

VOICES

OF THE RIGHT

**Today's Most Influential
Conservative Pundits**



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Sean Hannity

Sean Patrick Hannity^[3] (born December 30, 1961)^[4] is an American talk show host and conservative political commentator. He is the host of *The Sean Hannity Show*, a nationally syndicated talk radio show, and has also hosted a commentary program, *Hannity*, on Fox News, since 2009.

Hannity worked as a general contractor and volunteered as a talk show host at UC Santa Barbara in 1989. He later joined WVNN in Athens, Alabama and shortly afterward, WGST in Atlanta. After leaving WGST, he worked at WABC in New York until 2013. Since 2014, Hannity has worked at WOR.^[5]

In 1996, Hannity and Alan Colmes co-hosted *Hannity & Colmes* on Fox. After Colmes announced his departure in January 2008, Hannity merged the *Hannity & Colmes* show into *Hannity*.^[6]

Hannity has received several awards and honors, including an honorary degree from Liberty University. He has written three *New York Times* best-selling books: *Let Freedom Ring: Winning the War of Liberty over Liberalism*; *Deliver Us from Evil: Defeating Terrorism, Despotism, and Liberalism*; and *Conservative Victory: Defeating Obama's Radical Agenda*, and released a fourth, *Live Free or Die*, in 2020.^[7]

Hannity has sometimes promoted conspiracy theories, such as "birtherism" (claims that then-President Barack Obama was not a legitimate U.S. citizen), claims regarding the murder of Seth Rich, and falsehoods about Hillary Clinton's health. Hannity was an early supporter of Donald Trump in the 2016 presidential election. Hannity often acted as an unofficial spokesman for the president,^[8] criticizing the media, attacking Robert Mueller's inquiry into Russian interference in Trump's election,^[9] and discouraging social distancing amid the COVID-19 pandemic.^[10] He reportedly spoke to Trump on the phone most weeknights.^[11] He spoke at the president's lectern during a Trump rally, and White House advisors characterized him as the "shadow" chief of staff.^[12] According to *Forbes*, by 2018 Hannity had become one of the most-watched hosts in cable news and most-listened-to hosts in talk radio, due in part to his closeness and access to Trump.^[11]

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Sean Hannity



Hannity in June 2020

Born	Sean Patrick Hannity December 30, 1961 New York City, New York, U.S.
Occupation	Radio host, television host, political commentator, author
Employer	Premiere Networks, Fox News Channel
Known for	Conservative political commentary
Political party	Republican ^{[1][2]}
Spouse(s)	Jill Rhodes (<i>m.</i> 1993; <i>div.</i> 2019)
Children	2
Website	hannity.com (http://hannity.com)

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Early life and education

Hannity was born in New York City, New York, the son of Lillian (née Flynn) and Hugh Hannity.^{[4][13]} Lillian worked as a stenographer and a corrections officer at a county jail, while Hugh was a World War II veteran and family-court officer.^[14] He was the youngest of four siblings and the only boy.^[14] All his

grandparents immigrated to the United States from Ireland. He grew up in Franklin Square, New York on Long Island.^[14]

In his youth, Hannity worked as a paperboy delivering issues of the New York Daily News and the Long Island Daily Press. His parents were initially supporters of President John F. Kennedy, eventually growing more Republican in their views as time went on, though they resisted being overtly political at home.^{[14][15]}

Hannity attended Sacred Heart Seminary in Hempstead, New York^[14] and St. Pius X Preparatory Seminary in Uniondale, New York.^[16] He attended New York University and Adelphi University, but did not graduate from either.^[14]

Career



Interviewing Vice President Dick Cheney in 2006



Interviewing Vice President Mike Pence in 2020

In 1982, Hannity started a house-painting business and a few years later, worked as a building contractor in Santa Barbara, California.^[17] He hosted his first talk radio show in 1989 at the volunteer college station at UC Santa Barbara, KCSB-FM, while working as a general contractor. The show aired for 40 hours of air time.^{[18][19]} Regarding his first show, he said, "I wasn't good at it. I was terrible."^[20]

Radio

Hannity's weekly show on KCSB was canceled after less than a year after a controversy. During two shows, gay and lesbian rights were discussed in what was considered to be a contentious manner. (See LGBT issues below.) The university board that governed the station later reversed its decision after a campaign conducted on Hannity's behalf by the Santa Barbara chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union argued that the station had discriminated against Hannity's First Amendment rights. When the station refused to issue Hannity a public apology and more airtime, he did not return to KCSB.^{[21][15]}

After leaving KCSB, Hannity placed an ad in radio publications, presenting himself as "the most talked about college radio host in America".^[15] Radio station WVNN in Athens, Alabama (part of the Huntsville media market), then hired him to be the afternoon talk show host.^[18] From Huntsville, he moved to WGST in Atlanta in 1992, filling the slot vacated by Neal Boortz, who had moved to competing station WSB. In September 1996, Fox News co-founder Roger Ailes hired the then relatively unknown Hannity to host a television program under the working title *Hannity and LTBD* ("liberal to be determined").^[22] Alan Colmes was then hired to co-host and the show debuted as *Hannity & Colmes*.

Later that year, Hannity left WGST for New York, where WABC had him substitute for their afternoon drive time host during Christmas week. In January 1997, WABC put Hannity on the air full-time, giving him the late-night time slot. WABC then moved Hannity to the same drive-time slot he had filled temporarily a little more than a year earlier. Hannity was on WABC's afternoon time slot from January 1998.^[23]

In their 2007 book *Common Ground: How to Stop the Partisan War That Is Destroying America*, conservative Cal Thomas and liberal Bob Beckel describe Hannity as a leader of the pack among broadcasting political polarizers, which following James Q. Wilson they define as those who have "an intense commitment

to a candidate, a culture, or an ideology that sets people in one group definitively apart from people in another, rival group".^[24] The WABC slot continued until the end of 2013. Since January 2014, Hannity has hosted the 3:00–6:00 p.m. time slot on WOR in New York City.^[25]

Hannity's radio program is a conservative political talk show that features Hannity's opinions and ideology related to current issues and politicians. *The Sean Hannity Show* began national syndication on September 10, 2001, on more than five hundred stations nationwide.^[26] In 2004, Hannity signed a \$25 million five-year contract extension with ABC Radio (now Citadel Media) to continue the show until 2009.^[27] The program was made available via Armed Forces Radio Network in 2006.^[28] In June 2007, ABC Radio was sold to Citadel Communications^[29] and in the summer of 2008, Hannity was signed for a \$100 million five-year contract.^[30] As of March 2018, the program is heard by more than 13.5 million listeners a week.^[31] Hannity was ranked No. 2 in *Talkers Magazine's* 2017 Heavy Hundred^[32] and was listed as No. 72 on *Forbes'* "Celebrity 100" list in 2013.^[33]



Speaking at the 2015 Conservative Political Action Conference in February 2015

In January 2007, Clear Channel Communications signed a groupwide three-year extension with Hannity on more than eighty stations.^[34] The largest stations in the group deal included KTRH Houston, KFYI Phoenix, WPGH Pittsburgh, WKRC Cincinnati, WOOD Grand Rapids, WFLA Tampa, WOAI San Antonio, WLAC Nashville, and WREC Memphis.

Hannity signed a long-term contract to remain with Premiere Networks in September 2013.^[35]

At the beginning of 2014, Hannity signed contracts to air on several Salem Communications stations including WDTK Detroit, WIND Chicago, WWRC Washington, D.C., and KSKY Dallas.^[36]

Television

Hannity was a co-host of *Hannity & Colmes*, an American political "point-counterpoint"-style television program on the Fox News Channel featuring Hannity and Alan Colmes as co-hosts. Hannity presented the conservative point of view with Colmes providing the liberal viewpoint.

While Hannity's views are typically politically and socially conservative, he has spoken supportively about birth control, which has led to on-air clashes with pro-life guests such as Rev. Thomas Euteneuer, president of Human Life International.^[37] Hannity said if the Catholic Church were to excommunicate him over his support for contraception, he would join Jerry Falwell's Thomas Road Baptist Church.^[38]

In January 2007, Hannity began a new Sunday night television show on Fox News, *Hannity's America*.

In November 2008, Colmes announced his departure from *Hannity & Colmes*. After the show's final broadcast on January 9, 2009, Hannity took over the time slot with his own new show, *Hannity*, which has a format similar to *Hannity's America*.

