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# THE MOST POWERFUL MAN IN THE REPUBLICAN PARTY

**Wilmington, DE** - He's the highest-ranking Republican in America and one of the most powerful leaders in Washington. And yet most know almost nothing about him.

Now the curtain has been pulled back on **Senate Republican Minority Leader Mitch McConnell**, the skilled politician who commands the opposition to Obama and the Democrats. Kentucky-based political columnist John David Dyché offers the definitive inside look at McConnell and his unlikely rise to power in his new book, *Republican Leader: A Political Biography of Senator Mitch McConnell*.

Based on dozens of interviews with McConnell's colleagues, friends, and rivals—and the senator himself—the eye-opening book **REPUBLICAN LEADER** (ISI Books, June 15, 2009) reveals the truth, including:

- The young McConnell's long struggle with polio, which left the child's leg partially paralyzed
- The inside story on McConnell's fierce fights with a prominent member of his *own* party, **John McCain**
- The secrets to the tight-lipped senator's repeated success despite long odds and media ridicule
- How McConnell's increasing conservatism sometimes conflicts with his cold-eyed political realism
- The untold story of how the shrewd McConnell became a "master of the Senate" on par with LBJ
- How McConnell became perhaps modern America's foremost defender of free speech with his opposition to campaign finance reform
- How he won reelection in 2008—comfortably, in the end—despite being a national target of Democrats, and despite the national Democratic landslide
- How the Republican McConnell became the longest-serving senator in Democratic Kentucky's history and has even built a strong statewide GOP structure
- The senator's hard-nosed approach to politics: "If someone flicks a pebble at you, hurl a boulder back"
- McConnell's surprising supporters, including activist rock star Bono and Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi
- How in 2006 McConnell privately urged the Bush administration to change direction in Iraq—and was shocked when Donald Rumsfeld resigned one day *after* the Republicans took a drubbing at the polls

## Praise for **REPUBLICAN LEADER**:

*"Dyché's biography, which is respectful without being reverent, takes the measure of this remarkable man."*  
—**GEORGE F. WILL**, Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist

*"A great story and Dyché tells it brilliantly."*  
—**FRED BARNES**, executive editor of *The Weekly Standard* and Fox News contributor

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