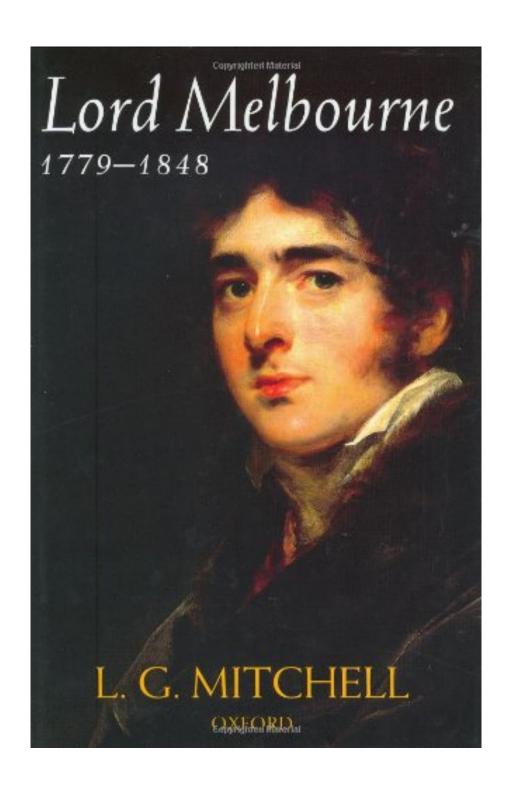


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"An excellent biography....Based on extensive research, Mitchell's book tells both the political and personal stories extremely well."--Choice

## About the Author

L. G. Mitchell is Fellow and Praelector in Modern History at University College, Oxford. The leading scholar of the Whigs, his many books include the highly praised Charles James Fox (OUP 1992).

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5 of 5 people found the following review helpful.

Queen Victoria's First Prime Minister

By Dai-keag-ity

Melbourne's life story is simply amazing. From his outrageously popular mother (a Whig noblewoman whose multitude of sons each had different--perhaps royal--fathers) and crazily intense wife, Caroline Lamb (a woman who once bit a chunk out of a wine glass when she spied her lover speaking to another woman) to Melbourne's "sexual rivalry" with that poetical superstar of the nineteenth-century, Lord Byron ("mad, bad, and dangerous to know") to, yes, a political career that shone brightly on the world stage (the city of Melbourne, Australia is named for him) this man was the first Prime Minister of Victoria's long reign, and in some ways the one with whom she was closest. The tidbits of Melbourne's personal life and the (ahem) affairs of those around him are here in pleasing detail, but there is no skimping on his political career, or on the world of his times. I found this to be an enjoyable biography of a remarkable man who had the good fortune to dwell in an interesting period and know most of the great figures (of which he was certainly one) of his age.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

A prime minister more interesting than significant

By Jonathan Baum

Not one of the UK's great prime ministers, Melbourne was a complex character who was fortunate enough to be in office while Britain did not face any serious foreign or domestic crises. While brilliant and hard working (if for no other reason than he hated to be bored), he instinctively avoided confrontations and change, both in politics and in his social life. He was the victim of a disastrous marriage, which left him emotionally crippled although he was able to form a deep and affectionate tie to a very young Queen Victoria when she ascended to the throne. A Whig with deep roots, he believed that there was nothing that couldn't be solved with a good dinner, and he would dine with anyone who didn't shout at the table. I'm giving this thoughtful and enjoyable biography only 4 stars because of the author's annoying habit of keeping long passages in French and it's lack of illustrations. Still worth reading however.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

A truly in depth showing of Melbourne's character

By Janet Smith

Truly enjoyed this book since I am a fan of all Melbourne history. Really surprised at his impassiveness of critical issues that needed attention as a member of parliament, and later while Prime Minister.

I think there were lots of deep issues going on within him. Probably scarred by his marriage, yet we all have to get over it and keep going through life. I see a man that was probably spoiled, selfish, led a privileged life and at times seemed lazy, complacent and enjoyed having someone else(especially his family) making his decisions. His Mother, I am sure, had great effect on him from childhood.

A brilliant, educated mind with all kinds of opportunity, if applied while a young man, he probably could have accomplished all sooner.

The Author did a superb job.

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