Books

Hannity is the author of four books. *Let Freedom Ring: Winning the War of Liberty over Liberalism* was published in 2002, and *Deliver Us from Evil: Defeating Terrorism, Despotism, and Liberalism* was published in 2004 through ReganBooks. Both these books reached the nonfiction *New York Times* bestseller list, the

second of which stayed there for five weeks.^{[39][40]} Hannity has said he is too busy to write many books,^[39] and dictated a lot of his own two books into a tape recorder while driving in to do his radio show.^[41]

Hannity wrote his third book, *Conservative Victory: Defeating Obama's Radical Agenda*, which was released by HarperCollins in March 2010.^[42] The book became Hannity's third *New York Times* Bestseller.^[43]

In 2020, Hannity released his fourth book, *Live Free or Die*.^[44]

- *Let Freedom Ring: Winning the War of Liberty Over Liberalism*, William Morrow, August 1, 2002, ISBN 978-0060514556.
- *Deliver Us From Evil: Defeating Terrorism, Despotism, and Liberalism*, William Morrow, February 17, 2004, ISBN 978-0060582517.
- *Conservative Victory: Defeating Obama's Radical Agenda*, HarperCollins, March 30, 2010, ISBN 978-0062003058.
- *Live Free or Die: America (and the World) on the Brink*, Threshold Editions, August 4, 2020, ISBN 978-1982149970.

Freedom Concerts

From 2003 until 2010, Hannity hosted country music-themed "Freedom Concerts" to raise money for charity.^[45] In 2010, conservative blogger Debbie Schlusser wrote that only a small percentage of the money raised by the concerts goes to the target charity, Freedom Alliance.^[46] The Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW) filed complaints with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), also in 2010. The FTC complaint alleges that Hannity was "falsely promoting that all concert proceeds would be donated to a scholarship fund for the children of those killed or wounded in war".^[47] The complaint filed with the IRS claims that Freedom Alliance has violated its 501(c)3 charity status.^[48] The concerts stopped around the same year.^[49]

Awards and honors

- Hannity received a Marconi Award in 2003 and 2007 as the Network Syndicated Personality of the Year from the National Association of Broadcasters.^[50]
- In 2009, *Talkers Magazine* listed Hannity as No. 2 on their list of the 100 most important radio talk show hosts in America (with Rush Limbaugh listed as No. 1).^[51] The same magazine gave Hannity its Freedom of Speech Award in 2003.^[52]
- In 2005, Jerry Falwell, chancellor of the evangelical Liberty University, awarded Hannity an honorary degree.^[53]
- Hannity was inducted into the National Radio Hall of Fame in November 2017.^[54]

Other activities

Hannity has had cameo appearances in film and television, having a brief voiceover in *The Siege* as an unseen reporter, and appearing in *Atlas Shrugged: Part II* and the second season of *House of Cards* as himself.^{[55][56]} He executive produced and appeared in the 2017 film *Let There Be Light*, which also stars Kevin Sorbo.^[57]

As of April 2018, Hannity owned at least 877 residential properties, which were bought for nearly \$89 million.^{[58][59]} He purchased some of the homes with the help of loans from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and most are in working-class neighborhoods.^[60] His property managers

have taken an aggressive management approach with a much higher than average eviction rate. *The Washington Post* reported that his property management team has used eviction proceedings both to remove tenants and to generate revenue. His property managers have claimed that Hannity has no active role in the management of the more than 1,000 properties he has a stake in.^[61]

Commentary, controversies, and criticism

According to *The Washington Post*, Hannity "repeatedly embraces storylines that prove to be inaccurate" and takes positions that change over time.^[15] In the opinion of *The New York Times*, Hannity is "barreling headfirst into the murky territory between opinion and out-and-out conspiracy theorism".^[14] Hannity often promotes conspiracy theories without explicitly endorsing them, unlike Alex Jones. *The New York Times* wrote that this "has the effect of nourishing the more wild-eyed beliefs of his fans while providing Hannity a degree of plausible deniability".^[14] *The New Yorker* wrote in 2019 that Hannity had "[spewed] baseless conspiracy theories with impunity".^[62]

During the Bush years, Hannity "loyally supported the president's policies".^[15] During the Obama administration, Hannity "leaned more heavily on stories he believed were being given short shrift by the 'liberal media' – stories about where Obama was born, and who deserved blame for the attack on the U.S. compound in Benghazi, Libya".^[15] In 2017, *The Washington Post* wrote that "what Hannity has stood for – at least for the past couple of years – is Trump."^[15]

Birtherism

Although Hannity said he believed President Obama was born in the U.S., to answer queries on Obama's citizenship, he repeatedly called on Obama to release his birth certificate.^{[63][64]} Hannity described the circumstances regarding Obama's birth certificate as "odd".^[62] Hannity also defended and promoted those who questioned Obama's citizenship of the U.S., such as Donald Trump. Hannity invited Trump to his show while Trump was a leader in the birther movement; during an interview with Hannity, Trump said Obama "could have easily have come from Kenya, or someplace".^[14] Hannity said in response, "The issue could go away in a minute. Just show the certificate."^[14] Even after Obama produced his birth certificate in 2008, certified by the state of Hawaii, Hannity kept calling on Obama to release his birth certificate, asking why did he not "just produce it and we move on?"^[65] In October 2016, Hannity offered to purchase a one-way ticket to Kenya for Obama.^[66]

2016 presidential campaign

Candidacy of Donald Trump

Hannity is known for his pro-Trump coverage.^{[14][15][67]} According to *The Washington Post*, "Hannity's comeback coincided with his early, eager embrace of his fellow New Yorker ... Trump attacked the Gold Star father, and Hannity stood by him. Trump went after a federal judge of Mexican descent, and Hannity backed him. After the *Access Hollywood* tape emerged of Trump making lewd comments about inappropriate sexual behaviour towards women, Hannity continued to defend him: 'King David had 500 concubines, for crying out loud.'"^[15] After the inauguration, the first interview the new



Hannity with Donald Trump in 2015

president gave to a cable news channel was conducted by Hannity.^[15] Hannity additionally defended the Trump administration's false claim that Trump's inauguration crowd was the biggest ever.^[15]

Hannity has been criticized as being overly favorable to the candidacy of Donald Trump, and granting Trump more airtime than other presidential candidates during the 2016 primaries.^[68] Hannity, for instance, let Trump promote the false claim that Rafael Cruz, father of Trump's rival presidential candidate Ted Cruz, was involved in the John F. Kennedy assassination.^[15] He admitted to favoring Republican candidates, though without indicating a preference for Donald Trump over Ted Cruz.^[69] According to Dylan Byers of CNN, Hannity during interviews "frequently cites areas where he agrees with Trump, or where he thinks Trump was right about something, then asks him to expand on it", and "often ignores or defends Trump from criticism".^[69]

Tensions between Cruz and Hannity appeared to reach a boiling point during a contentious April 2016 radio interview, during which Cruz implied Hannity was a "hardcore Donald Trump supporter" and Hannity responded by accusing Cruz of "throw[ing] this in my face" every time he asked a "legitimate question".^[70] Jim Rutenberg commented in August 2016 that Hannity is "not only Mr. Trump's biggest media booster; he also veers into the role of adviser," citing sources who said Hannity spent months offering suggestions to Trump and his campaign on strategy and messaging. Hannity responded to the report by saying, "I'm not hiding the fact that I want Donald Trump to be the next President of the United States. ... I never claimed to be a journalist."^[71] (In an article published in December 2017, Hannity said "I'm a journalist. But I'm an advocacy journalist, or an opinion journalist.")^[14] Hannity has feuded with several conservatives who oppose Trump, including *National Review*'s Jonah Goldberg,^{[72][73]} *Wall Street Journal* foreign affairs columnist Bret Stephens,^[74] and *National Review* editor Rich Lowry.^[75]

Conspiracy theories about Hillary Clinton

During the 2016 presidential election, Hannity periodically promoted conspiracy theories regarding Hillary Clinton and the Democratic Party.^{[76][77][78][79]} Hannity repeatedly claimed that Clinton had very serious medical problems and that the media was covering them up.^{[15][76][80][81]} He misrepresented photos of Clinton to give the impression that she had secret medical problems.^{[76][78]} He shared a photo from the fringe news site *Gateway Pundit* and falsely claimed that it showed her Secret Service agent holding a diazepam pen intended to treat seizures, when he in fact was holding a small flashlight.^[76] He booked doctors on his show to discuss Clinton's health; although these people had never personally examined Clinton, they made alarmist statements about her state of health which turned out to be false.^{[76][78]} At one point, Hannity promoted an unsubstantiated report that Clinton had been drunk at a rally; at another point, he suggested that Clinton was drunk and that her campaign needed to "sober her up".^[82]

