

## POLITICAL BOOK GROUP

~~Playing President: My Relationships with Nixon, Carter, Bush I, Reagan, and Clinton--  
and How They Did Not Prepare Me for George W. Bush~~  
by Robert Scheer

~~Whistling Past Dixie: How Democrats Can Win Without the South~~  
by Thomas F. Schaller

**In the Absence of the Sacred: The Failure of Technology and the Survival of the  
Indian Nations**  
by Jerry Mander

~~The Soul of Capitalism: Opening Paths to a Moral Economy~~  
by William Greider

~~God's Politics: Why the Right Gets It Wrong and the Left Doesn't Get It~~  
by [Jim Wallis](#)

~~Bush on the Couch: Inside the Mind of the President~~  
by [Justin A. Frank](#)

~~Crashing the Gate: Netroots, Grassroots, and the Rise of People-Powered Politics~~  
by [Jerome Armstrong](#), [Markos Moulitsas Zuniga](#)

**Talking Right: The Politics of Language--How the Right Turned Liberalism into a  
Tax-Raising, Latte-Drinking, Sushi-Eating, Volvo-Driving, New York Times  
Reading, Body-Piercing, Hollywood-Loving, Left-Wing Freak Show**  
By Geoffrey Nunberg

~~Conservatives Without Conscience~~  
by John Dean

~~Talking Points~~  
by George Lakoff

~~Home Grown Democrat~~  
by Garrison Keillor

~~Everything for Sale~~  
By Robert Kuttner

~~The Assault on Reason by Al Gore~~

~~The Shock Doctrine: The Rise of Disaster Capitalism~~  
by Naomi Klein

~~The End of America: A Letter of Warning to a Young Patriot~~  
by Naomi Wolf

~~The Conscience of a Liberal~~  
by [Paul R. Krugman](#) (just published, may be hard to get at discount)

~~Democracy in America~~  
by Alexis de Toqueville (we would read an abridged version)

~~Robert Kuttner~~  
~~The Squandering of America~~

~~McCain: The Myth of a Maverick~~  
by Matt Welch

~~Just how stupid are we? Facing the truth about the American voter~~  
by ~~Shenkman, Richard~~

**The Uprising by David Sirota**

~~Taking On the System: Rules for Radical Change in a Digital Era~~  
by ~~Markos Moulitsas Zuniga~~

**The Citizen Solution: How You Can Make a Difference**  
By Harry C. Boyte (Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2008 207 pages, \$15.95)

~~Bad Money: Reckless Finance, Failed Politics, and the Global Crisis of American Capitalism~~  
by ~~Kevin Phillips~~

**The Wisdom of Crowds**  
by James Surowiecki

**The Paradox of Choice: Why More Is Less**  
by Barry Schwartz

**The Political Brain**  
by Drew Westen

**Message Handbook for Progressives From Left of Center**  
by Drew Westin

**Why Trust Matters: Declining Political Trust and the Demise of American Liberalism** by  
by Marc Hetherington

**Common Wealth**

**by Jeffrey D. Sachs**

~~The Case for Big Government  
by Jeff Madriek~~

**Plunder and Blunder: The Rise and Fall of the Bubble Economy  
by Dean Baker, Center for Economic and Policy Research**

**[House of Cards](#)  
by William D. Cohan**

~~The American Way of War  
by Eugene Jarecki~~

~~In the Jaws of the Dragon: America's Fate in the Coming Era of Chinese Hegemony  
by Eamonn Fingleton~~

~~The Post-American World  
by Fareed Zakaria~~

~~India Express: The Future of the New Superpower  
by Daniel Lak~~

~~The Tyranny of Dead Ideas: Letting Go of the Old Ways of Thinking to Unleash a New  
Prosperity — by Matt Miller~~

