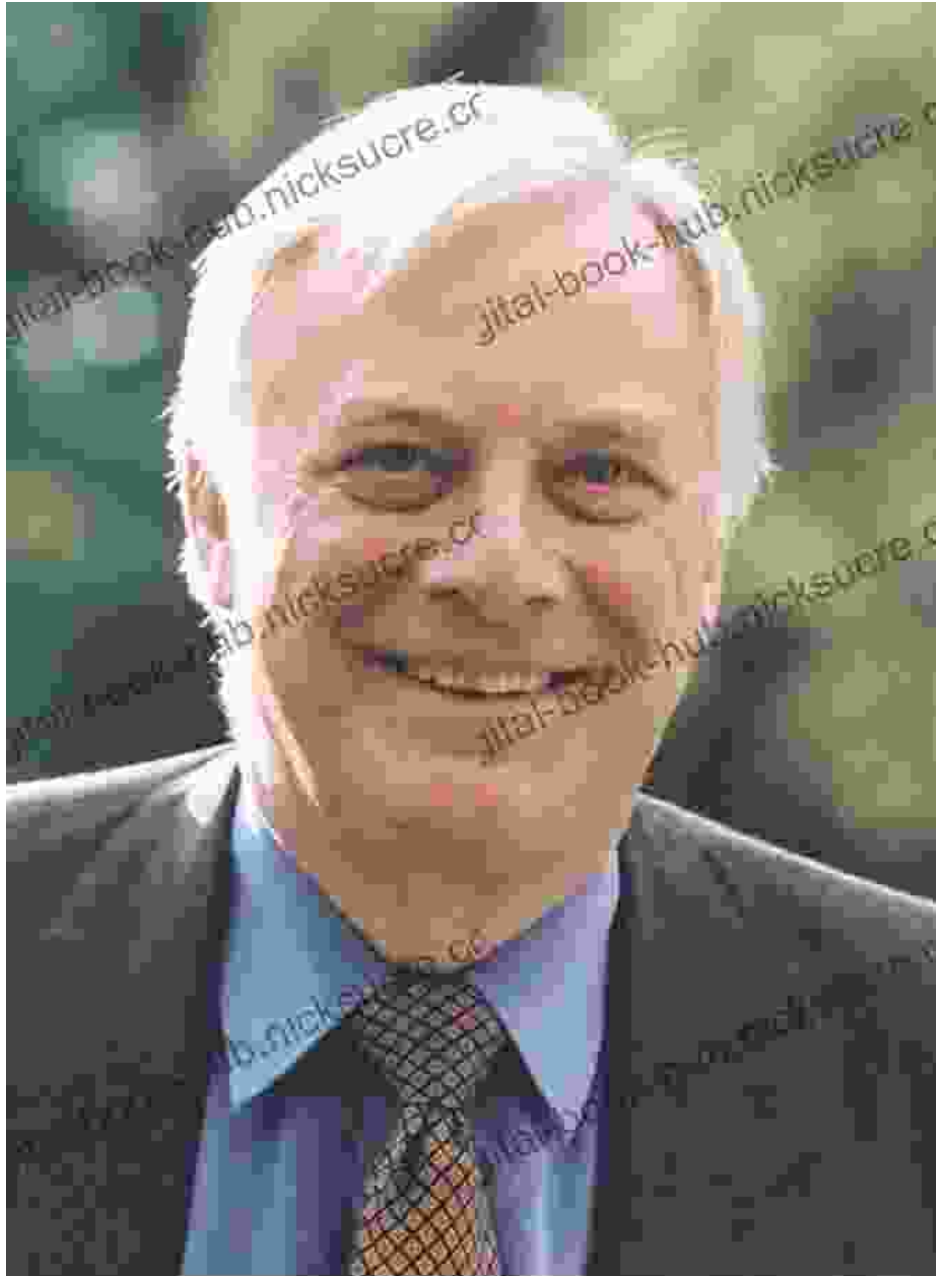


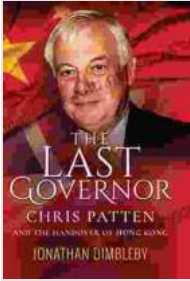
# Chris Patten and the Handover of Hong Kong: A Comprehensive Retrospective