Murder of Seth Rich conspiracy theories

In May 2017, Hannity became a prominent promoter of the conspiracy theory that Hillary Clinton and the Democratic Party had a DNC staffer killed.^{[83][84][85][86][87][15]} Shortly afterward, he faced backlash from both left- and right-wing sources and lost several advertisers, including *Crowne Plaza Hotels*, *Cars.com*, *Leesa Mattress*, *USAA*, *Peloton* and *Casper Sleep* deciding to pull their marketing from his program on Fox News.^{[88][89][90]} However, USAA decided to return to the show shortly after following a negative outcry against its decision to pull out.^[91] Conservative magazine *National Review* compared the story to a flat earth video, called it a "disgrace" that Hannity and other conspiracy theorists were hyping the story, and called for them to stop.^[92]

In March 2018, Seth Rich's parents filed a lawsuit against Fox News for pushing conspiracy theories about their son's death. The suit alleges that the network "intentionally exploited" the tragedy for political purposes.^[93] On Oct. 12, 2020, Fox News agreed to pay millions of dollars to the Rich family.^[94]

Claims about election fraud

Hannity came under criticism during the 2016 presidential election for false claims about election rigging during interviews. Hannity responded to this by citing Mitt Romney's failure in the 2012 United States presidential election to obtain any votes in 59 of 1,687 Philadelphia voting districts as proof of election rigging. However, Factcheck.org and PolitiFact found that it was not unusual at all for this to occur, as those electoral districts are heavily African-American. Philadelphia elections inspector Ryan Godfrey also refuted Hannity's claim.^{[95][96]}

WikiLeaks

In 2010, Hannity said WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange was waging a "war" on the United States, and that Wikileaks put American lives in "jeopardy" and "danger" around the world. He also criticized the Obama administration for failing to apprehend Assange.^{[97][98]} In 2016, after Wikileaks published leaked emails from the Democratic National Committee, Hannity praised Assange for showing "how corrupt, dishonest and phony our government is".^{[98][99]} He told Assange in a September 2016 interview, "I do hope you get free one day. I wish you the best."^[100] The following month, Hannity claimed that WikiLeaks has revealed "everything that conspiracy theorists have said over the years" about Hillary Clinton is true.^[101]

In February 2017, Hannity retweeted a WikiLeaks tweet linking to an article by the conspiracy website Gateway Pundit, claiming that John McCain was a "globalist war criminal". McCain's spokeswoman called Hannity out on it, asking him to "correct the record". Hannity later deleted the tweet.^[102] In May 2017, Hannity made an offer to Assange to guest host his Fox News TV show.^[103]

Relationship with Donald Trump and Michael Cohen

Hannity developed a close relationship with Trump during the election and has become even closer during his presidency.^[62] The two men speak on the phone multiple times a week, discussing Hannity's weekday show, the special counsel investigation, even evaluating White House staff.^{[62][12][104][105]} Hannity shares, *The Economist* asserts, "Mr. Trump's love of conspiracy theories and hatred of snooty elites".^[106] They speak so often that one Trump adviser has said Hannity "basically has a desk in the place".^[12] On the air, Hannity echoes Trump's attacks on the media and Special Counsel investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 United States elections.^[107] Trump sometimes quotes Hannity to others or promotes the show to his Twitter followers.^[11] Hannity has encouraged Trump to shut down the government to get funding for a border wall, as well as his declaration of a national emergency over the US–Mexico border.^[11]

According to reports by the *Los Angeles Times* and *New York* magazine, Hannity frequently talks to Trump by telephone after Hannity's weekday broadcasts,^{[105][108][11]} and Hannity is one of several dozen cleared callers whose calls to the White House public switchboard can be connected directly to the president.^[108]

Hannity stirred controversy in April 2018 when it was revealed that he shared a lawyer, Michael Cohen, with Trump. In a breach of journalistic ethics, Hannity had failed to disclose that Cohen was his lawyer while at the same time taking to the Fox airwaves to defend Cohen and criticize those who investigated him.^{[109][110][111][112]}

On April 9, 2018, federal agents from the U.S. Attorney's office served a search warrant on the office and residence of Michael Cohen, Trump's personal attorney.^[113] On the air, Hannity defended Cohen and criticized the federal action, calling it "highly questionable" and "an unprecedented abuse of power".^[114] On April 16, 2018, in a court hearing, Cohen's lawyers told the judge that Cohen had ten clients in 2017–2018 but did "traditional legal tasks" for only three: Trump, Elliott Broidy, and a "prominent person" who did not wish

to be named for fear of being "embarrassed".^{[115][116][117]} The federal judge ordered the revelation of the third client, whom Cohen's lawyers named as Hannity.^[115] Although Hannity has covered Cohen on his show, he did not disclose that he had consulted with Cohen.^[118]

Fox News released a statement on April 16, 2018, attributed to Hannity: "Michael Cohen has never represented me in any matter. I never retained him, received an invoice, or paid legal fees. I have occasionally had brief discussions with him about legal questions about which I wanted his input and perspective. I assumed those conversations were confidential, but to be absolutely clear they never involved any matter between me and a third party."^[119] Also, NBC News quoted Hannity as saying: "We definitely had attorney-client privilege because I asked him for that,"^[120] while Hannity said on his radio show that he "might have handed him ten bucks" for the attorney-client privilege.^{[119][115]} Lastly, Hannity tweeted that his discussions with Cohen were "almost exclusively" about real estate.^[121]

The following day, news reports revealed that Hannity had shared another lawyer with Trump, Jay Sekulow. Sekulow had written a cease-and-desist letter to KFAQ on Hannity's behalf in May 2017, and later represented Trump in connection with the Mueller investigation.^{[122][123]}

In August 2018, Hannity allowed Sekulow and Rudy Giuliani, another personal lawyer for Trump, to host Hannity's radio show; the duo proceeded to defend Trump and promote arguments made by the Trump administration.^[124]

According to The New Yorker, Hannity has reversed on the issue of negotiations with North Korea: during Obama's presidency, Hannity called negotiations with North Korea "disturbing", whereas he called Trump's negotiations with North Korea a "huge foreign-policy win".^[62]

In June 2019, Hannity expressed outrage at Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi's comment that she would like to see Trump "in prison". Hannity declared: "Based on no actual crimes, she wants a political opponent locked up in prison? That happens in banana republics – beyond despicable behavior." Aaron Rugar of Vox criticized Hannity for "obvious hypocrisy", noting that Hannity himself had said in January 2018 regarding Hillary Clinton: "I think Hillary should be in jail. Lock her up."^[125] Aaron Blake of The Washington Post described Hannity's comment as "a pretty obvious bit of gaslighting", noting Hannity's loyalty to Trump, whose campaign rallies have featured chants of "Lock her up", and also Hannity's comments that Trump was free to investigate Clinton.^[126]

Hannity played the most important role in persuading Trump to pardon the convicted murderer and war criminal Clint Lorance.^[127]

Criticism of FBI, DOJ, and special counsel

During President Trump's administration, Hannity has repeatedly been highly critical of the FBI, DOJ, Special Counsel Robert Mueller, and others investigating Russian interference in the 2016 election.^[128] According to a review by Media Matters of all transcripts from the 254 episodes of Hannity's show from Mueller's appointment (May 17, 2017) to May 16, 2018, Hannity had 487 segments substantially devoted to Mueller (approximately two per episode), opened his program with Mueller 152 times (approximately three times per week), and the content of his show was highly critical of the probe and the media's coverage of the probe.^[129] He has called the Russia inquiry a "witch hunt", an "utter disgrace", and "a direct threat to you, the American people, and our American republic".^[128] Hannity has expressed skepticism of the U.S. intelligence community's view that Russia hacked the Democratic National Convention's emails during the 2016 election and has promoted various conspiracy theories. In March 2017 he publicized a theory, first proposed at the Wikileaks Twitter account, that the CIA could have done the hacking while making it look like Russia did it.^[130] In August he suggested that Seth Rich may have been the leaker.^[131]

Hannity has described the Mueller investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 election, as well as James Comey's tenure as FBI Director, as "one giant incestuous circle of corruption".^[132] In April 2018, Hannity ran a segment where he claimed there were "criminal" connections between Bill and Hillary Clinton, Mueller, and Comey.^[132] Hannity asserted that there were three connected "Deep State crime families" actively "trying to take down the president".^{[133][132]} A guest on the segment, attorney Joseph diGenova, called Mueller's team "legal terrorists" and referred to Comey as a "dirty cop".^[134]