**Renegade: The Making of a President  
by Richard Wolffe**

**The Heart of Power: Health and Politics in the Oval Office  
by David Blumenthal**

**In Fed We Trust: Ben Bernanke's War on the Great Panic  
by David Wessel**

~~The Next 100 Years  
by G. Friedman~~

~~The Family  
by Jeff Sherett~~

~~Endgame~~

~~The Great Risk Shift  
by Jacob Hacker~~

~~JFK and the Unspeakable: Why He Died and Why It Matters~~

~~by James W. Douglass~~

~~Justice, What's the Right Thing To Do?~~

~~by Michael J. Sandel~~

**The Ground Truth, The Untold Story of America Under Attack on 9/11**

**by John Farmer**

**The Clinton Tapes: Wrestling History with the President**

**by Taylor Branch**

**Cornered: The New Monopoly Capitalism and the Economics of Destruction**

**by Barry C. Lynn**

**Golden Rule: The Investment Theory of Party Competition and the Logic of Money-Driven Political Systems**

**by Thomas Ferguson**

**The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers**

**by Paul Kennedy**

~~Supreme Power: Franklin Roosevelt vs. the Supreme Court~~

~~by Jeff Shesol~~

**The Innovator's Prescription** by Clayton Christensen (The Innovator's Dilemma)

~~The Predator State~~ by James K. Galbraith

~~American Fascist~~ by Chris Hedges

**The Attack on America** by Phillip Roth

~~Freedom~~ by Jonathan Franzen

~~The Spirit Level: Why Greater Equality Makes Societies Stronger~~ by ~~and~~ [Kate Pickett](#)  
[Richard Wilkinson](#)

~~So Much For That~~ by Lionel Shriver

~~Winner-Take-All Politics: How Washington Made the Rich Richer -- and Turned Its Back on the Middle Class~~ by Jacob Hacker and Paul Pierson

~~Back to our Future: How the 1980s Explain the World We Live In Now~~ by David Sirota

~~Free Trade Doesn't Work: What Should Replace it and Why~~ by Ian Fletcher

**Democracy Incorporated: Managed Democracy and the Specter of Inverted  
Totalitarianism Sheldon S. Wolin**

~~Aftershock by Robert Reich~~

~~Fair Game by Valerie Plame~~

**The Big Sort: Why the Clustering of Like-Minded America Is Tearing Us Apart by  
Bill Bishop**

~~Deer Hunting with Jesus: Dispatches from America's Class War by Joe Bageant~~

~~The Healing of America: A Global Quest for Better, Cheaper, and Fairer Health Care by  
T. R. Reid~~

**Confidence Men: Wall Street, Washington, and the Education of a President by Ron  
Suskind**

~~With Liberty and Justice for Some by Glen Greenwald~~

~~How the Hippies Saved Physics: Science, Counterculture, and the Quantum Revival by  
David Kaiser~~

**The reactionary mind : conservatism from Edmund Burke to Sarah Palin / Corey  
Robin**

**Abundance: The Future is Better Than You Think by Peter Diamandis and Steven  
Kotler**

~~The Magic Number: Inside Obama's Chase for the Presidential Nomination by Jeff  
Berman~~

**Web of Debt: The Shocking Truth About Our Money System -- The Sleight of Hand  
That Has Trapped Us in Debt and How We Can Break Free by Ellen Brown**

**The Republican Brain: The Science of Why They Deny Science--and Reality Chris  
Mooney**

~~Remedy and Reaction: The Peculiar American Struggle over Health Care Reform by Paul  
Starr~~

~~The Fabric of the Cosmos: Space, Time, and the Texture of Reality Brian Greene~~

**Tubes, A Journey to the Center of the Internet By Andrew Blum**

~~Drift, by Rachel Maddow~~

**The Little Blue Book: The Essential Guide to Thinking and Talking Democratic by George Lakoff, Elisabeth Wehling.**

Voters cast their ballots for what they believe is *right*, for the things that make moral sense. Yet Democrats have too often failed to use language linking their moral values with their policies. *The Little Blue Book* demonstrates how to make that connection clearly and forcefully.

~~American Nations: A History of the Eleven Rival Regional Cultures of North America by [Colin Woodard](#).~~

~~Opening Mexico: The Making of a Democracy by Julia Preston, Samuel Dillon.~~

~~The Death and Life of the Great American School System by Diane Ravitch.~~

~~Better Off Without 'Em: A Northern Manifesto for Southern Secession  
By Chuck Thompson~~

~~Plutoocrats: The Rise of the New Global Super-Rich and the Fall of Everyone Else-  
CHRYSSTIA FREELAND——NYT op-ed 10/14/12~~

~~In the Garden of Beasts: Love, Terror, and an American Family in Hitler's Berlin Erik  
Larson~~

~~American nations by Colin Woodard~~

~~The Hockey Stick and the Climate Wars: Dispatches from the Front Lines  
by Michael E. Mann~~

