#### COREY ROBIN THE REACTIONARY MIND

COREY ROBIN AND THE REACTIONARY MIND: UNDERSTANDING THE ROOTS OF POLITICAL CONSERVATISM

COREY ROBIN THE REACTIONARY MIND IS A PHRASE THAT INVITES EXPLORATION INTO ONE OF THE MOST COMPELLING ANALYSES OF CONSERVATIVE POLITICAL THOUGHT IN RECENT YEARS. COREY ROBIN, A POLITICAL THEORIST AND PROFESSOR, AUTHORED \*THE REACTIONARY MIND: CONSERVATISM FROM EDMUND BURKE TO DONALD TRUMP\*, A BOOK THAT CHALLENGES CONVENTIONAL NARRATIVES ABOUT CONSERVATISM AND OFFERS A FRESH LENS THROUGH WHICH TO UNDERSTAND ITS MOTIVATIONS AND EVOLUTION. IF YOU'RE CURIOUS ABOUT WHAT DRIVES REACTIONARY POLITICS AND HOW THIS FRAMEWORK APPLIES TO CONTEMPORARY EVENTS, ROBIN'S WORK IS AN ESSENTIAL RESOURCE.

## WHAT IS THE REACTIONARY MIND?

AT ITS CORE, \*THE REACTIONARY MIND\* ARGUES THAT CONSERVATISM IS NOT PRIMARILY ABOUT PRESERVING ORDER OR TRADITION FOR ITS OWN SAKE, AS OFTEN PORTRAYED. INSTEAD, ROBIN SUGGESTS CONSERVATISM IS FUNDAMENTALLY A REACTION TO SOCIAL MOVEMENTS THAT THREATEN EXISTING HIERARCHIES. IT'S A DEFENSE MECHANISM AIMED AT PROTECTING POWER STRUCTURES—WHETHER SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, OR POLITICAL—FROM CHALLENGES POSED BY PROGRESSIVE CHANGE. THIS IDEA RESHAPES HOW WE THINK ABOUT POLITICAL CONSERVATISM, FROM EDMUND BURKE'S WRITINGS IN THE 18TH CENTURY ALL THE WAY TO THE MODERN ERA, INCLUDING THE RISE OF FIGURES LIKE DONALD TRUMP.

### THE ROOTS OF REACTIONARY THOUGHT

ROBIN TRACES THE LINEAGE OF REACTIONARY THOUGHT BACK TO EDMUND BURKE, OFTEN REGARDED AS THE FATHER OF MODERN CONSERVATISM. BURKE'S OPPOSITION TO THE FRENCH REVOLUTION WASN'T JUST A CALL FOR STABILITY—IT WAS A DEFENSE OF ARISTOCRATIC PRIVILEGE AND SOCIAL HIERARCHY. THROUGHOUT HISTORY, REACTIONARIES HAVE RESISTED MOVEMENTS SUCH AS ABOLITIONISM, WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE, LABOR RIGHTS, AND CIVIL RIGHTS, VIEWING THESE AS THREATS TO THE ESTABLISHED ORDER.

BY FRAMING CONSERVATISM AS A REACTION TO THREATS RATHER THAN A POSITIVE VISION, ROBIN HIGHLIGHTS THE EMOTIONAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL DIMENSIONS OF POLITICAL IDEOLOGY. FEAR, RESENTMENT, AND ANXIETY ABOUT LOSING STATUS OR POWER OFTEN DRIVE REACTIONARY IMPULSES. THIS INSIGHT HELPS EXPLAIN WHY SOME CONSERVATIVE MOVEMENTS APPEAR RESISTANT TO COMPROMISE OR RELUCTANT TO EMBRACE CHANGE.

## THE CONTEMPORARY RELEVANCE OF COREY ROBIN'S ANALYSIS

In today's political climate, \*The Reactionary Mind\* feels particularly relevant. The book dives deep into the motivations behind the rise of reactionary populism, which has surged across many countries over the past decade. From Brexit to the election of Donald Trump, these movements often share a common thread: a backlash against perceived threats to traditional hierarchies and identities.