Hannity also claimed that Mueller had been involved in the corrupt dealings of several FBI agents in connection with Boston, Massachusetts crime boss Whitey Bulger.^[135] The federal judge who presided over a lawsuit concerning the corrupt dealings said Hannity's claims were unsubstantiated and that Mueller was never accused of any wrongdoing nor even mentioned during the proceedings.^[135]

In June 2018, after reports that Mueller's probe had asked witnesses to turn their personal phones over to investigators for examination, Hannity sarcastically suggested on air to the witnesses that they "follow Hillary Clinton's lead" and destroy their personal phones so they cannot be examined.^{[136][137]}

In May 2019, after Mueller gave a statement saying the Special Counsel investigation did not exonerate Trump of crimes, Hannity said Mueller was "basically full of crap" and did not know the law.^[138]

Uranium One

From 2015 into 2018, Fox News broadcast extensive coverage of an alleged scandal surrounding the sale of Uranium One to Russian interests, which Hannity characterized as "one of the biggest scandals in American history".^[139] The Fox News coverage extended throughout the programming day, with particular emphasis by Hannity.^[140] The network promoted a narrative asserting that, as Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton personally approved the Uranium One sale in exchange for \$145 million in bribes paid to the Clinton Foundation. Donald Trump repeated these allegations as a candidate and as president.^[141] No evidence of wrongdoing by Clinton had been found after three years of allegations, an FBI investigation, and the 2017 appointment of a Federal attorney to evaluate the investigation. In November 2017, Fox News host Shepard Smith concisely debunked the alleged scandal, including saying that Clinton did not personally approve the sale, infuriating viewers who suggested he should work for CNN or MSNBC.^{[142][143]} Hannity later called Smith "clueless", while Smith stated, "I get it, that some of our opinion programming is there strictly to be entertaining. I get that. I don't work there. I wouldn't work there."^{[144][145]}

A two-year Justice Department investigation initiated after Trump became president found no evidence to justify pursuing a criminal investigation.^{[146][147]}

Deep state

Hannity has advocated the QAnon^[148] and "deep state" conspiracy theories. The latter proposes a government officials network is working to hinder the Trump administration. He has described the deep state as a "Shadow Government" and "Deep state swamp of Obama holdovers and DC lifers".^{[149][150]} In March 2017, he called for a "purge" of Obama-era bureaucrats and appointees in government.^[151] In an op-ed for The Wall Street Journal, conservative columnist Bret Stephens disputed Hannity's deep state allegations, saying they were an example of the "paranoid style in politics".^[152] Later that month, Hannity said NBC News was part of the deep state.^[153] In May 2017, he reiterated that deep state/intelligence operatives were trying to destroy the Trump presidency.^[154]

In March 2018, Hannity attacked Special Counsel Robert Mueller, saying his career was "anything but impeccable".^[155] Hannity said Mueller was friends with former FBI Director James Comey and former Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein, and that he "cannot be expected to honestly investigate scandals that his friends are directly involved in".^[156] He said these individuals were involved in "one massive, huge, deep-state conflict of interest after another. Now they're protecting themselves. They're trying to preserve their own power."^[132] Mueller and Comey are professional acquaintances but not known to be friends, while Trump attorney general Bill Barr said in 2019 that he and Mueller had been friends for thirty years.^[157]

Comments on sexual harassment

In 2016, Hannity vociferously defended Roger Ailes when he was accused by multiple women of sexual harassment.^{[14][158]} In May 2017, Hannity paid a tribute to Ailes after he died.^[159] Hannity called him "a second father" and said to Ailes' "enemies" that he was "preparing to kick your a** in the next life".^[159]

In April 2017, Hannity came to the defense of Fox News co-president Bill Shine after it was reported that Shine's job was at risk.^{[160][161]} At least four lawsuits alleged that Shine had ignored, enabled or concealed Ailes' alleged sexual harassment.^{[160][161][162]}

In September 2017, several months after Bill O'Reilly was fired from Fox News in the wake of a number of women's alleging that he had sexually harassed them, Hannity hosted O'Reilly on his show.^{[163][164][165]} Some Fox News employees criticized the decision.^[164] In the interview, O'Reilly attacked liberal media watchdog groups and said he should have fought harder when those groups targeted his advertisers.^[164] According to CNN, during the interview, Hannity found kinship with O'Reilly as he appeared "to feel that he and O'Reilly have both become victims of liberals looking to silence them".^[164]

Hannity came under criticism in October 2017 when he attacked Democrats after it became known that a large number of women had accused Harvey Weinstein, the Hollywood producer and donor to Democratic causes, of sexual harassment.^[166] Critics noted that Hannity had weeks earlier defended and hosted his coworker Bill O'Reilly who was fired following a number of sexual harassment allegations.^{[166][167]}

LGBT rights

In the radio show for KCSB, which was the subject of controversy in 1989, Hannity made anti-gay comments.^{[168][169]} He called AIDS a "gay disease" and said the media was hiding salient information from the public.^{[15][169]} Two editions featured anti-gay activist Gene Antonio, a Lutheran minister,^[170] discussing his book *The AIDS Coverup: The Real and Alarming Facts about AIDS*. In the book, Antonio claims that AIDS can be spread by people sneezing in close proximity to each other. Hannity encouraged Antonio when he said that AIDS spread when gay men consumed each other's feces,^[15] said that homosexuality was a "lower form of behavior", compared homosexual sex to "playing in a sewer" and gay people of being "filled with hatred and bigotry".^[168] When a lesbian, another broadcaster at the station, called into the show, Hannity said "I feel sorry for your child."^{[14][168][171]} Hannity was quoted at the time as having said "anyone listening to this show that believes homosexuality is a normal lifestyle has been brainwashed."^{[14][15][172]} The ACLU opposed his firing and petitioned the station to reverse their decision. Hannity demanded a formal apology and double the airtime. While the station did offer to allow Hannity to return, they would not meet Hannity's additional demands and he declined to return.

In 2017, Hannity said he regretted the comments and that they were "ignorant and embarrassing".^{[173][168]}

Immigration

Hannity opposed amnesty for undocumented immigrants; however, in 2012 he said he had evolved on the issue and favored a "pathway to citizenship".^{[174][15]} Later, he opposed that idea.^[15] By 2018, he was described as an immigration hardliner by CNN, The Washington Post, and New York magazine.^{[175][176][177]} In August 2018, Trump suggested that he might shut down the government to force Congress to fund his border wall, boasting that Hannity agreed with the action.^[178]

Islam

Hannity has warned of sharia law coming to the United States.^[179] Hannity opposed the building of Park51, a mosque two blocks from the World Trade Center site.^[179]

Hannity promoted the idea of "Islamic training camps right here in America", which were based on an unsubstantiated "documentary" by the Christian Action Network.^[180]

In 2006, Hannity was critical of Keith Ellison, the first Muslim elected to U.S. Congress, being sworn into office with an oath on a Quran. Hannity equated the Quran with Mein Kampf, asking a guest on his show whether he would have allowed Ellison "to choose, you know, Hitler's Mein Kampf, which is the Nazi bible?"^{[181][182]}

Torture

In 2009, Hannity said he supported enhanced interrogation, a euphemism for torture. He also volunteered to be waterboarded for charity.^{[183][184]} In response, Keith Olbermann pledged to donate \$1,000 for every second of waterboarding Hannity underwent. In 2017, Hannity continued to advocate for waterboarding, raising the example of using it against a kidnapper.^[185] According to Media Matters, Hannity has not been waterboarded as of March 2018.^[186]

Climate change

Hannity rejects the scientific consensus on climate change. In 2001, he described it as "phony science from the left".^[187] In 2004, he falsely claimed that scientists couldn't agree on whether global warming was "scientific fact or fiction".^[187] In 2010, Hannity falsely stated that so-called "Climategate" – the leaking of e-mails written by climate scientists that, according to climate change deniers, demonstrated scientific misconduct, but which all subsequent inquiries found to show no evidence of misconduct or wrongdoing – was a scandal that "exposed global warming as a myth cooked up by alarmists".^[188] Hannity frequently invites critics of climate science onto his shows.^[189]

Death panels

Hannity promoted the falsehood that the Affordable Care Act would create so-called "death panels".^{[190][191][192]} According to a study by Dartmouth College political scientist Brendan Nyhan, Hannity's show, along with the Laura Ingraham Show, were the first major conservative media personalities to latch onto the false claim of Betsy McCaughey, a former lieutenant governor of New York, that the Affordable Care Act contained death panels.^[191] When Sarah Palin stirred controversy by promoting the death panels myth, and argued her case in a Facebook post, Hannity defended her and said, "I agree with everything that she wrote."^[193] Hannity also claimed that he found the specific pages in the Affordable Care Act containing provisions on death panels.^[193]