~~Captive Audience: The Telecom Industry and Monopoly Power in the New Gilded Age-  
by Susan Crawford~~

~~The Fine Print: How Big Companies Use "Plain English" to Rob You Blind  
by [David Cay Johnston](#)~~

~~The Googlization of Everything: (And Why We Should Worry)  
by Siva Vaidhyanathan~~

~~China Airborne by James Fallows~~

~~The Devil in the White City by Erik Larson~~

**The End of Country: Dispatches from the Frack Zone** by Seamus McGraw

“A rare, honest, beautiful, and, yes, sometimes heartbreaking examination of the echoes of water-powered natural gas drilling—or fracking—in the human community . . . vivid, personal and emotional.”—Minneapolis *Star Tribune*

**The End of Loser Liberalism: Making Markets Progressive** By Dean Baker (LuLu marketplace)

He argues, convincingly, that conservatives have dominated the economic policy debate. Progressives, on the other hand, have largely capitulated due to their misunderstanding regarding and acceptance of right-wing frameworks.

~~Writing on the Wall: Social Media -- The First 2,000 Years Hardeover  
by Tom Standage~~

~~The Brothers: John Foster Dulles, Allen Dulles by Steven Kinzer~~

~~Blessed Unrest by Paul Hawken~~

~~The Price of Civilization: Reawakening American Virtue and Prosperity / Jeffrey D. Sachs~~

**Operation Paperclip: The Secret Intelligence Program that Brought Nazi Scientists to America** Annie Jacobsen

By the end of 1945, the alliance of the Western powers with the Soviet Union had frayed, and the basic outlines of what would become the Cold War had taken shape. At the same time, military, scientific, and political leaders in the U.S. had become acutely aware of the value of German scientists responsible for great advances in rocketry and biological research under the Nazis. So, in August 1945, President Truman authorized the Joint Intelligence Objectives Agency (JIOA), a division of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), to aggressively “recruit” German scientists to come to the U.S. and to work for various government-affiliated programs. Truman had stipulated that members of the Nazi Party were not to be included. As Jacobsen, an investigative journalist, illustrates, the JIOA adroitly sidestepped Truman’s directive through an intense program of fraud and deception.

~~What money can't buy : the moral limits of markets / Michael J. Sandel~~

**Capital in the Twenty-First Century by Thomas Piketty**

[reviews and discussion everywhere]

~~Isaac's Storm: A Man, a Time, and the Deadliest Hurricane in History by Erik Larson~~

**Cryptonomicon OR Readme: A Novel OR Anthem by Neal Stephenson**

Neal Town Stephenson is an American writer, known for his speculative fiction works, which have been variously categorized science fiction, historical fiction, maximalism, cyberpunk, and postcyberpunk. Stephenson explores areas such as mathematics, cryptography, philosophy, currency, and the history of science. He also writes non-fiction articles about technology in publications such as Wired Magazine, and has worked part-time as an advisor for Blue Origin, a company (funded by Jeff Bezos) developing a manned sub-orbital launch system.

## **The Arab Uprising: The Unfinished Revolutions of the Middle East by Marc Lynch**

An insider to both American policy and the world of the Arab public, Marc Lynch shows that the fall of particular leaders is but the least of the changes that will emerge from months of unrest. The far-ranging implications of the rise of an interconnected and newly-empowered Arab populace have only begun to be felt. Young, frustrated Arabs now know that protest can work and that change is possible. They have lost their fear—meanwhile their leaders, desperate to survive, have heard the unprecedented message that killing their own people will no longer keep them in power. Even so, as Lynch reminds us, the last wave of region-wide protest in the 1950s and 1960s resulted not in democracy, but in brutal autocracy. Will the Arab world's struggle for change succeed in building open societies? Will authoritarian regimes regain their grip, or will Islamist movements seize the initiative to impose a new kind of rule?

## **Suburban Nation: The Rise of Sprawl and the Decline of the American Dream by**

Andres Duany (Author), Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk (Author), Jeff Speck (Author)  
For a decade, *Suburban Nation* has given voice to a growing movement in North America to put an end to suburban sprawl and replace the last century's automobile-based settlement patterns with a return to more traditional planning. Founders of the Congress for the New Urbanism, Andres Duany and Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk are at the forefront of the movement, and even their critics, such as Fred Barnes in *The Weekly Standard*, recognized that "*Suburban Nation* is likely to become this movement's bible." A lively lament about the failures of postwar planning, this is also that rare book that offers solutions: "an essential handbook" (*San Francisco Chronicle*).