### WHY REACTIONARY POLITICS RESONATE TODAY

SEVERAL FACTORS HELP EXPLAIN WHY REACTIONARY POLITICS HAVE FOUND FERTILE GROUND RECENTLY:

- ECONOMIC ANXIETY: GLOBALIZATION AND TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGES HAVE DISRUPTED TRADITIONAL INDUSTRIES, LEAVING MANY FEELING ECONOMICALLY VULNERABLE.
- CULTURAL SHIFTS: INCREASING DIVERSITY AND SOCIAL PROGRESS ON ISSUES LIKE GENDER AND RACIAL EQUALITY

CHALLENGE ESTABLISHED SOCIAL NORMS.

• **POLITICAL POLARIZATION:** PARTISAN DIVIDES AND MEDIA ECHO CHAMBERS AMPLIFY FEARS AND GRIEVANCES, HARDENING REACTIONARY ATTITUDES.

ROBIN'S FRAMEWORK HELPS US UNDERSTAND THAT THESE FEELINGS ARE NOT JUST ABOUT POLICY DISAGREEMENTS BUT ABOUT DEEPER STRUGGLES OVER STATUS AND IDENTITY. REACTIONARY LEADERS OFTEN AMPLIFY THESE FEARS BY PORTRAYING THEMSELVES AS DEFENDERS OF A THREATENED SOCIAL ORDER.

### IMPLICATIONS FOR POLITICAL ANALYSIS AND ACTIVISM

Understanding \*The Reactionary Mind\* can be invaluable for activists, analysts, and anyone interested in political dynamics. Recognizing that reactionary politics stem from a fear of losing power offers strategic insights:

- Addressing grievances: Instead of dismissing reactionary supporters outright, it's crucial to understand and address the underlying anxieties driving their support.
- Building inclusive narratives: Creating political messages that emphasize inclusion and shared benefits can counter the zero-sum thinking often exploited by reactionaries.
- RECOGNIZING EMOTIONAL APPEALS: EFFECTIVE POLITICAL COMMUNICATION MUST ENGAGE WITH THE EMOTIONAL DIMENSIONS OF POLITICAL IDENTITY, NOT JUST RATIONAL ARGUMENTS.

# COREY ROBIN'S UNIQUE CONTRIBUTION TO POLITICAL THEORY

What sets Corey Robin's \*The Reactionary Mind\* apart is its comprehensive historical sweep and psychological depth. While many analyses focus on policy outcomes or economic factors, Robin dives into the motivations that animate political actors across centuries.

#### CHALLENGING CONVENTIONAL WISDOM

TRADITIONAL POLITICAL SCIENCE OFTEN CATEGORIZES CONSERVATISM AS INHERENTLY PRAGMATIC OR MODERATE, CONCERNED PRIMARILY WITH STABILITY AND GRADUAL REFORM. ROBIN CHALLENGES THIS BY SHOWING THAT REACTIONARY THOUGHT IS OFTEN RADICAL IN ITS OWN WAY—RADICAL IN ITS DESIRE TO ROLL BACK GAINS MADE BY SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND MAINTAIN ENTRENCHED INEQUALITIES.

### THE ROLE OF POWER AND FEAR

Power dynamics are central to Robin's thesis. Reactionaries are not just defenders of tradition; they are protectors of privilege. Fear of losing social dominance fuels much of their rhetoric and strategy. This perspective shifts the conversation from abstract ideological debates to concrete questions about who benefits and who loses in political struggles.

### EXPLORING THE BROADER IMPACT OF THE REACTIONARY MIND

BEYOND ACADEMICS, \*THE REACTIONARY MIND\* HAS INFLUENCED JOURNALISTS, COMMENTATORS, AND ACTIVISTS SEEKING TO MAKE SENSE OF THE CURRENT POLITICAL LANDSCAPE. ITS CLEAR ARTICULATION OF THE EMOTIONAL AND POWER-DRIVEN ASPECTS OF REACTIONARY POLITICS HAS MADE IT A TOUCHSTONE FOR UNDERSTANDING THE RISE OF AUTHORITARIANISM AND POPULISM.

### BRIDGING HISTORY AND CURRENT EVENTS

One of the book's strengths is how it connects historical conservatism with contemporary challenges. By drawing lines from Burke to Trump, Robin helps readers see patterns and continuities rather than viewing political events as isolated incidents. This historical perspective deepens our understanding and equips us to better anticipate future political shifts.