A 2016 study found that Hannity promoted a number of falsehoods about the Affordable Care Act.^[193] For instance, Hannity falsely alleged several times that Democratic Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus had said Social Security could be "insolvent in two years" due to the Affordable Care Act.^[193] According to the study, Hannity, unlike other Fox News hosts such as Bill O'Reilly and Greta Van Susteren, "took a more direct approach, aggressively supporting Republicans and conservatives and attacking Democrats and liberals, endorsing the more spurious claims long after they were proven incorrect, and putting advocacy above accurate reporting, to further the network's themes opposing reform".^[193]

Jake Tapper

In November 2017, Fox News distorted a statement by Jake Tapper to make it appear as if he had said "Allahu Akbar" can be used under the most "beautiful circumstances" in the immediate aftermath of the 2017 New York City truck attack wherein a terrorist shouted "Allahu Akbar".^[194] Fox News omitted that Tapper had said the use of "Allahu Akbar" in the terrorist attack was not one of these circumstances.^[194] A headline on FoxNews.com was preceded by a tag reading "OUTRAGEOUS".^[194] The Fox News Twitter account distorted the statement even more, saying "Jake Tapper Says 'Allahu Akbar' Is 'Beautiful' Right After NYC Terror Attack" in a tweet that was later deleted.^[194]

Even after the Fox News Twitter account had deleted the tweet on Tapper's out-of-context comments, Hannity repeated the out-of-context comments to his viewers, calling Tapper "liberal fake news CNN's fake Jake Tapper" and mocking his ratings.^{[195][196]}

Appearance at November 2018 Trump rally

On November 4, 2018, Trump's website, DonaldJTrump.com, announced in a press release that Hannity would make a "special guest appearance" with Trump at a midterm campaign rally the following night in Cape Girardeau, Missouri.^[197] The following morning, Hannity tweeted "To be clear, I will not be on stage campaigning with the President."^[198] Hannity nevertheless spoke at Trump's lectern on stage at the rally, immediately mocking the "fake news" at the back of the auditorium, Fox News reporters among them. Several Fox News employees expressed outrage at Hannity's actions, with one stating, "a new line was crossed".^[199] Hannity later asserted that his action was not pre-planned, and Fox News stated it "does not condone any talent participating in campaign events".^[200] Fox News host Jeanine Pirro also appeared on stage with Trump at the rally. The Trump press release was later removed from Trump's website.^[197]

Foreign policy

In 2009, Hannity said of the Iraq War, "we were victorious in spite of the Democrats' efforts and attempts at preventing victory."^[201] During the 2016 election, Hannity vouched for Trump's claimed opposition to the Iraq War, "Mr. Trump and I disagreed about the Iraq war; I was for it and he was against it."^[202]

In June 2019, Hannity called on Trump to "bomb the hell of out Iran" after Iran shot down a U.S. drone.^[203] After the assassination of Qasem Soleimani, Hannity opened his show by saying, "tonight the world is safer as one of the most ruthless, evil war criminals on Earth has been brought to justice."^[204]

Ukraine

In February 2020, The Daily Beast acquired a leaked document entitled "Ukraine, Disinformation, & the Trump Administration" produced by a Fox News research team. The document warned of "disinformation" being pushed by frequent *Hannity* guests, including Rudy Giuliani, John Solomon, Victoria Toensing and Joe

diGenova. Among other criticisms, the analysis noted that on his show Hannity discussed with Toensing and diGenova an affidavit from former Ukrainian prosecutor general Viktor Shokin that accused Joe Biden of getting him fired to end an investigation into Burisma Holdings, which employed Biden's son. The affidavit was drafted at the request of attorneys for Ukrainian oligarch Dmitry Firtash,^[205] but neither Hannity nor his guests disclosed to viewers that Toensing and diGenova were among Firtash's attorneys.^[206]

COVID-19 pandemic

In February 2020, amid the spread of COVID-19 to the United States, Hannity said "many on the left are now all rooting for corona to wreak havoc in the United States. Why? To score cheap, repulsive political points."^[207] In March 2020, he characterized the virus as a "hoax",^[208] and said it "may be true" that the outbreak was a "fraud" perpetrated by the "deep state".^{[209][210]} Later in March, as the disease spread into a global pandemic and Trump declared it a national emergency, Hannity started to take the virus more seriously, denying that he had referred to it as a hoax.^{[211][212]}

Personal life

Family and lifestyle

Hannity met Jill Rhodes in 1991 when he worked at WVNN in Huntsville, Alabama and she was a political columnist for the Huntsville Times.^[213] The two married in 1993.^[17] In June 2020, the couple announced that they had divorced the previous year but had separated years prior.^[214]

Hannity has since dated colleague Ainsley Earhardt.^[215] In August of 2019, Hannity and Earhardt arrived together as guests for a wedding at Trump National Golf Course in Colt's Neck NJ. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she has been hosting her *Fox & Friends* program from a remote studio in the basement of Hannity's Long Island mansion.^[216]

Hannity has two children from his marriage to Rhodes: a son, Patrick, born in 1998, and daughter, Merri, born in 2001.^[213] Both children graduated from Cold Spring Harbor High School. Patrick attended Wake Forest University where he played tennis.^{[217][218][17]} Merri attends The University of Michigan where she also plays tennis. In high school, Merri was the fourth highest ranked tennis player in New York State.^[219]

In 2018, *Forbes* estimated that Hannity's annual income was \$36 million,^[173] and the *Guardian* reported that he was believed to be the "hidden owner" of about \$90 million in property that had been purchased by shell companies.^[220] In April 2021, he purchased a \$5.3 million house several miles from Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago residence.^[221]

In 2014 he said he has carried a weapon "more than half my adult life".^[222] According to Hannity, he has a brown belt in martial arts and trains four days a week in the sport.^[223]

Religion

Hannity left the Catholic Church in 2019, citing "too much institutionalized corruption". However, he has said that as he has aged, his Christian faith has "gotten stronger" and that he needs and wants God in his life.^[224]

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See also

- New Yorkers in journalism

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External links

- [Official website \(http://www.hannity.com\)](http://www.hannity.com)
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Lou Dobbs

Louis Carl Dobbs (born September 24, 1945) is an American political commentator, author, and former television host who presented *Lou Dobbs Tonight* from 2003 to 2009 and 2011 to 2021.

Dobbs started working with CNN at its inception in 1980, serving as a reporter and network vice president. On the air, he served as host and managing editor of the network's business program, *Moneyline*, which premiered in 1980. The show was renamed *Lou Dobbs Tonight* in 2003. Dobbs resigned from CNN for a short period of time in 1999 but rejoined the network in 2001. He resigned once again in November 2009. He is the former talk radio host of *Lou Dobbs Radio*. From 2011, he hosted *Lou Dobbs Tonight* on the Fox Business Network until its cancellation in February 2021.^{[1][2]}

Dobbs was an early promoter of conspiracy theories that former U.S. President Barack Obama is not a natural born US citizen. He is known for anti-immigration views, as well as for various deep state outings and opposition to NAFTA and other trade deals. A staunch Donald Trump supporter, he infused his show with pro-Trump coverage.^{[3][4][5][6]} He was one of three Fox Corporation program hosts named in a \$2.7 billion defamation suit by Smartmatic relating to false conspiracy theories used in attempts to overturn the 2020 United States presidential election.^{[7][8]}

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Lou Dobbs



Dobbs at CPAC in February 2015

Born	Louis Carl Dobbs September 24, 1945 <u>Childress County, Texas, U.S.</u>
Education	<u>Harvard University</u> (AB)
Occupation	Talk radio host, managing editor, former news anchor
Political party	Independent (2001– present)
Spouse(s)	Debi Lee Roth- Segura
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Early life and education

Born in [Childress County, Texas](#) in 1945,^[4] Dobbs is the son of Frank Dobbs, a co-owner of a [propane](#) business, and Lydia Mae (née Hensley), a bookkeeper. When Dobbs was age twelve, his father's propane business failed and the family moved to [Rupert, Idaho](#).^{[9][4]} Although accepted at the [University of Idaho](#) and [Idaho State University](#), he was persuaded by the staff at [Minico High School](#) to apply to [Harvard University](#), where he was accepted and graduated in 1967 with a [Bachelor of Arts](#) degree in [economics](#). While at Harvard, Dobbs lived in [Quincy House](#) and was elected to the [Owl Club](#).