## ~~**The Plot to Seize the White House: The Shocking True Story of the Conspiracy to Overthrow FDR**~~ by Jules Archer

## ~~**This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. Climate**~~ by Naomi Klein

## ~~**The Righteous Mind: Why Good People Are Divided by Politics and Religion**~~ by Jonathan Haidt

## ~~**The Master Switch: The Rise and Fall of Information Empires**~~ by [Tim Wu](#)

## **We Are Better Than This: How Government Should Spend Our Money**

by Edward D. Kleinbard By [Steven Hartz](#) on November 14, 2014

This is a forceful and provocative critique of the current United States fiscal policy. Whatever your political views, you will want to read this well written book to increase your understanding of the policy issues Americans now confront as a nation. Professor Kleinbard draws upon his enormous experience to deliver a work which is both rich in detail and at the same time fun to read. I could not put the book down.

### **The New Jim Crow** by Michelle Alexander

Once in a great while a book comes along that changes the way we see the world and helps to fuel a nationwide social movement. *The New Jim Crow* is such a book. Praised by Harvard Law professor Lani Guinier as "brave and bold," this book directly challenges the notion that the election of Barack Obama signals a new era of colorblindness. With dazzling candor, legal scholar Michelle Alexander argues that "we have not ended racial caste in America; we have merely redesigned it." By targeting black men through the War on Drugs and decimating communities of color, the U.S. criminal justice system functions as a contemporary system of racial control—relegating millions to a permanent second-class status—even as it formally adheres to the principle of colorblindness. In the words of Benjamin Todd Jealous, president and CEO of the NAACP, this book is a "call to action."

Called "stunning" by Pulitzer Prize-winning historian David Levering Lewis, "invaluable" by the *Daily Kos*, "explosive" by *Kirkus*, and "profoundly necessary" by the *Miami Herald*, this updated and revised paperback edition of *The New Jim Crow*, now with a foreword by Cornel West, is a must-read for all people of conscience.

### **History of Corruption** by Zephyr Teachout

### ~~11-22-63~~ by Stephen King

### **Albion's Seed: Four British Folkways in America** by David Hackett Fischer

242 of 242 people found the following review helpful

*Albion's Seed* by Brandeis University History Professor David Hackett Fischer is the history of the four main regional migrations from Britain to North America in the 17th and 18th centuries. Professor Fischer examines each of these four migrations in great detail, describing the origin, motivations, religion, timing, and numerous cultural attitudes or folkways for dealing with everyday life, including birth, child rearing, marriage, age, death, order, speech, architecture, dress, food, wealth, and time, to cite only a few. He devotes special attention to the different concepts of liberty and freedom held by each of these four British cultural groups.

Each of these four folk established an amazingly enduring culture in their region, a culture that successfully incorporated later immigrants from other origins who shared little or none of the dominant folkway that had become established in their new home.

*Albion's Seed* was a delight to read, filled with quaint, instructive, and amusing anecdotes that reflect folkways that endure today. It should be equally appealing to those interested in defining and contrasting the cultural histories of different groups, the process and cultural impact of human migrations, the foundations of the Anglo-American world, and the different roots of the concept of liberty.

## **The Secret Lives of Codebreakers: The Men and Women Who Cracked the Enigma Code at Bletchley Park** by Sinclair McKay

McKay's book had a more social bent than most of the books I've read which were more focused on the mechanics of breaking the Enigma Code itself. McKay looks at the invention of the machines such as the bombe and the colossi and the people who invented them and kept them running 24/7 throughout the war. He explores some of the military operations that captured key pieces of information and most fascinating, the history of the war and how that interacted with the work at Bletchley.

Because so many of the Park workers were college aged this was their university. The intensity of their work put their learning on hyper speed. They made time for fun forming singing and drama clubs with some astounding talent....so much so that they took their performances to the nearby towns where they could be enjoyed.