#### **ENCOURAGING CRITICAL REFLECTION**

ROBIN'S WORK INVITES READERS TO CRITICALLY REFLECT ON THEIR OWN POLITICAL ASSUMPTIONS AND THE NARRATIVES THEY CONSUME. IT ENCOURAGES A MORE NUANCED VIEW OF CONSERVATISM, ONE THAT ACKNOWLEDGES ITS EMOTIONAL ROOTS AND THE LEGITIMATE FEARS THAT OFTEN DRIVE REACTIONARY POLITICS, EVEN WHILE CRITIQUING ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR DEMOCRACY AND EQUALITY.

## FINAL THOUGHTS ON COREY ROBIN AND THE REACTIONARY MIND

ENGAGING WITH COREY ROBIN'S \*THE REACTIONARY MIND\* OFFERS A POWERFUL TOOL FOR ANYONE TRYING TO NAVIGATE THE COMPLEXITIES OF MODERN POLITICS. BY FRAMING CONSERVATISM AS A REACTION TO SOCIAL PROGRESS AND A DEFENSE OF HIERARCHY, ROBIN PROVIDES A LENS THAT IS BOTH HISTORICAL AND DEEPLY PSYCHOLOGICAL. THIS APPROACH HELPS EXPLAIN THE ENDURING APPEAL OF REACTIONARY POLITICS AND UNDERSCORES THE IMPORTANCE OF ADDRESSING THE UNDERLYING ANXIETIES THAT FUEL THEM.

In a time marked by political upheaval and cultural shifts, understanding the reactionary mind is more than an academic exercise—it's a necessary step toward fostering dialogue, empathy, and ultimately, more inclusive political solutions. Whether you're a student of political theory, a concerned citizen, or an activist, Corey Robin's insights remain a vital resource for making sense of the forces shaping our world.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

# WHO IS COREY ROBIN, THE AUTHOR OF 'THE REACTIONARY MIND'?

COREY ROBIN IS A POLITICAL THEORIST AND PROFESSOR KNOWN FOR HIS WORK ON POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY, PARTICULARLY HIS ANALYSIS OF CONSERVATISM AND REACTIONARY THOUGHT. HE IS THE AUTHOR OF 'THE REACTIONARY MIND.'

# WHAT IS THE MAIN THESIS OF COREY ROBIN'S BOOK 'THE REACTIONARY MIND'?

THE MAIN THESIS OF 'THE REACTIONARY MIND' IS THAT REACTIONARY POLITICS ARE FUNDAMENTALLY ABOUT A FEAR OF LOSING STATUS AND POWER, RATHER THAN SIMPLY ABOUT PRESERVING TRADITIONAL VALUES OR RESISTING CHANGE.

# How does Corey Robin define 'reactionary' in his book 'The Reactionary MIND'?

In 'The Reactionary Mind,' Corey Robin defines reactionaries as those who seek to restore or maintain hierarchical social orders and power structures, often motivated by anxiety about perceived threats to their dominant status.

## WHAT HISTORICAL FIGURES DOES COREY ROBIN DISCUSS IN 'THE REACTIONARY MIND'?

COREY ROBIN DISCUSSES VARIOUS HISTORICAL FIGURES SUCH AS EDMUND BURKE, JOSEPH DE MAISTRE, FRIEDRICH HAYEK, AND OTHERS TO ILLUSTRATE THE EVOLUTION AND CHARACTERISTICS OF REACTIONARY THOUGHT ACROSS HISTORY.

# HOW HAS 'THE REACTIONARY MIND' INFLUENCED CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL DISCOURSE?

'THE REACTIONARY MIND' HAS INFLUENCED CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL DISCOURSE BY OFFERING A FRAMEWORK TO UNDERSTAND THE MOTIVATIONS BEHIND CONSERVATIVE AND REACTIONARY MOVEMENTS, HIGHLIGHTING THE ROLE OF POWER AND STATUS ANXIETY IN SHAPING POLITICAL BEHAVIOR.