Career

After college, Dobbs worked for federal [anti-poverty](#) programs in [Boston](#) and [Washington, D.C.](#), then returned to Idaho. He briefly attended the [University of Idaho College of Law in Moscow](#), and then worked as a [cash-management](#) specialist for [Union Bank of California](#) in [Los Angeles](#). He married his high school sweetheart in 1969, and in 1970 their first son was born. Dobbs moved to [Yuma, Arizona](#), and got a job as a police and fire reporter for KBLU. By the mid-1970s, he was a [television anchor and reporter](#) in [Phoenix](#), and he later joined [Seattle's KING-TV](#). In 1979, he was contacted by a recruiter for [Ted Turner](#), who was in the process of forming CNN.^[9]

CNN

Dobbs joined CNN when it launched in 1980, serving as its chief [economics correspondent](#) and as [host](#) of the business news program *Moneyline* on CNN.^[4] Dobbs also served as a [corporate executive](#) for CNN, as its executive vice president and as a member of CNN's executive committee. He founded [CNN fn](#) (CNN financial news), serving as its president and anchoring the program *Business Unusual*, which examined business creativity and leadership.

Departure and founding of Space.com

Dobbs repeatedly clashed with [Rick Kaplan](#), who became president of CNN in 1997. Dobbs said Kaplan, a friend of then president [Bill Clinton](#), was "clearly partisan" and "was pushing Clinton stories", while Kaplan said Dobbs was "a very difficult person to work with".^[9]

On April 20, 1999, CNN was covering Clinton's speech in [Littleton, Colorado](#), following the [Columbine High School massacre](#). Dobbs ordered the producer to cut away from the speech and return to broadcast *Moneyline*.^[9] Dobbs was countermanded by Kaplan, who ordered CNN to return to the speech. Kaplan later said, "Tell me what journalistic reason there was not to cover the president at Columbine soon after the

shootings? Everyone else was doing it". Dobbs announced on the air that "CNN President Rick Kaplan wants us to return to Littleton". A few days later, Dobbs announced that he was leaving the network to start Space.com, a website devoted to astronautical news.^[9] Dobbs was subsequently replaced as host of *Moneyline* by Willow Bay and Stuart Varney.^[10]

Space.com

Dobbs announced that he was leaving CNN to start up the site Space.com in July 1999. Dobbs was one of the primary shareholders in that company and later that year became Space.com's chief executive officer. Dobbs returned to CNN in 2001.^{[9][10]}

Return to CNN

Kaplan left CNN in August 2000, and Dobbs returned the following year, at the behest of his friend and CNN founder Ted Turner, becoming host and managing editor of the new and initially more general news program *Lou Dobbs Reporting*, which later became *CNN News Sunday Morning*. He also regained the helm of the newly renamed *Lou Dobbs Moneyline* (which became *Lou Dobbs Tonight* in June 2003).^[11]

According to *The Washington Post*, Dobbs started to increasingly focus on the alleged dangers of illegal immigration after returning to CNN.^[4] Dobbs became a self-described populist after his return to CNN, and criticized the "greed" of big corporations and their opposition to raising the minimum wage.^[9]

Exit from CNN

In July 2009, controversy around Dobbs began when he was the only mainstream news anchor to give airtime to the birther theory.^[12] Several liberal advocacy groups, including Media Matters and the Southern Poverty Law Center, criticized Dobbs for his reporting. The controversy eventually caused CNN President Jon Klein to rein Dobbs in via an internal memorandum.^[13] In September, advocates challenged Dobbs for appearing at a conference organized by the pro-border security group Federation for American Immigration Reform. Multiple campaigns were launched, including "Drop Dobbs" (NDN, Media Matters). The campaigns also attacked CNN for alleged hypocrisy towards Latinos, citing CNN's *Latino in America* special as incompatible with their continued support of Dobbs. The campaigns generated considerable anti-Dobbs press.^[14]

On the November 11, 2009, edition of his nightly broadcast *Lou Dobbs Tonight*, Dobbs announced his immediate departure from CNN, ending a nearly thirty-year career at the network, citing plans to "pursue new opportunities".^{[15][16]} CNN President Jon Klein said that Dobbs' departure was not a result of organized opposition to Dobbs' viewpoints.^{[17][18]}

Dobbs was reportedly paid \$8 million in severance pay when he left CNN.^[19]

After Dobbs left CNN in 2009, he gave an interview where he did not rule out the possibility of running for President of the United States in 2012, saying the final decision would rest with his wife.^{[20][21]} Former Senator Dean Barkley said he thought Dobbs should run for president.^[22]

Radio

From 2008 to 2012, Dobbs hosted *Lou Dobbs Radio* on United Stations Radio Networks. The three-hour daily show had affiliates in several major markets, including its flagship station (WOR) in New York City, Washington D.C. (WHFS), Miami (WZAB-AM) and the San Francisco Bay Area (KDOW), as well as

stations such as WGNY-AM in Newburgh, New York. The show was guest-centered and featured political discussion and listener calls. It aired from 2 to 5 pm Eastern, directly competing with The Sean Hannity Show, The Tom Sullivan Show and The Dave Ramsey Show. Dobbs also hosts the financially themed Lou Dobbs Minute on the same network.

In June 2008, Dobbs reached an agreement with Business Talk Radio Network to carry a rebroadcast of the show from 7 to 10 pm Eastern, displacing Bruce Williams. Dobbs' show was also carried live on CRN Digital Talk Radio Networks.

Dobbs was among the hosts who tried out for the position vacated by the cancellation of Imus in the Morning on WFAN, a position that was eventually filled by Boomer and Carton in the Morning. Dobbs mentioned on his radio show that he was seeking a position in the US Department of Treasury during the economic crisis. He stated that he believed he could "do more good than the clowns currently in position."

Dobbs also is a regular columnist in Money magazine, U.S. News & World Report, and the New York Daily News.^[9]

Fox Business Network

On November 10, 2010, Fox Business Network announced that Dobbs would host a show on the channel.^[23] The network announced on March 3, 2011 the start date, show title, and time slot of Dobbs' new show. Entitled Lou Dobbs Tonight, the program debuted on March 14, 2011.

On February 4, 2021, voting machine company Smartmatic filed a \$2.7 billion defamation suit against multiple parties, including Dobbs and two other Fox Corporation program hosts, asserting they had promoted conspiracy theories alleging the company and its competitor Dominion Voting Systems had participated in an international conspiracy to rig the 2020 presidential election against Donald Trump.^[24] The three programs had each run a video retraction weeks earlier, after receiving a demand letter from Smartmatic, though neither Dobbs nor the other hosts personally issued retractions.^[25]

The show was canceled by Fox News on February 5, 2021. The Los Angeles Times reported the decision had been under consideration before the Smartmatic legal issues arose.^[26] CNN claimed that, despite being the highest-rated Fox Business Network program, it was a loss leader because many advertisers did not want to be associated with the content.^[27]

Other appearances

Since 2009, Dobbs has made regular appearances to discuss issues on other news network programs including CNBC's The Kudlow Report and Fox News Channel's The O'Reilly Factor. On October 5, 2010, Dobbs made a guest appearance on an episode of The Good Wife, entitled "Double Jeopardy",^[28] in which he plays himself as a client in search of a new law firm to represent his legal interests.