## ~~**Making Globalization Work**~~ by Joseph E. Stiglitz

## ~~**A Woman in Charge: The Life of Hillary Rodham Clinton**~~ [Carl Bernstein](#)

## **So You've Been Publicly Shamed** by Jon Ronson

*So You've Been Publicly Shamed* is Ronson's tour through a not-necessarily-brave new world where faceless commenters wield the power to destroy lives and careers, where the punishments often outweigh the crimes, and where there is no self-control and (ironically) no consequences. On one hand, part of what makes this book (again, ironically) so fun to read is a certain *schadenfreude*; it's fun to read about others' misfortunes, especially if we think they "had it coming." Jonah Lehrer, whose admitted plagiarism and falsifications probably earned him his fall, stalks these pages. But so does Justine Sacco, whose ill-conceived tweet probably didn't merit hers; as it turns out, the internet doesn't always differentiate the misdemeanors from the felonies. But the best reason to read this is Ronson's style, which is funny and brisk, yet informative and never condescending. *So You've Been Publicly Shamed* is not a scholarly book, nor is it a workbook about navigating ignominy. It's an entertaining investigation into a growing--and often disturbing--demimonde of uncharitable impulses run amok. --*Jon Foro*

## ~~**Washington Rules: America's Path to Permanent War**~~ Andrew Bracevich

## **Saving Capitalism: For the Many, Not the Few** by Robert B. Reich

## ~~**Amusing Ourselves to Death: Public Discourse in the Age of Show Business 2005**~~ by [Neil Postman](#)

## **Behind the Beautiful Forever: Life, Death and Hope in a Mumbai**

**Undercity** by Katherine Boo (Winner in 2012)

In this brilliant, breathtaking book by Pulitzer Prize winner Katherine Boo, a bewildering age of global change and inequality is made human through the dramatic story of families striving toward a better life in Annawadi, a makeshift settlement in the shadow of luxury hotels near the Mumbai airport. As India starts to prosper, the residents of Annawadi are electric with hope. Abdul, an enterprising teenager, sees “a fortune beyond counting” in the recyclable garbage that richer people throw away. Meanwhile Asha, a woman of formidable ambition, has identified a shadier route to the middle class. With a little luck, her beautiful daughter, Annawadi’s “most-everything girl,” might become its first female college graduate. And even the poorest children, like the young thief Kalu, feel themselves inching closer to their dreams. But then Abdul is falsely accused in a shocking tragedy; terror and global recession rock the city; and suppressed tensions over religion, caste, sex, power, and economic envy turn brutal.

## **Love and Capital: Karl and Jenny Marx and the Birth of a Revolution**

Given that the group hasn't expressed a lot of enthusiasm for reading (or re-reading) *Das Capital*, this book might be another way to explore Marx's thinking.

One of the most spectacularly reviewed books of 2011, *LOVE AND CAPITAL* reveals the rarely glimpsed and heartbreakingly human side of the man whose works would redefine the world after his death. Drawing upon previously unpublished material, acclaimed biographer Mary Gabriel tells the story of Karl and Jenny Marx's marriage. Through it, we see Karl as never before: a devoted father and husband, a prankster who loved a party, a dreadful procrastinator, freeloader, and man of wild enthusiasms—one of which would almost destroy his marriage. Through years of desperate struggle, Jenny's love for Karl would be tested again and again as she waited for him to finish his masterpiece, *Capital*.

An epic narrative that stretches over decades to recount Karl and Jenny's story against the backdrop of Europe's Nineteenth Century, *LOVE AND CAPITAL* is a surprising and magisterial account of romance and revolution—and of one of the great love stories of all time.

## **The Entrepreneurial State: Debunking Public vs. Private Sector Myths**

by Mariana Mazzucato.

In this sharp and controversial exposé, Mariana Mazzucato debunks the pervasive myth that the state is a laggard, bureaucratic apparatus at odds with a dynamic private sector. She reveals in detailed case studies, including a riveting chapter on the iPhone, that the opposite is true: the state is, and has been, our boldest and most valuable innovator. Denying this history is leading us down the wrong path. A select few get credit for what is an intensely collective effort, and the US government has started disinvesting from innovation. The repercussions could stunt economic growth and increase inequality. Mazzucato teaches us how to reverse this trend before it is too late.