# WHAT CRITICISMS HAVE BEEN MADE REGARDING COREY ROBIN'S 'THE REACTIONARY MIND'?

Some critics argue that Corey Robin's characterization of reactionaries is overly broad and reductive, potentially oversimplifying diverse conservative ideologies by attributing them mainly to fear of status loss rather than other complex factors.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

COREY ROBIN THE REACTIONARY MIND: A CRITICAL EXPLORATION OF CONSERVATISM

COREY ROBIN THE REACTIONARY MIND PRESENTS A PROFOUND AND THOUGHT-PROVOKING EXAMINATION OF CONSERVATISM'S INTELLECTUAL UNDERPINNINGS. ROBIN, A POLITICAL THEORIST AND PROFESSOR, CHALLENGES PREVAILING INTERPRETATIONS OF CONSERVATIVE IDEOLOGY BY ARGUING THAT REACTIONARY THOUGHT IS FUNDAMENTALLY ROOTED IN A DESIRE TO PRESERVE HIERARCHY AND POWER STRUCTURES. HIS BOOK, \*THE REACTIONARY MIND: CONSERVATISM FROM EDMUND BURKE TO DONALD TRUMP\*, OFFERS A SWEEPING HISTORICAL ANALYSIS THAT SHEDS LIGHT ON THE MOTIVATIONS DRIVING CONSERVATIVE MOVEMENTS ACROSS CENTURIES.

# UNDERSTANDING THE CORE ARGUMENT OF THE REACTIONARY MIND

At the heart of Corey Robin's thesis is the assertion that reactionary politics, commonly associated with conservatism, is not merely about resisting change for the sake of tradition or abstract principles such as liberty or order. Instead, Robin posits that reactionaries actively seek to maintain social hierarchies threatened by progressive reforms and egalitarian movements. This perspective reframes conservatism as a defensive reaction against challenges to established power networks.

Unlike conventional views that portray conservatism as a coherent ideology grounded in a consistent set of principles, Corey Robin's \*The Reactionary Mind\* suggests it is better understood as a posture of opposition and preservation. His analysis spans from the 18th-century writings of Edmund Burke, often hailed as the father of modern conservatism, to contemporary figures including Ronald Reagan and Donald Trump, illustrating how reactionary logic adapts to historical contexts but retains its core motivation.

#### HISTORICAL CONTEXT: FROM BURKE TO TRUMP

One of the compelling aspects of Corey Robin the reactionary mind is its historical breadth. Robin meticulously traces the evolution of reactionary thought by examining key conservative thinkers and political leaders. He revisits Edmund Burke's critique of the French Revolution, highlighting how Burke's emphasis on hierarchy and order was a response to perceived threats against aristocratic privilege rather than a universal defense of tradition.

MOVING FORWARD IN TIME, ROBIN EXPLORES THE TRANSFORMATION OF CONSERVATIVE RHETORIC THROUGH THE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURIES. HE EXAMINES FIGURES LIKE JOSEPH DE MAISTRE AND JOHN RANDOLPH, WHO ARTICULATED REACTIONARY RESPONSES TO REVOLUTIONARY CHANGE AND DEMOCRATIC EXPANSION. THE BOOK FURTHER DELVES INTO THE 20TH-CENTURY AMERICAN CONSERVATIVE MOVEMENT, SCRUTINIZING HOW FIGURES SUCH AS WILLIAM F. BUCKLEY JR., BARRY GOLDWATER, AND RONALD REAGAN FRAMED THEIR POLITICS AROUND RESISTING SOCIAL MOVEMENTS INCLUDING LABOR UNIONS, CIVIL RIGHTS, AND FEMINISM.

In the contemporary landscape, Robin's analysis culminates with the rise of Donald Trump, interpreting his populist conservatism as a continuation of the reactionary project—a defense mechanism against globalization, multiculturalism, and progressive social change. This long historical arc underscores the persistence of reactionary impulses in shaping political discourse.

## THE PSYCHOLOGICAL AND SOCIOLOGICAL DIMENSIONS OF REACTIONARY THOUGHT

BEYOND POLITICAL HISTORY, COREY ROBIN THE REACTIONARY MIND PROBES THE PSYCHOLOGICAL AND SOCIOLOGICAL FORCES THAT FUEL REACTIONARY CONSERVATISM. ROBIN ARGUES THAT REACTIONARIES OFTEN EXPERIENCE A PROFOUND SENSE OF LOSS OR ANXIETY WHEN ESTABLISHED HIERARCHIES ARE CHALLENGED. THIS EMOTIONAL DIMENSION IS CRITICAL TO UNDERSTANDING WHY REACTIONARY MOVEMENTS CAN BE SO RESILIENT AND PASSIONATE.

