

Memories of the Blair Administration – Tony's Ten Years by Adam Boulton.  
Simon and Schuster 2008.

Adam Boulton is one of the best informed and shrewdest observers of the British political scene and as such his analysis of the decade of Tony Blair's premiership is an important addition to the already voluminous Blair bibliography.

Boulton creates an original framework for his book, setting his study in the context of Blair's final 100 days in office: the book is divided into ten chapters: Power, Devolution, Home Front, War, World Stage, 'Feral Media', Europe, The Private Man, Brown, Exit Prime Minister. There is also a diary of the last 100 Days and beyond.

Much of the over-arching detail is widely know, and what makes Memories of the Blair Administration such a fascinating and enthralling read that is the plethora of observation and anecdote that Boulton produces from his perspective as a senior political correspondent with a shrewd grasp of history, and also as the husband of one of Blair's oldest friends and longest-serving aides, Anji Hunter.

What seemed clear to me from very early on was that although admirably objective about events, and overtly about Blair himself, I got the feeling very strongly that Adam Boulton didn't like Blair very much as a man, and certainly did not respect him as a Prime Minister. The assumption may be mistaken on my part but the sub-text add extra spice to a highly readable and pacy book.

Rabbi Dr Charles H Middleburgh