**The Last Governor: Chris Patten and the Handover of  
Hong Kong** by Jonathan Dimbleby

★★★★☆ 4.2 out of 5

Language : English



File size	: 9352 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 616 pages
Lending	: Enabled



Chris Patten, Baron Patten of Barnes, is a British politician who served as the last governor of Hong Kong from 1992 to 1997. He oversaw the transition of the territory from British to Chinese rule, a complex and challenging process that had a profound impact on the lives of millions of people.

Patten is a controversial figure, and his tenure as governor was marked by both successes and failures. However, there is no doubt that he is one of the most significant figures in Hong Kong's history, and his legacy will continue to be debated for years to come.

## Early Life and Career

Chris Patten was born in Cleveleys, Lancashire, England, on May 12, 1944. He was the son of a working-class family, and he grew up in a small terraced house. Patten attended St. Bede's Grammar School, where he excelled in his studies. He went on to study history at Oxford University, where he was president of the Oxford Union.

After graduating from Oxford, Patten worked as a journalist for the BBC. He then entered politics, and was elected to the House of Commons in 1979.

Patten served in various ministerial positions in the Conservative government of Margaret Thatcher. In 1992, he was appointed governor of Hong Kong.

## **Governor of Hong Kong**

Patten's appointment as governor of Hong Kong came at a time of great uncertainty and change. The territory was due to be handed over to China in 1997, and there were fears that the transition would be chaotic and violent.

Patten's mission was to ensure a smooth and orderly handover. He implemented a number of reforms, including introducing democratic elections for the Legislative Council. He also worked to improve the economy and to protect the human rights of Hong Kong's citizens.

Patten's reforms were not always popular with the Chinese government. Beijing accused him of trying to undermine China's sovereignty over Hong Kong. However, Patten stood his ground, and he refused to compromise on his principles.

The handover of Hong Kong to China took place on July 1, 1997. It was a peaceful and orderly event, and Patten played a key role in ensuring its success.

## **Post-Governorship Career**

After the handover, Patten returned to the United Kingdom. He served as a member of the House of Lords and as Chancellor of the University of Oxford. He also wrote a number of books on politics and history.

In 2017, Patten was appointed chairman of the British Council. He is a strong advocate for the promotion of British culture and values around the world.

## Legacy

Chris Patten is a complex and controversial figure. He is a committed democrat who believes in the importance of human rights. However, he is also a pragmatist who is willing to compromise in order to achieve his goals.

Patten's legacy is mixed. He is credited with overseeing the peaceful handover of Hong Kong to China. However, he is also criticized for his pro-democracy reforms, which some believe undermined China's sovereignty over the territory.

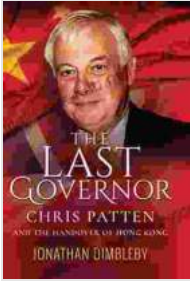
Ultimately, Patten's legacy will be for historians to decide. However, there is no doubt that he is one of the most significant figures in Hong Kong's history. He is a man of courage and conviction, and his story is a fascinating one.

Chris Patten is a complex and fascinating figure. He is a man of great intelligence and determination, and he has played a major role in shaping the history of Hong Kong. His legacy will continue to be debated for years to come, but there is no doubt that he is one of the most important figures in the territory's history.

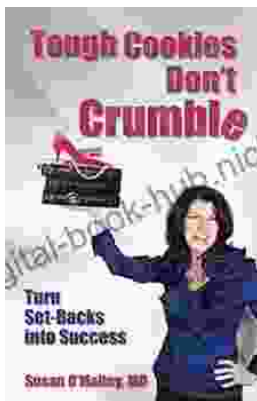
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