FOR EXAMPLE, ROBIN POINTS TO THE FEAR AMONG ELITES AND THEIR SUPPORTERS THAT SOCIAL EQUALITY THREATENS THEIR STATUS, WEALTH, AND INFLUENCE. THIS FEAR MANIFESTS IN EFFORTS TO DELEGITIMIZE PROGRESSIVE MOVEMENTS AND TO BRAND EGALITARIAN DEMANDS AS DANGEROUS OR RADICAL. THE REACTIONARY MIND, IN THIS SENSE, IS CHARACTERIZED BY A DEFENSIVE POSTURE AIMED AT RESTORING A PERCEIVED NATURAL ORDER.

# COREY ROBIN THE REACTIONARY MIND IN CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL DISCOURSE

In the current polarized political climate, Corey Robin the reactionary mind remains highly relevant. His analysis provides a framework for interpreting the resurgence of right-wing populism and conservative backlash worldwide. By understanding conservatism as fundamentally reactionary, analysts and observers can better grasp the motivations behind policies that resist social reforms or seek to roll back civil rights protections.

This conceptualization also challenges the media and political commentators to reconsider how they portray conservative actors. Rather than viewing conservatism as a mere preference for tradition or skepticism toward government intervention, Robin's work suggests a deeper engagement with issues of power dynamics and social hierarchy.

## CRITIQUES AND RECEPTION OF ROBIN'S THESIS

While highly influential, Corey Robin's \*The Reactionary Mind\* has sparked debate among scholars and political thinkers. Some critics argue that Robin's interpretation overgeneralizes conservatism by reducing it to a defensive reaction against egalitarianism, potentially overlooking the diversity and complexity within

CONSERVATIVE THOUGHT. OTHERS CONTEND THAT NOT ALL FORMS OF CONSERVATISM FIT NEATLY INTO THE REACTIONARY MOLD, POINTING TO STRANDS THAT EMPHASIZE LIMITED GOVERNMENT, INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY, OR FREE MARKETS AS ENDS IN THEMSELVES RATHER THAN MERE TOOLS TO PRESERVE HIERARCHY.

NEVERTHELESS, EVEN CRITICS ACKNOWLEDGE THE STRENGTH OF ROBIN'S HISTORICAL RESEARCH AND HIS ABILITY TO CONNECT PAST AND PRESENT CONSERVATIVE STRATEGIES. THE BOOK'S PROVOCATIVE THESIS ENCOURAGES ONGOING DIALOGUE ABOUT THE NATURE OF POLITICAL IDEOLOGIES AND THE ROLE OF POWER IN SHAPING THEM.

#### KEY THEMES AND TAKEAWAYS FROM THE REACTIONARY MIND

- Conservatism as reaction: The idea that conservatism primarily reacts to threats against existing hierarchies rather than promoting a positive program.
- **HISTORICAL CONTINUITY:** FROM BURKE TO TRUMP, REACTIONARY THOUGHT CONSISTENTLY CENTERS ON PRESERVING POWER AND SOCIAL ORDER.
- EMOTIONAL UNDERPINNINGS: FEAR AND ANXIETY ABOUT SOCIAL CHANGE PLAY A CRUCIAL ROLE IN MOTIVATING REACTIONARY POLITICS.
- **Power Dynamics:** The struggle over who holds authority and privilege is central to understanding conservative resistance.

THESE THEMES PROVIDE A LENS THROUGH WHICH TO ANALYZE CURRENT POLITICAL MOVEMENTS AND DEBATES, EMPHASIZING THE INTERPLAY BETWEEN IDEOLOGY AND POWER.

# THE IMPACT OF COREY ROBIN THE REACTIONARY MIND ON POLITICAL THOUGHT

SINCE ITS PUBLICATION, COREY ROBIN THE REACTIONARY MIND HAS BECOME A SEMINAL WORK IN POLITICAL THEORY AND CULTURAL CRITICISM. ITS INFLUENCE EXTENDS BEYOND ACADEMIA INTO JOURNALISM, ACTIVISM, AND PUBLIC DISCOURSE. BY REFRAMING CONSERVATISM AS AN INHERENTLY REACTIONARY PROJECT, ROBIN INVITES READERS TO CRITICALLY ASSESS THE MOTIVATIONS BEHIND POLITICAL RHETORIC AND POLICY.