Political views and controversies

Dobbs is known for his anti-immigration views,^[29] warnings about Islamist terrorism, and his opposition to outsourcing.^[30] He is known for his pro-Trump coverage.^{[4][31][32]}

China

In December 2018, Dobbs suggested that the United States should start a war with China because of hacking by Chinese state actors. He compared hacking by the People's Liberation Army of China to the attack by the Japanese military on Pearl Harbor in 1941.^[33]

Birtherism

Dobbs promoted the theory that Barack Obama was not born in the United States.^{[4][34][35]} His willingness to raise the "birther" issue repeatedly,^[36] even though CNN itself considered it a "discredited rumor",^[37] led The Washington Post's TV critic to remark that this "explains their upcoming documentary: 'The World: Flat. We Report – You Decide.'"^[38] The issue had come up in 2008 during the Presidential campaign, and had largely disappeared from the media spotlight until Dobbs picked up the issue again.^[39] His statements in support of these conspiracy theories were dubbed "racist" and "defamatory" by the Southern Poverty Law Center.^{[40][41]} The controversy led to Media Matters airing ads critical of Dobbs and of CNN,^[42] and to Jon Stewart mocking Dobbs on the satirical Comedy Central television series The Daily Show.^[43] The Associated Press said that Dobbs had "become a publicity nightmare for CNN, embarrassed his boss and hosted a show that seemed to contradict the network's 'no bias' brand."^[44]

Environment

Dobbs rejects the scientific consensus on climate change.^[45] Dobbs has misleadingly asserted that "scientists" warned of global cooling in the 1970s, though that was a distinctly minority view.^{[46][47][48][49]} He said of the Obama administration's EPA that it was being run as if it were "part of the apparat of the Soviet Union."^[50]

Immigration

Dobbs holds anti-immigration views.^{[51][52][53]} Dobbs has been strongly opposed to both illegal immigration and foreign worker programs as the H-1B visa program and guest-worker programs. In a 2006 article, Dobbs expressed frustration at failed legislation to build a southern "border fence to stop the flow of illegal aliens and drugs across our borders." He argued that the "true victims of corporate America's lust for cheap labor" were "American working men and women, taxpayers all."^[54] During efforts to implement comprehensive immigration reform during the Bush administration in 2007, Dobbs devoted more than a quarter of all of his airtime during a three-month period to the subject of immigration, and covered it negatively.^[53]

Dobbs' show has made factually incorrect claims, such as the one that illegal immigrants were responsible for bringing 7,000 new cases of leprosy to the United States in a three-year period, where the actual timeframe was over the last thirty years.^{[55][4]} In addressing the leprosy issue, Dobbs in May 2007 compared his critics from the left and right political spectrums to "commies" and "fascists."^[56] Dobbs has also falsely claimed that "illegal aliens" were a third of the federal prison population in the United States.^{[57][58]}

Dobbs has criticized local officials for their approach to border security. In October 2007 he labeled then-New York Governor Eliot Spitzer an "idiot" for advocating the issuance of driver's licenses to illegal immigrants.^[59] Hillary Clinton labeled Dobbs' illegal immigration segments as having "all that hot air."^[60]

In March 2009, Dobbs said he thought that there should not be a St. Patrick's Day.^[61]

In a November 2009 interview with Telemundo, Dobbs said that the U.S. needed a "rational, effective humane policy" for immigration that included enhanced border security and also "the ability to legalize illegal immigrants on certain conditions."^{[62][63]}

In October 2010, *The Nation* published the results of a yearlong investigation detailing undocumented workers who had worked on Dobbs' personal properties. The labor involved upkeep of Dobbs' multimillion-dollar estates in New Jersey and Florida, including the horses belonging to his daughter, Hillary, a champion show jumper. The article featured interviews with five immigrants who had worked without papers on Dobbs' properties.^[64] Speaking to the Associated Press, Dobbs referred to the article as "a political assault," claiming it was a lie that he hired illegal immigrants. He said: "I have never, do not now, and never will."^[65]

In November 2018, Dobbs falsely claimed that "many" undocumented immigrants voted in the 2018 mid-term elections and that they had an "immense impact."^{[66][67]}

Dobbs' critics, including columnist James K. Glassman, author of *Dow 36,000* and member of the American Enterprise Institute think tank, have accused him of inciting xenophobia.^[68] Others have accused him of Hispanophobia, a charge he denies^[69] and one which he has said offends him deeply, as his wife Debi Segura is a Mexican American.^[70]

After President Donald Trump stated in March 2019 that he supported legal immigration "in the largest numbers ever," Dobbs lamented that Trump was advancing "the interests of the global elite ahead of our citizens," adding, "the White House has simply lost its way."^{[71][72]}

Support for Trump

Dobbs's coverage of the Trump presidency was extremely supportive, with some outlets describing it as fawning and sycophantic.^{[73][74][4][75]} Dobbs opened a November 2017 interview with Trump with "You have accomplished so much", and later said to Trump that he was "one of the most loved and respected" presidents "in history".^[74] *The New York Times* described the interview as a love-fest and "courtier-like session", as Dobbs "didn't so much ask questions as open his mouth and let rose petals fall out".^[76] During Trump's presidency, Dobbs has been described as a "close informal adviser to President Donald Trump".^[77] Trump repeatedly calls Dobbs to get his views on various policy issues.^[4]

Dobbs is a proponent of the Deep State theory. In January 2018, Dobbs called for a "war" on the "Deep State", which he described as the FBI and the Department of Justice.^[78] Dobbs said that the FBI and DOJ had destroyed evidence and that they were clandestinely working to bring down the Trump presidency.^[78] In June 2018, Dobbs promoted a conspiracy which originated on Reddit and the far-right conspiracy website Gateway Pundit that "the FBI may have initiated a number of spies into the Trump campaign as early as December of 2015".^[79] Shortly after Dobbs promoted the unfounded conspiracy theory, Trump retweeted Dobbs' assertion and praised Dobbs for a "great interview".^[79] In July 2018, Dobbs said that Special Counsel Robert Mueller was on a "jihad" against Trump, and accused him of seeking to "subvert" and "overthrow" Trump's presidency.^[80] In December 2018, Dobbs said there was "a legion of evildoers" in the FBI and that "we've got all of the folks in the FBI, corrupt, politically corrupt."^[81] That same month, he said that the judge overseeing Michael Flynn's sentencing sounded as if he was part of Mueller's "witch hunt."^[82]

In July 2018, Dobbs defended the Trump administration's decision to ban a CNN reporter from a press event. Multiple Fox colleagues, including Fox News President Jay Wallace, had shown solidarity with CNN and called on the White House to rescind the ban.^[83] His defense led to charges of hypocrisy: in 2012, when a *Daily Caller* reporter was criticized by the White House for shouting out a question during an address by Obama, Dobbs defended the reporter, saying "What is rude is a president not speaking to the American people and taking the questions of the White House press".^[84] CNN's Jake Tapper suggested that Dobbs was hypocritical.^{[84][85]}

In August 2018, Dobbs ran a segment pushing unsubstantiated claims that Google was biased against Trump and that Google was promoting anti-Trump stories.^{[86][87]} Following Dobbs' segment, Trump tweeted that Google was suppressing conservatives and he tasked economic adviser Larry Kudlow to look into regulating Google.^[86]

In September 2018, after Trump falsely claimed that the official death count from Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico was fabricated by Democrats, Dobbs defended Trump's assertion.^[88] Dobbs claimed that "the numbers were inflated" and that the organizations behind the numbers "threw out science, statistics, and evidence to discredit the Trump administration".^[88]

In October 2018, when CNN and prominent Democrats were targeted with bomb attempts, Dobbs described the bomb attempts as "fake news" and promoted conspiracy theories that the bomb attempts were by Democrats who sought to increase their support in the upcoming mid-term elections.^{[77][89]} Several Fox News employees expressed dismay over Dobbs' rhetoric, with one employee telling CNN, "It's people like Dobbs who really ruin it for all the hard working journalists at Fox".^[90]

When the Trump administration rescinded CNN White House correspondent Jim Acosta's press pass, Dobbs supported the administration. At the same time, numerous media organizations, including Fox News, spoke out against the Trump administration's decision. When U.S. District Court Judge Timothy J. Kelly, a Trump appointee, temporarily restored Acosta's press pass, Dobbs described the ruling as "absurd."^[91] When the Trump administration complied with the ruling, Dobbs called on the administration to ignore the ruling and tell the "district court judge to go to hell."^{[92][93]}

In January 2019, Dobbs described Mitt Romney as a "traitor" and "treasonous" after he wrote an op-ed published in *The Washington Post* criticizing Trump's character.^[94] In July 2019, Dobbs referred to U.S. military generals who raised concerns about Trump's decision to put on a July 4 military show in Washington D.C. as "Snowflake Generals".^{[95][96]}

During the impeachment trial of Donald Trump, *The New York Times* reported that former Trump national security advisor and 11-year paid contributor to Fox News John Bolton had written in his forthcoming book that Trump had told him that he wanted to continue withholding aid to Ukraine until the country investigated Democrats and the Bidens. On his show the following day, Dobbs asserted that Bolton had been "reduced to a tool for the radical Dems and the deep state with his allegation."^{[97][98]}

