

Who Runs This Place? The Anatomy of Britain in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century by Anthony Sampson.  
John Murray 2004.

There is a long-standing tradition in Judaism to pray for the peace of the government, and it is more than likely that from this stems the natural and deeply-held love and loyalty of Jews for the country of their birth. But whether we always understand the way our country works, how its institutions blend or clash, where the influence lies and what truly constitutes 'the establishment' is more open to question.

Anthony Sampson, the magisterial author of the original Anatomy of Britain and many other internationally acclaimed books, has turned his unique eye once more on Britain and what makes the country tick.

Who Runs This Place?, written forty years after Anatomy was first published, analyses in forensic detail not just the institutions of Great Britain, such as Westminster, the Monarchy, Political parties, the diplomatic and secret services, the military, the Press, the City and so on, but even more important the way they have changed in public perception and actuality over the last four decades. Sampson also considers where 'power' truly lies in the early years of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and what the implications of the shifts in our national tectonic plates that he identifies might be.

For anyone who loves their country, even more who is intrigued and fascinated by its inner workings, Who Runs This Place is an indispensable and highly enjoyable read.

Rabbi Dr Charles H Middleburgh