MOREOVER, THE BOOK ENCOURAGES A REASSESSMENT OF POLITICAL ALLIANCES AND STRATEGIES. UNDERSTANDING THE REACTIONARY MIND CAN INFORM PROGRESSIVE APPROACHES AIMED AT CHALLENGING ENTRENCHED INEQUALITIES AND ENVISIONING MORE INCLUSIVE FUTURES. IT ALSO OFFERS TOOLS FOR RECOGNIZING WHEN POLITICAL ACTORS DEPLOY REACTIONARY LOGIC TO JUSTIFY RETRENCHMENT OR REPRESSION.

IN SUM, COREY ROBIN THE REACTIONARY MIND REMAINS A VITAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE STUDY OF POLITICAL IDEOLOGIES, OFFERING A NUANCED AND HISTORICALLY GROUNDED PERSPECTIVE ON THE FORCES SHAPING CONTEMPORARY CONSERVATISM.

# **Corey Robin The Reactionary Mind**

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corey robin the reactionary mind: The Reactionary Mind Corey Robin, 2011-09-29 In The Reactionary Mind, political scientist Corey Robin makes a strikingly bold claim about the right's political and intellectual foundations. He contends that from the eighteenth century through today, the right has been united by a defense of inequality and privilege and by a deep hostility to all forms of progressive politics. The book ranges widely, covering figures as various as Edmund Burke and Antonin Scalia, John C. Calhoun and Ayn Rand, Joseph de Maistre and Phyllis Schlafly.

corey robin the reactionary mind: Summary of Corey Robin's The Reactionary Mind Everest Media,, 2022-04-05T22:59:00Z Please note: This is a companion version & not the original book. Sample Book Insights: #1 A political party may find that it has had a history, before it is fully aware of or agrees on its permanent tenets. Its fundamental beliefs will be found only by careful examination of its behavior throughout its history and by examining what its more thoughtful and philosophical minds have said on its behalf. #2 Modern politics is the story of the march of democracy, in which men and women have fought for their rights and freedoms. But behind that march, there has always been a counter march, led by conservative ideas. #3 Occasionally, the subordinates of a world protest their conditions and make demands. They cease to be servants or supplicants and become agents, speaking and acting on their own behalf. This infuriates their superiors. #4 American labor history is filled with similar complaints from the employing classes and their allies in government: not that unionized workers are violent or unprofitable, but that they are independent and self-organizing.

**corey robin the reactionary mind: The Reactionary Mind** Corey Robin, 2011 In this book, political scientist Corey Robin makes a strikingly bold claim about the right's political and intellectual foundations. He contends that from the 18th century through today, the right has been united by a defense of inequality and privilege and by a deep hostility to all forms of progressive politics.

corey robin the reactionary mind: The Transcendence of Desire Tom James, David True, 2023-11-28 The "secular age" is not a smooth, untroubled process of accumulation and advance but an uneven and unpredictable series of clashes of interest. Charles Taylor's "immanent frame" cannot be construed merely as a phenomenon within religion and culture but urgently needs to be understood in political and economic terms-i.e., as a class project. The failure of the secular, vividly displayed in the crumbling legitimacy of global institutions and in the spectacle of police violence, both calls for and makes possible a renewal of political agency. Tom James and David True argue that a theology of the cross has a distinctive potential today: it can pierce the sacred aura of normalcy around the consensual anti-politics of the neoliberal order so that a vision of a world beyond today's racialized capitalism can emerge. But they contend that we don't need to forsake the emancipatory aims of modernity nor retreat to local communities. As an alternative to these weak strategies, theyoffer a constructive and cruciform account of political agency that includes both prophetic resistance and practical wisdom, each embedded in contemporary struggles for freedom that, they argue, embody divine desire for a common world.