~~**Predictably Irrational, Revised and Expanded Edition: The Hidden Forces That Shape Our Decisions** by [Dan Ariely](#) (Author)~~

**Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City** by [Matthew Desmond](#) (Author) Desmond's book manages to be a deeply moral work, a successful nonfiction narrative, and a sweeping academic survey—all while bringing new research to his academic field and to the public's attention. One of *Evicted*'s most significant contributions is its focus on the vulnerability of the vast majority of low-income renters who are not covered by public subsidies or affordability controls.

~~**Listen, Liberal; Or, What Ever Happened to the Party of the People?** **Thomas Frank** (2016)~~

**[Disrupted: My Misadventure in the Startup Bubble](#)** by Dan Lyons

In 2013, I went to work at a software company called HubSpot. I was 52 years old. The average HubSpot employee was 26. Everyone seemed to be right out of college. The place was like a frat house, with refrigerators stocked with cases of beer and telemarketing sales “bros” drinking at their desks while hammering away on the phones. Thirty-something employees were considered “old people.”

About nine months after I joined, HubSpot's CEO and co-founder, Brian Halligan, [explained](#) to the *New York Times* that this age imbalance was not something he wanted to remedy, but in fact something he had actively cultivated. HubSpot was “trying to build a culture specifically to attract and retain Gen Y'ers,” because, “in the tech world, gray hair and experience are really overrated,” Halligan said.

**[Cumulus](#)** by Eliot Peper

The book is set in a recognizable, albeit dystopian, near-term future. While it is set in Oakland specifically, the book could just as easily be in any American city. It's a harrowing but gripping portrait of what could happen if we allow Silicon Valley's predatory nature to overtake us all. It's full of fictional services like Fleet (a self-driving version of Uber), Lancer (a Yelp of sorts), Bandwidth (a doppelgänger for Comcast), and the granddaddy parent company of them all: Cumulus (sort of like Google, but involved in far more industries).

~~**American Character: A History of the Epic Struggle Between Individual Liberty and the Common Good** by [Colin Woodard](#)~~

~~**A Brief History of Time** by [Stephen Hawking](#)~~

## **The Quartet: Orchestrating the Second American Revolution, 1783-1789** by Joseph J. Ellis

Joseph Ellis' new book, "The Quartet: Orchestrating the Second American Revolution, 1783 -- 1789" examines the United States' movement from independence to nationhood following the Revolutionary War. Ellis, retired as Ford Foundation Professor of History at Mount Holyoke College, has written many works about early American history and has received both the National Book Award and the Pulitzer Prize.

Ellis' short but broad, thoughtful, and provocative book argues that the United States did not become a nation upon winning independence but became instead a group of loosely-connected separate states. Ellis maintains that most people at the time lacked even a concept of national identity beyond the provincial boundaries of their communities. They thought they had fought a hard war to free themselves from the distant centralizing government of Great Britain. With the ineffective Articles of Confederation, the thirteen states appeared headed for separation and quarrels, similar to the nations of Europe.

## ~~**Rigged: How Globalization and the Rules of the Modern Economy Were Structured to Make the Rich Richer**~~ by ~~Dean Baker~~

### **How Propaganda Works** by Jason Stanley

Our democracy today is fraught with political campaigns, lobbyists, liberal media, and Fox News commentators, all using language to influence the way we think and reason about public issues. Even so, many of us believe that propaganda and manipulation aren't problems for us--not in the way they were for the totalitarian societies of the mid-twentieth century. In *How Propaganda Works*, Jason Stanley demonstrates that more attention needs to be paid. He examines how propaganda operates subtly, how it undermines democracy--particularly the ideals of democratic deliberation and equality--and how it has damaged democracies of the past.

## ~~**Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty**~~ by ~~[Daron Acemoglu](#) (Author), [James Robinson](#) (Author)~~

### **Commander in Chief: FDR's Battle with Churchill, 1943 (FDR at War)** by Nigel Hamilton

In the next installment of the "splendid memoir Roosevelt didn't get to write" (New York Times), Nigel Hamilton tells the astonishing story of FDR's year-long, defining battle with Churchill, as the war raged in Africa and Italy.

