The thorough research goes into the background that drove this fairly unassuming man to the political stance and outlook that he took consistently all his life. His time in power is pretty extraordinary. It is difficult to think of another individual through whom one can better tell the story of how Britain changed from the high imperialism of Queen Victoria’s Diamond Jubilee of, through two world wars, the great depression, the nuclear age and the Cold War, and the transition from empire into commonwealth. Attlee comes over well in this period as one who is happy to let Winston
Citizen Clem: A Biography of Attlee Writer

Like the rest of us his faults were numerous and a plethora of charism was certainly not something you'd level at him. He has a list of achievements as long as your arm yet never trumpeted these and remained a modest man throughout his life. The Observer Biography books. While the prime minister focused on the military effort, his deputy made sure the country still functioned on the domestic front. When war came, Attlee threw in his lot with Churchill. The sections on his earlier life I found remarkable in the outline of the man who I was surprised to note how genteel and middle-class his upbringing and life was; a lawyer father, Haileybury private school, Oxford, and then the Bar - he would have seemed to have "Tory" written all over him. Richard Seymour. Even in this aspect, there are some people who credited it to Aneurin Bevan. This book will pierce the reticence of Attlee and explore the intellectual foundations and core beliefs of one of the most important figures in twentieth-century British history, arguing that he remains underappreciated, rather than simply underestimated. Maybe I've just been spoiled in the previous biographies that featured him. No clear and fluidly written and giving pretty equal weight to his public achievements and his personality. Average rating 4. If you have changed your email address then contact us and we will update your details. Bew puts the question at the core of his story. His family shared strong commitments to public service and raised no objections when Attlee soon switched from a legal career to social work in Limehouse, an impoverished district in East London, where direct personal contact exploded misconceptions about the nature of poverty and instilled a deep admiration for the hard work and social cohesion that made working class life marginally possible in the face of intolerable burdens and unfair odds. My main criticism of the book is that it's overly personality-focused.

Citizen Clem: A Biography of Attlee Reviews

I didn't even know his siblings had died until a throw away line or two near the end! The NHS and Welfare State were absolutely life-changing for some people and if it wasn't for Thatcher I think the legacy of his socialist policies would be a lot stronger today and there would perhaps be less hatred towards the left from the working class. And he really is an inspiring figure, at least to me. Lenin on the Train. Ironically, the man who hated
Citizen Clem: A Biography of Attlee Read Online

Catherine Merridale. There are a number of things that strike me about this book. You see him clearly as a cricket fan, a highly unorthodox political leader, a genuinely shy and humble character, and a really dedicated public servant. In summary: very, very good. We hear from them many times in this book but almost always in the service of making the point that they were wrong about him, or at least missed the point. The six political leaders, a genuinely shy and humble character, and a really dedicated public servant. In summary: very, very good. We hear from them many times in this book but almost always in the service of making the point that they were wrong about him, or at least missed the point. The six years of that government were remarkable not just for the huge social agenda — the formation of the NHS and welfare state — but also for foreign policy challenges that put the present Brexit fiasco into perspective. View 2 comments. The first, in , had seen it recover from near annihilation four years earlier; the results in and were the best in its history and, even in , despite losing power, Labour had won the largest share of the vote. Get A Copy. Alas for us that it seems so lacking. Jan 22, Andrew Pratley rated it it was amazing Shelves: biography. There are no trivia or quizzes yet. Call us on or send us an email at. Your local Waterstones may have stock of this item. A great work of personal biography, social history, political philosophy, international relations and ferrets-in-a-sack Labour Party infighting. Citizen Clem reminds us that we still live in a world that is heavily influenced by the works of Attlee, and that the post-war consensus with both the United Nations and Nato came about through his work and determination after the war. Four years later he was to become the leader of that party. I have no idea why this wasn't caught during copy editing. When commentators talk of the Second World War in GB political terms, their usual approach is to laud Winston Churchill who kept Britain afloat when all seemed lost which, of course, he did. Chris Renwick. It is clear that for an avid reader like Mr Attlee, literature provided a pillar of his world views -- and it was delightful to see the various chapters in his life opened in such a way.