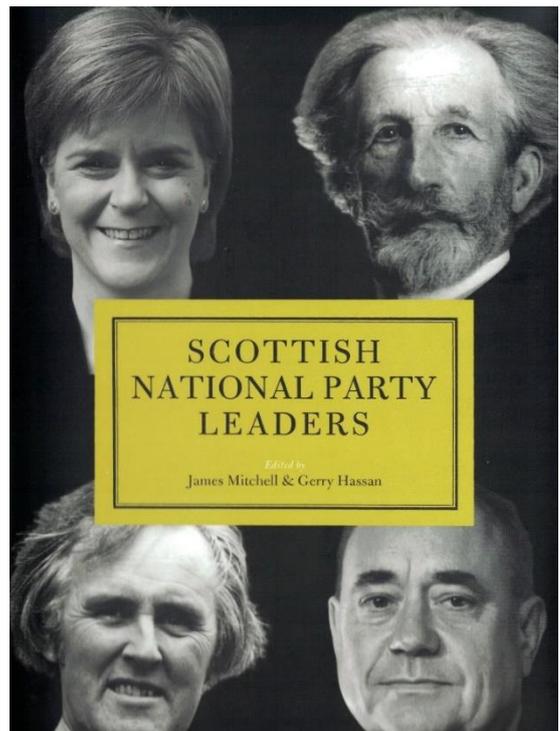
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**SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY LEADERS**

**Author:** James Mitchell & Gerry Hassan (eds.)

**Publisher:** [Biteback Publishing](#), 2016  
(available on Amazon, click on cover image for link)

**Descriptor:** Essays on each of the 19 people who have been leaders of the SNP since its foundation



**RusRoL relevance:** *Illustrates the futility and tedium of institutional history and of politicians who value attitudes (STATUS) above achievement (CONTRACT). Also show how hatred can motivate destructive political operators*

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Nicola Sturgeon is “fuelled by a hatred of Margaret Thatcher, which she says has been ‘the motivation for my entire political career’....” (p. 358)

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**Reason to read:** Gives an insight into the sort of people, and their character, who have led the SNP. Since personality (i.e. people) is always more important in politics than policy (i.e. plans), this is important and interesting material, however uncomfortable some of the subjects of these studies stand up to investigation. The negativity that is bred in the SNP bone is a modern phenomenon, but the contrariness and intractability of these leaders has been evident right from the start.

**YouTube video link:** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P7yid\\_f-c5w&t=4s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P7yid_f-c5w&t=4s)

**Overall recommendation level:** RELEVANT READING, GRIM SUBJECT

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**About the reviewer:** Ian Mitchell is the author of four books, including [Isles of the West](#) and [The Justice Factory](#). He is writing a comparative study of Russian and Western constitutional history to be called *Russia and the Rule of Law*—hence the “RusRoL Relevance” section at the top. He can be contacted at: [ian@ianmitchellonline.co.uk](mailto:ian@ianmitchellonline.co.uk).

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