

1-1-2002

Book Review of 'How to Beat the Democrats and Other Subversive Ideas,' by David Horowitz

Michael A. Genovese

Loyola Marymount University, mgenovese@lmu.edu

Repository Citation

Genovese, Michael A., "Book Review of 'How to Beat the Democrats and Other Subversive Ideas,' by David Horowitz" (2002). *Political Science Faculty Works*. 88.
http://digitalcommons.lmu.edu/poli_fac/88

Recommended Citation

Genovese, M. A. (2002). *How To Beat the Democrats and Other Subversive Ideas* (Book). *Library Journal*, 127(12), 101.

only awkward but detracts from the seriousness of the subject. The book contains an excellent bibliography and notes section. Academic libraries with strong political science collections may want to add this title to their collections. Others may prefer books that are easier to understand, such as Frances Fox Piven and Richard A. Cloward's *Why American's Don't Vote* or *Why American's Still Don't Vote: And Why Politicians Want It That Way*.—Joyce Cox, Nevada State Lib. and Archives, Reno

Horowitz, David. How To Beat the Democrats and Other Subversive Ideas.

Spence. 2002. c.237p. index. ISBN 1-890626-41-4. \$27.95. POLITICS
This lively and opinionated book is aimed primarily at Republican true believers, giving the already-converted a bone on which to chew. It is unlikely to convince fence-sitters to join the cause. Horowitz, a well-known political pundit who documented his conversion from Left to Right in *Radical Son: A Generational Odyssey*, argues that Republicans must wage warfare against the enemy among us. The Democrats "rely on bribery and fear," contends Horowitz, and the Republicans are the only ones who can save the country from threats against our national security. Part 4 is a series of vignettes railing against Horowitz's favorite targets: Bill and Hillary Clinton, antiwar demonstrators during the Vietnam era, the 1960s, Noam Chomsky, and others. But once the author gets past these venomous attacks—often setting up the Democrats as straw men—he offers interesting and sometimes useful campaign advice, culminating in a comprehensive electoral program for the Republicans in 2002. Recommended for larger public libraries or specialized collections.—Michael A. Genovese, Loyola Marymount Univ., Los Angeles

Laber, Jeri. The Courage of Strangers: Coming of Age with the Human Rights Movement.

PublicAffairs: Perseus. 2002. c.416p. photogs. index. ISBN 1-58648-014-6. \$27.50. POLITICS
A homemaker with an academic background in Russian studies and Sovietology, Laber gradually became involved with a developing human rights movement in America during the 1970s and 1980s, going on to become the director of Helsinki Watch, an organization that monitored human rights abuses, especially in the Soviet bloc. Under her guidance, Helsinki Watch broadened its focus to the whole world, eventually merging into one composite organization called Human Rights Watch. Laber's book is first and foremost an autobiographical account of her lifelong devotion to exposing human rights abuses and preventing future abuses, interspersed with references to her personal

and family life. This account details her often dangerous trips to Brezhnev's Soviet Union and Eastern European nations and chronicles the events leading to the development of Helsinki Watch and Human Rights Watch. It also contains vivid personal vignettes of Soviet dissidents and torture victims in Turkey and El Salvador. This book offers inspirational testimony to the value of a human rights organization that investigates and publicizes human rights violations with fairness and without regard to political ideology or U.S. foreign policy. For most academic and large public libraries.—Jack Forman, San Diego Mesa Coll. Lib.

Phillips, Kevin. Wealth and Democracy: A Political History of the American Rich.

Broadway: Bantam. 2002. c.496p. bibliog. index. ISBN 0-7679-0533-4. \$29.95. POLITICS
Phillips's central aim is to condemn the current intertwining of wealth and politics, outlining their historical affinity while warning that today's unprecedented concentration of wealth imperils U.S. democracy. He richly details the broad scope of wealth and the wealthy in U.S. history, employing his sardonic wit to record the excesses of his subjects. Phillips deepens his argument with frequent parallels to the rise and fall of Spain, Holland, and Britain—nations that preceded the United States in global hegemony and were each brought down by a confluence of disparity in wealth, ostentatious display of luxury, and domination of manufactures by finance, a pattern he sees repeating itself in this country. Though forceful and passionate, Phillips's argument is weakened by its sprawling scope and frequent repetition. Moreover, he has made many of these points in earlier books, such as *The Politics of Rich and Poor*. Still, this is a big book from a major political observer and is hence a necessary purchase.—Robert F. Nardini, Chichester, NH


Prokosch, Mike & Laura Raymond. The Global Activist's Manual: Local Ways To Change the World.

Thunder's Mouth: Avalon, dist. by Publishers Group West. 2002. c.320p. photogs. index. ISBN 1-56025-401-7. pap. \$15.95. POLITICS
The 1999 protests of the World Trade Organization in Seattle brought the many-faceted progressive movement back into the public eye. This handbook, compiled by experienced activists Prokosch and Raymond, intends to give individuals wanting to organize for political action inspiration plus practical advice. The bulk of the book presents case studies on successful and unsuccessful protests and political action in areas such as cross-border coalition building, challenging white supremacy and globalization, taking on corporations, and mobi-


lizing consumers. This section's 45 chapters are written by men and women currently active in the protest movement. The remainder of the book provides nuts-and-bolts advice on organizing individuals, publicity, Internet use, and facing opposition. A resource directory and glossary complete the book. This well-organized work would be useful for anyone involved in direct political action and is recommended for all libraries.—Stephen L. Hupp, West Virginia Univ. Lib., Parkersburg

Shogan, Robert. War Without End: Cultural Conflict and the Struggle for America's Political Future.

Westview: Perseus. Aug. 2002. c.336p. permanent paper. index. ISBN 0-8133-9760-X. \$30. POLITICS
Whether the future of American politics will continue to reflect the struggle between liberal, secular humanism and conservative, religious fundamentalism remains to be seen, but this book attempts to shed some light on the key people and events that have marked the last 40 years of the battle. Shogan, a retired journalist for *Newsweek* and the *Los Angeles Times* and author of nine other books on national politics, presents in nonchronological order the stories of the Clinton sex scandal, the 1968 Democratic National Conven-



Electing Jesse Ventura: A Third-Party Success Story
JACOB LENTZ



"A fascinating investigation of how this political novice and former professional wrestler ... defeated [the] prominent candidates of the two major parties."
—Foreword Magazine

"An engaging investigation of Ventura's victory and what it might mean for future third-party candidates."
—Library Journal
hc \$45 • pb \$16.95

LYNNE RIENNER PUBLISHERS
1800 30TH STREET • BOULDER, CO 80301
(303) 444-6684 • (303) 444-0824 FAX
www.rienner.com