Nigel Hamilton's *Mantle of Command*, long-listed for the National Book Award, drew on years of archival research and interviews to portray FDR in a tight close up, as he determined Allied strategy in the crucial initial phases of World War II. Commander in

Chief reveals the astonishing sequel — suppressed by Winston Churchill in his memoirs — of Roosevelt's battles with Churchill to maintain that strategy. Roosevelt knew that the Allies should take Sicily but avoid a wider battle in southern Europe, building experience but saving strength to invade France in early 1944. Churchill seemed to agree at Casablanca — only to undermine his own generals and the Allied command, testing Roosevelt's patience to the limit. Churchill was afraid of the invasion planned for Normandy, and pushed instead for disastrous fighting in Italy, thereby almost losing the war for the Allies. In a dramatic showdown, FDR finally set the ultimate course for victory by making the ultimate threat. Commander in Chief shows FDR in top form at a crucial time in the modern history of the West.

### **The Making of Donald Trump** by [David Cay Johnston](#)

By [Amazon Customer](#) on August 2, 2016

If you think Trump is "all bark and no bite" then PLEASE read this. Deeply unsettling, the facts and history laid out by David Cay Johnston evince the long history of a shady, greedy, and relentlessly sociopathic media mogul and his rise to power. From half-baked schemes, to false identities this book reads like a group of coiffed mob bosses sitting around a tacky gilded table trying to one-up each other with their stories. Except they're all Trump and they're all his stories and they're all true. This book will leave your jaw dropped as you have to repeatedly remind yourself THIS IS REAL.

[7 comments](#) | 434 people found this helpful. Was this review helpful to you? [YesNoReport](#)  
[5.0 out of 5 stars](#) [Comprehensive Biography](#)

By [Terry A. Hynous](#) on August 3, 2016

Format: Kindle Edition | Verified Purchase

This is the third Trump biography which I have read. Although all three illustrate Trump's lack of honesty and character, this one is the most complete and detailed. It reveals Trump's connections to Mob members and other unsavory characters that are very disturbing.

### **Strangers in Their Own Land: Anger and Mourning on the American Right** by Arlie Russell Hochschild

Arlie Russell Hochschild's fall 2016 book, *Strangers in Their Own Land: Anger and Mourning on the American Right*, addresses the increasingly bitter political divide in America. A finalist for the National Book Award, and New York Times Best Seller, the book is based on five years of immersion reporting among Tea Party loyalists -- now mostly supporters of Donald Trump. Hochschild tries to bridge an "empathy wall" between the two political sides, to explore the "deep story" underlying the right that remains unrecognized by the left. Mark Danner calls the book "a powerful, imaginative, necessary book, arriving not a moment too soon." Robert Reich writes "Anyone who wants to understand modern America should read this captivating book." In its review, *Publisher's Weekly* notes: "After evaluating her conclusions and meeting her informants in these pages, it's hard to disagree that empathy is the best solution to stymied political and social discourse."

~~**Shattered: Inside Hillary Clinton's Doomed Campaign**~~ by Jonathan Allen, Amie Parnes

**It's Even Worse Than It Looks: How the American Constitutional System Collided With the New Politics of Extremism** by Thomas E. Mann & Norman J. Ornstein (2012, rev. ed. 2016)

This is a fascinating book. To author a work like this immediately invites people to label the authors thorough liberals with an ideological axe to grind. My response: Are you joking? Thomas Mann and Norman Ornstein are straight shooters and not particularly ideological (read their work): one is employed by the Brookings Institution (Mann) and the other by the American Enterprise Institute (Ornstein). The former organization is moderately liberal; the latter moderately conservative. Neither is extreme. Indeed, Brookings once published a book advocating school choice (not something one associates with a liberal organization). So, frankly, anyone who argues that these authors are reflexive liberals do not know what they are talking about.

However, one can understand why some would be angry with the authors. They discuss the hyperpartisanship apparent in the United States these days. They explore how the country--especially its national institutions with special emphasis on Congress--have become so dysfunctional. They trace the historical developments leading to the current governmental "institutional collapse." One of the key elements of their thesis is that this is not both parties being equally guilty. The authors say (page xiv): "The first [argument] was our assertion that the partisan polarization at the root of our governing crisis is asymmetric; that the two parties are not equally to blame. We offered strong evidence that in recent years the Republican Party had become extreme in terms of both policy and process." They also damn the press for their tendency to try to be balanced--asserting that both parties are rather equally to blame.

This is a controversial book, but also one that gets one to thinking about the current dysfunction--whether at the state or national level. Sometimes, I think that points may be underrsupported, but--overall--a usefully provocative volume.