



The Limousine Liberal: How an Incendiary Image United the Right and Fractured America

By Steve Fraser

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No political metaphor in recent American history has enjoyed the impact of the limousine liberal. Taking aim at what many consider the hypocrisy of wealthy liberals who champion the cause of the poor but who have no intention of bearing the costs of doing anything about their plight, it has mobilized an enduring politics of resentment against everything from civil rights to environmental regulation.

In *The Limousine Liberal*, Steve Fraser argues that the metaphor of the limousine liberal has had a pernicious effect on American political culture. From Henry Ford's attacks on Jews, bankers, and Bolsheviks in the 1920s to the Tea Party's vehement hatred of Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton, it has served as the animus binding together right-wing populism in America.

In the vein of the late Richard Hofstadter, Fraser dives down below the surface of rational political life to identify and understand the right's most elemental fears.

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Editorial Review

Review

“[Fraser] writes wonderfully, and his text is studded with insights...[he] has produced a timely tour de force to remind us that limousine liberals are still very much with us—as are the politicians and pundits who portray them as such bogeymen.”

—**Daniel Akst, *Wall Street Journal***

“Fraser provides a brisk and entertaining history of limousine liberalism in all its linguistic manifestations, and his book is worth reading for that alone.”

—**Alan Wolfe, *New Republic***

“As the historian Steve Fraser demonstrates in his wide-ranging new book, the idea of the “limousine liberal” has a long and messy history all its own.”

—**Beverly Gage, *New York Times Book Review***

“A bracing and extremely timely exploration of the roots of right-wing populism, especially relevant in the glare of Donald Trump's unexpected rise.”

—**Booklist**

“[A] rich, incisive book...Fraser conveys the ferocity of America's culture wars in his sharp observations, which often cut uncomfortably close to the bone.”

—**Kirkus, starred review**

“This lucid, often entertaining, genealogy of right-wing populism is necessary background reading for anyone seeking to understand—or just endure—2016.”

—**Barbara Ehrenreich, bestselling author of *Nickel and Dimed***

“Steve Fraser has produced a fascinating history of the ways liberal elites have been demonized by conservatives seeking to make inroads among white working class voters. Fraser's book is crucial to understanding a dominant theme in American politics that has shaped the conservative movement and has most recently fueled the campaign tactics of Donald Trump.”

—**Thomas Edsall, Columnist, *New York Times***

“Steve Fraser's *The Limousine Liberal* is a bracing and illuminating history of right-wing populism in modern America. With fascinating detail and vigorous prose, Fraser deftly shows how class became the dirty little secret of American politics, and how billionaires in work boots have helped to keep it that way. This book is essential reading for anyone who is impatient with the triviality of contemporary public discourse, and who hopes—against all the odds—to revive it.”

—**Jackson Lears, author of *Rebirth of a Nation: The Making of Modern America, 1877-1920***

“Steve Fraser's *The Limousine Liberal* is a brilliant analysis of how elites, using both parties, have stunted the kind of real economic democracy and broad prosperity that America needs.”

—**Robert Kuttner, Co-Editor, *The American Prospect*; Professor, Brandeis University**

About the Author

Steve Fraser is the author of *The Age of Acquiescence* and *Every Man a Speculator* among other books and has written for the *Los Angeles Times*, the *New York Times*, *The Nation*, and the *London Review of Books*. He lives in New York City.

Users Review

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Daniel Scholz:

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