corey robin the reactionary mind: The Political Right and Equality Matthew McManus, 2023-07-21 McManus presents an intellectual history of the conservative and reactionary tradition, stretching from Aristotle and Filmer to Alexander Dugin and Patrick Deneen. Providing a comprehensive critical genealogy of the intellectual political right, McManus traces its core to a nostalgia for the hierarchical cosmos of antiquarian and scholastic thinking. The yearning for a shared vision of the universe where each part of reality has its place maps onto the conservative admiration for orderly political and social stratification. It stamps even the more moderate forms of liberal conservatism which emerged in the aftermath of the revolutionary 18th century, as the political right struggled to accept and later master first the politics of liberal capitalism and later universal suffrage. In its most radical forms this nostalgia for an orderly and hierarchical existence can harden into a resentment at the perceived shallowness of liberal modernity. McManus argues for those who support the project of modernity to commit themselves to better understanding the

depth of the political right's critiques, many of which expose uncomfortable but solvable problems with the quest for equality and freedom. A critical guide to the history of conservative and reactionary thought for students and scholars of political science and political history. While there are a lot of competing explanations for the contemporary rise of right-wing forces, Matt McManus' new book suggests that it is hostility to equality that actually unites the right. Zeroing in on key intellectuals and writers, McManus, in a sharply written text, offers a compelling explanation for the disproportionate intensity of right-wing grievance politics.

corey robin the reactionary mind: The Big Lie Dinesh D'Souza, 2017-07-31 Of course, everything [D'Souza] says here is accurate... But it's not going to sit well with people on the American left who, of course, are portraying themselves as the exact opposite of all of this. —RUSH LIMBAUGH The explosive new book from Dinesh D'Souza, author of the #1 New York Times bestsellers Hillary's America, America, and Obama's America. What is the big lie of the Democratic Party? That conservatives—and President Donald Trump in particular—are fascists. Nazis, even. In a typical comment, MSNBC host Rachel Maddow says the Trump era is reminiscent of what it was like when Hitler first became chancellor. But in fact, this audacious lie is a complete inversion of the truth. Yes, there is a fascist threat in America—but that threat is from the Left and the Democratic Party. The Democratic left has an ideology virtually identical with fascism and routinely borrows tactics of intimidation and political terror from the Nazi Brownshirts. To cover up their insidious fascist agenda, Democrats loudly accuse President Trump and other Republicans of being Nazis—an obvious lie, considering the GOP has been fighting the Democrats over slavery, genocide, racism and fascism from the beginning. Now, finally, Dinesh D'Souza explodes the Left's big lie. He expertly exonerates President Trump and his supporters, then uncovers the Democratic Left's long, cozy relationship with Nazism: how the racist and genocidal acts of early Democrats inspired Adolf Hitler's campaign of death; how fascist philosophers influenced the great 20th century lions of the American Left; and how today's anti-free speech, anti-capitalist, anti-religious liberty, pro-violence Democratic Party is a frightening simulacrum of the Nazi Party. Hitler coined the term the big lie to describe a lie that the great masses of the people will fall for precisely because of how bold and monstrous the lie is. In The Big Lie, D'Souza shows that the Democratic Left's orchestrated campaign to paint President Trump and conservatives as Nazis to cover up its own fascism is, in fact, the biggest lie of all.

**corey robin the reactionary mind:** *The Great Debate* Georg Brandes, Harald Høffding, 2024-01-09 English translation of six essays which originally appeared in the Danish journal Tilskueren (The Observer), between August 1889 and May 1890.

corey robin the reactionary mind: The Political Outsider Srirupa Roy, 2024-03-05 Defying the dire predictions that attended its birth as an independent nation-state in 1947, the Indian republic is more than seventy-five years old. And yet, it is a place where criticisms of actually existing democracy are intense and strident. In recent years, the trope of victimized people suffering at the hands of a predatory elite and political dysfunction has reaped rewards. The populist language of redemptive outsiders pledging to combat a corrupt system has been harnessed in successful electoral campaigns, like the majoritarian regime of Narendra Modi. Tracking the shift from postcolonial nation-building to democracy-rebuilding, Srirupa Roy shows how the political outsider came to be a valorized figure of late-twentieth century Indian democracy, tasked with the urgent mission of curing a broken democratic system—what Roy terms curative democracy. Drawing attention to an ambivalent political field that folds together authoritarian and democratic forms and ideas, Roy argues that the long 1970s were a crucial turning point in Indian politics, when democracy was suspended by the declaration of a national emergency and then subsequently restored. By tracing the crooked line that connects the ideals of curative democracy and the political outsider to the populist antipolitics and strongman authoritarian rule in present times, this book revisits democracy from India, and asks what the Indian experience tells us about the trajectory of global democratic politics.

