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## Book Review of "The Two Americas: Our Current Political Deadlock and How to Break It" by Stanley B. Greenberg

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emptied of meaning by politicians who prefer to talk about civility and character rather than real political issues, such as justice and inequality. He already made a similar argument concerning class, race, and gender in earlier books, such as *The Imperial Middle* and *The Trouble with Friendship*. These essays feature disparate subjects, such as George W. Bush, character education, L.L. Bean, Tracy Kidder, business leadership gurus, Howard Cosell, and George Will. Some are more focused than others, but all contain unrelenting smartness, sarcasm, and cleverness—e.g., modest and wealthy neighborhoods are referred to as “downscale” or “upscale” zips. This is wearing enough, but when a smartaleck gets the details wrong, such as the title of Jackson Lears’s 1991 book, *No Place of Grace* (not “for” grace, as DeMott has it), authority ebbs. His theme might have made one or two good essays, but an entire book of DeMott’s ridicule is a tiresome event.—*Robert F. Nardini, Chichester, NH*

**Flanders, Laura. *Bushwomen: Tales of a Cynical Species*.**

Verso, dist. by Norton. Mar. 2004. 331p. index. ISBN 1-85984-587-8. \$22.

POLITICS

According to Flanders, “Bushwomen” are President Bush’s female appointees who act as an “extremist administration’s female front.” In this witty, entertaining exposé, Flanders (*Real Majority, Media Minority*) holds that if women were taken more seriously by the media, the Bushwomen would be more carefully scrutinized and their contradictions revealed. Flanders examines the backgrounds and the legislative and administrative activity of six powerful female appointees—Condoleezza Rice, Karen Hughes, Ann Veneman, Elaine Chao, Christine Todd Whitman, and Gale Norton—arguing that, with each, what the electorate thinks it sees is not what it gets. Although billed as maverick or moderate, each woman had a decidedly conservative, pro-business history that she continues to advance in her position of authority. Flanders’s bias against the current administration is never in doubt, but extensive research and thorough documentation bolster her argument. Recommended for all libraries.—*Jill Ortner, SUNY at Buffalo*

**Greenberg, Stanley B. *The Two Americas: Our Current Political Deadlock and How To Break It*.**

Thomas Dunne Bks: St. Martin’s. 2004. c.400p. index. ISBN 0-312-31838-3. \$25.95.

POLITICS

Greenberg (CEO, Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research) should know what he is talking about. The former adviser and pollster for President Clinton and Vice President Gore, Greenberg is paid to have his finger on the pulse of public opinion. In this ambitious book, he asserts that the United States

is “trapped in an ugly parity that drives both parties, each tantalizingly close to tasting the fruits of victory, to more intense battles that leave the country more divided.” Greenberg looks for a way to break out of this morass. He sees the past several elections as resulting in virtual ties between the Democrats and Republicans (the blue states and the red states), and with no clear governing or electoral majority. While not directly saying so, Greenberg suggests that as the parties become more partisan, the voters are becoming less so. This creates an opportunity for one party (he hopes it is the Democrats) to put “at risk the current game” and thereby capture the loyalty of voters and become the new majority party. Richly textured and powerfully presented, this serious book should make significant impact on the way we view politics in America.—*Michael A. Genovese, Loyola Marymount Univ., Los Angeles*

**Harris, Lee. *Civilization and Its Enemies: The Next Stage of History*.**

Free Pr: S. & S. Feb. 2004. c.256p. index. ISBN 0-7432-5749-9. \$26. **POLITICS**  
Harris must be very popular with those in the Bush administration. From the publication of his first political essay in *Policy Review*, “Al Qaeda’s Fantasy Ideology,” through this new book-length polemic, he

makes a stark and simple argument: we have a ruthless enemy and we need to annihilate him, so get used to it. Although drawing upon the lessons of history and the writings of philosophers, Harris maintains his focus on the dangerous post-9/11 world. In his view, 9/11 marked the beginning of an “ideological epidemic” that has fundamentally changed how we now must approach the world. He expounds upon the nature of the “enemy,” the need for ruthlessness in world affairs, and patriotism. He is highly critical of liberal apologists for internationalism and cosmopolitanism, both of which he regards as naïve and ineffectual in the battle to preserve civilization. This provocative and controversial view will appeal primarily to political conservatives. Although Harris is being compared with Francis Fukuyama, his book may not achieve the fame of *The End of History and the Last Man*. Nevertheless, it deserves a place on library shelves.—*Thomas A. Karel, Franklin & Marshall Coll. Lib., Lancaster, PA*

**Johnson, Chalmers. *The Sorrows of Empire: Militarism, Secrecy, and the End of the Republic*.**

Metropolitan: Holt. 2004. c.320p. index. ISBN 0-8050-7004-4. \$25. **INT AFFAIRS**  
A regular contributor to the *Nation*, Johnson extends the antimilitarist thesis that he put

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