

Playlist for YouTube channel: “Ian Mitchell’s Book Recommendations”

The videos are listed in reverse order of posting on YouTube (i.e. from most recently posted down to the first posted). “Subscribe” to the channel for notice of new videos posted.

The number of the Recommendations starts with 54, which was my first video review. Previous *printed* Recommendations can be found on this website: <https://www.moffatrussianconferences.com/ian-mitchell-s-russia>

The “Short” films are included at the time they were posted. They are numbered from 01 onwards. They are based on books, but are not so much reviews as musings on matters arising from them.

Click on each title for the Amazon page for more details and to buy the book.

All books were read in the course of research for my own book, *Russia and the Rule of Law* (forthcoming)

[57 - Central Asia - YouTube](#)

A readable and accurate history of Central Asia from ancient to modern times. It suggests the point that what destroyed the tolerance (due largely to indifference) of the Tsarist authorities to the practical day-to-day freedom of ordinary people in remote parts of the Empire was Stalin and, through him (this is the general civilisational point) *bureaucracy*. You cannot manage a multi-cultural national community by bureaucracy as bureaucracy always has to standardise, while the essence of multi-culturalism is diversity (i.e. no standardisation).

[Russia and Central Asia: Coexistence, Conquest, Convergence](#), Shoshana Keller (University of Toronto Press, 2020)

[Alasdair Alpin MacGregor 01 - Mull of Kintyre Lighthouse - YouTube](#)

First in a series which will present extracts from the most interesting yet under-rated travel writer Scotland produced in the twentieth century. If you have laboured through Neil Gunn’s predictably pessimism or slogged, unrewarded by wit or personality, though the works of Tom Morton, or suffered at the hands of some half-witted hater of humanity from the conservation movement, you will welcome Alasdair Alpin MacGregor like a soothing draught of personal reality in the desert of lies, bureaucratism and self-advertisement that politically correct writers subject us to.

[Somewhere in Scotland: the Western Highlands in Pen and Picture](#), Alasdair Alpin MacGregor (Robert Hale, 1935) [Not recommended for non-Scots.]

[Short 02 - Philby sniffed - YouTube](#)

A brief but revealing anecdote about Kim Philby and the first person to “smell a rat” when catching sight of him for the first time. It is taken from the excellent book called “C”, by Anthony Cave Brown, a biography of Sir Stewart Menzies, the wartime head of the Secret Intelligence Service and, as such, Philby’s boss. The man with the “nose” was, however, someone else, as will be seen.

[“C”: the Secret Life of Sir Stewart Menzies, Spymaster to Winston Churchill](#), Anthony Cave Brown (Macmillan, 1988)

[Short 01 - The Germanic Isle - YouTube](#)

Fascinating book arguing that the Nazi ideal was life in (upper-class) Britain, until their love turned sour and they decided to loathe their imagined view of the UK. Concentrates on the admiring *Country Life* profile of Hitler which was published in March 1936.

[The Germanic Isle: Nazi Perceptions of Britain](#), Gerwin Strobl (Cambridge University Press, 2000)

[56 - Oxford Handbook of European Legal History - YouTube](#)

Review of this excellent book, concentrating on the final chapter (of 48!) which discusses what is arguably the “unlawfulness” of the European Court of Justice, and its use as camouflage for European integration, irrespective of the text of the treaties which constituted it and the Union itself.

[Oxford Handbook of European Legal History](#), (eds.) Pihlajamaki, Dubber, Godfrey (Oxford University Press, 2018)

[55 - Auld Acquaintance - YouTube](#)

Describes the case against separation between Scotland and England, but concentrates on the money issue when, in my view, the most important point is defence of the rule of law, which is under threat both in the world internationally, but -- perhaps especially so -- in Scotland itself today.

[Should Auld Acquaintance be Forgotten: the Great Mistake of Scottish Independence](#), John Lloyd (Polity Press, 2020)

[54 - SNP Leaders - YouTube](#)

Biographical sketches of all the people who been leaders of the Scottish National Party from its formation in 1935 to the present. It draws attention to the arguably “sectarian” concept of the “authentic Scot”, as described by Mandy Rhodes of *Holyrood Magazine* when describing Nicola Sturgeon. To be “authentically Scots” like her, you have to be “working class, state educated, left leaning and believably human.”

[Scottish National Party Leaders](#), (eds.) Mitchell, Hassan (Biteback Publications, 2016)