corey robin the reactionary mind: Left Wing, Right Wing, People, and Power Douglas

Giles, 2024-03-26 This is a rare work of political theory that stands out for its conversational style and readability. Its persuasion relies on easy to follow arguments and logical conclusion in order to repaint the intractable modern political landscape as a vast misunderstanding of what is important in politics. - IndependentBookReview.com What is politics and why is it so contentious? Avoiding partisan diatribe, Left Wing, Right Wing, People, and Power traces the historical development of the left wing and the right wing to reveal that the core of politics is the conflict over power. Despite specific differences of time and place, political actions are consistently efforts to preserve or change the structure and dynamics of power. With this insight, we can better understand political positions and actions. Written in an accessible style, this book will inform readers regardless of where they see themselves on the political spectrum. With clear but nuanced definitions of political ideologies and movements, the author shows how politics is people seeking to express and expand their power in the social space around them. Thus, the clash of the left and right wings is not about grand ideologies but instead is about power relations and the flow of power among people. Left Wing, Right Wing, People, and Power is a well-researched and thoughtful guide through the ideological rift that has dominated the political spectrum for centuries. Giles deftly probes the modern left/right-wing factions vying for power in the United States and elsewhere. He exposes the perceived misconceptions about the left and the right and is evenhanded in his criticism. Giles' book excels in approaching a contentious topic and deconstructing it for his reading audience in a concise manner. - Reedsy

corey robin the reactionary mind: The Emergence of Post-modernity at the Intersection of Liberalism, Capitalism, and Secularism Matthew McManus, 2022-09-07 This book is a systematic and thorough analysis of what post-modernity is and how it emerged. It distinguishes between those who regard post-modernity as a theoretical approach and those who regard it as a culture, and argues that interpreting post-modernity as a culture is more fruitful. It discusses the three factors which led to its emergence, namely liberalism, capitalism, and secularism, highlighting their respective influence in generating the culture of post-modernity within neoliberal societies. The volume provides a lengthy analysis of neoliberal post-modernity in practice, arguing that post-modernism is the cultural condition of neoliberal societies in the late 20th and early 21st centuries. Until recently it seemed that neoliberal post-modernity was here to stay, framed by relationship to freedom and time which stressed individual agency but precluded the possibility of historical change at the political level. However, the Great Recession of 2008 opened new spaces for agitation and transformation which has resulted in the discordant politics of the last decade. This book will be of interest to scholars working in a number of fields, including economic policy, cultural analysis, political theory, and social critique.

corey robin the reactionary mind: Edmund Burke and the Invention of Modern Conservatism, 1830-1914 Emily Jones, 2017 Between 1830 and 1914 in Britain a dramatic modification of the reputation of Edmund Burke (1730-1797) occurred. Burke, an Irishman and Whig politician, is now most commonly known as the founder of modern conservatism - an intellectual tradition which is also deeply connected to the identity of the British Conservative Party. The idea of Burkean conservatism--a political philosophy which upholds the authority of tradition, the organic, historic conception of society, and the necessity of order, religion, and property--has been incredibly influential both in international academic analysis and in the wider political world. This is a highly significant intellectual construct, but its origins have not yet been understood. This volume demonstrates, for the first time, that the transformation of Burke into the founder of conservatism was in fact part of wider developments in British political, intellectual, and cultural history in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Drawing from a wide range of sources, including political texts, parliamentary speeches, histories, biographies, and educational curricula, Edmund Burke and the Invention of Modern Conservatism shows how and why Burke's reputation was transformed over a formative period of British history. In doing so, it bridges the significant gap between the history of political thought as conventionally understood and the history of the making of political traditions. The result is to demonstrate that, by 1914, Burke had been firmly established as a conservative

political philosopher and was admired and utilized by political Conservatives in Britain who identified themselves as his intellectual heirs. This was one essential component of a conscious re-working of C/conservatism which is still at work today.

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