The day senior Justice Department officials intervened in the case of longtime Trump associate Roger Stone with a recommendation of a lighter sentence than had been recommended by DOJ prosecutors the prior day, Dobbs stated on his program that attorney general Bill Barr was "doing the Lord's work" by intervening.^[99] The intervention raised questions about the political neutrality of the DOJ.^[100] The next day, Barr stated in a televised interview that Trump's comments about ongoing DOJ investigations "make it impossible to do my job," causing Dobbs to state on his program, "I guess I am so disappointed in Bill Barr, I have to say this – it's a damn shame when he doesn't get what this president has gone through, and what the American people have gone through, and what his charge is as attorney general."^[101] The following day, after the Justice Department stated it would not prosecute former FBI deputy director Andrew McCabe, a frequent target of Trump's ire, Dobbs stated on his program, "I have serious, serious questions tonight about the integrity of the Justice Department under Attorney General Barr."^[102]

As Trump, his surrogates and supporters made baseless claims of voting fraud in the aftermath of his 2020 election defeat, Dobbs chastised Republicans for not helping the president to claim "what is rightfully his."^{[103][104][105][106]} He said that Republicans who voted to certify Joe Biden's Electoral College win were "criminal."^[107] After Attorney General Bill Barr said there was no evidence of widespread fraud in the election, Dobbs said that Barr was "compromised" and had become part of the "deep state."^[108] In December, Dobbs aired a segment on his show debunking the very same conspiracy theories that had been amplified on

his show; this was in response to a legal threat by the voting technology company Smartmatic which had been the subject of some of the conspiracy theorizing.^{[109][110]} Speaking to Republican consultant Ed Rollins during his January 4, 2021 broadcast, Dobbs said:

We're eight weeks from the election, and we still don't have verifiable, tangible support for the crimes that everyone knows were committed — that is, defrauding other citizens who voted with fraudulent votes. We know that's the case in Nevada, we know it's the case in Pennsylvania and a number of other states, but we have had a devil of a time finding actual proof. Why?^[111]

Following the storming of the United States Capitol by Trump supporters in January 2021, Dobbs was among those who advanced the conspiracy theory that people associated with antifa were responsible for the attack.^{[112][113][114]}

George Soros conspiracy theories

Dobbs has peddled numerous conspiracy theories about the Jewish-American philanthropist and businessman George Soros. Dobbs has referred to him as an "evil SOB" and insidious.^[115]

Dobbs's Fox Business Channel shows stirred controversy in October 2018 when a guest on Dobbs' show used what many described as an anti-Semitic trope to suggest that the State Department was "Soros-occupied" territory (which echoed the anti-Semitic trope of a "Zionist-occupied government").^{[115][116]} The remarks came days after bombing attempts on Soros and leading Democrats, and the remarks were replayed on Fox Business hours after an anti-Semitic gunman at a Pittsburgh synagogue killed 11 people.^[117] After widespread condemnation, Fox stated that the guest, Chris Farrell of Judicial Watch, would no longer be booked and that the program episode would be withdrawn from the Fox News archives.^{[118][115]} In the midst of the Trump-Ukraine scandal in November 2019, attorney Joseph diGenova made similar comments on Dobbs's program, falsely claiming that "George Soros controls a very large part of the career foreign service of the United States State Department. He also controls the activities of FBI agents overseas who work for NGOs – work with NGOs. That was very evident in Ukraine."^[119] Dobbs did push back on DiGenova's claim.^[120]

On September 11, 2019, Dobbs warned his viewers on Fox Business that Soros' "tentacles were spreading globally".

Other views

Dobbs is pro-choice, opposes gun control and, though he is a fiscal conservative, supports some government regulations, as revealed in a 60 Minutes interview.^[121] He has been critical of trade policies that he says encourage "sending jobs overseas".^[122]

Dobbs' stance on trade has earned plaudits from some trade union activists on the traditional political left, while his stance on immigration tends to appeal to the right.^[9] In an interview with Larry King, Dobbs revealed that he is now "an unaffiliated independent" owing to dissatisfaction with both the Republican and Democratic parties.

Dobbs is the author of *War on the Middle Class*, in which he claims that both Democrats and Republicans are harming the middle class. In it, he comes out strongly against the Bush tax cuts, which he argues favor the wealthy, and argued for raising the U.S. minimum wage from what was then \$5.15 an hour.^[123]

Reception

Journalist Amy Goodman has criticized Dobbs' journalistic ethics, accusing him of making flagrant errors in his reporting and assailing his staff's association with what she describes as disreputable sources.^[124]

Awards

Dobbs has won numerous major awards for his television journalism, including a Lifetime Achievement Emmy Award and a Cable Ace Award. He received the George Foster Peabody Award for his coverage of the 1987 stock market crash. He also has received the Luminary Award of the Business Journalism Review in 1990, the Horatio Alger Association Award for Distinguished Americans in 1999 and the National Space Club Media Award in 2000. The Wall Street Journal has named Dobbs "TV's Premier Business News Anchorman". In 2004, Dobbs was awarded the Eugene Katz Award For Excellence in the Coverage of Immigration by the Center for Immigration Studies^[125] and in 2005 he received the Alexis de Tocqueville Institution's Statesmanship Award.^[126] Dobbs was named "Father of the Year" by the National Father's Day Committee in 1993.^[127] In 2008 Dobbs received the American Legion Public Relations Award from the National Commander of The American Legion.^[128]

Personal life

Dobbs divorced his first wife in 1981 and later married Debi Lee Segura, a former CNN sports anchor.^[4] The couple raised four children together. Dobbs resides on a 300-acre (120 ha) horse farm in Wantage Township, New Jersey.

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External links

- [Lou Dobbs Tonight website \(http://www.foxbusiness.com/on-air/lou-dobbs-tonight/index.html\)](http://www.foxbusiness.com/on-air/lou-dobbs-tonight/index.html)
 - [Lou Dobbs \(https://www.imdb.com/name/nm1463161/\)](https://www.imdb.com/name/nm1463161/) at [IMDb](#)
 - [Appearances \(https://www.c-span.org/person/?loudobbs\)](https://www.c-span.org/person/?loudobbs) on [C-SPAN](#)
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Michael Savage

Michael Alan Weiner (born March 31, 1942), known by his professional name **Michael Savage**, is an American conservative author, political commentator, activist, and former radio host.^{[1][2]} He was the host of *The Savage Nation*, a nationally syndicated talk show that aired on Talk Radio Network across the United States until 2012, and in 2009 was the second most listened-to radio talk show in the country with an audience of over 20 million listeners on 400 stations across the United States.^{[3][4]} From October 23, 2012 to January 1, 2021, Michael Savage had been syndicated by Cumulus Media and Westwood One. He holds master's degrees from the University of Hawaii in medical botany and medical anthropology, and a Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley in nutritional ethnomedicine. As Michael Weiner, he has written books on nutrition, herbal medicine, and homeopathy; as Michael Savage, he has written several political books that have reached The New York Times Best Seller list.

Savage has summarized his political philosophy in three words: borders, language, and culture. He has characterized his views as conservative nationalism, while critics have characterized them as "fostering extremism."^[5] He supports the English-only movement and argues that liberalism and progressivism are degrading American culture. Although his radio delivery is mainly characterized as politically themed, he also often covers topics such as medicine, nutrition, music, literature, history, theology, philosophy, sports, business, economics, and culture, and tells personal anecdotes.

In 2009, Savage was placed on a list of people permanently banned from entering the United Kingdom by British Home Secretary for "seeking to provoke others to serious criminal acts and fostering hatred."^{[5][6][7][8]}

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Michael Savage



Savage at the White House in 2018

Born	<u>Michael Alan Weiner</u> March 31, 1942 <u>The Bronx, New York City, U.S.</u>
Alma mater	<u>Queens College (BS)</u> <u>University of Hawaii at Manoa (MS, MA)</u> <u>University of California, Berkeley (PhD)</u>
Occupation	<u>Political and social commentator</u> , <u>author</u> and <u>former radio talk show host</u>
Political party	<u>Independent</u>
Movement	<u>Conservative</u>
Spouse(s)	<u>Carol Ely</u> (m. 1964; div. 1967) <u>Janet Roll</u> (m. 1967)
Children	2, including <u>Russell Weiner</u>
Website	<u>michaelsavage.com</u> (<u>https://michaelsavage.com</u>)

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Early life and education

Savage was born Michael Alan Weiner^[9] in the Bronx, New York, one of three children of Benjamin and Rae Weiner,^[10] Jewish emigrants from Russia.^{[10][11][9][12]} He described his childhood as difficult, with a "gruff, profane" father who would frequently criticize and belittle him.^[11] His younger brother, Jerome, was born with developmental disabilities and was unable to hear or speak. Jerome died in 1969. His father, the owner of an antiques shop, died of a heart attack at age 57 in 1970, and his mother died in 2003.^{[10][9]}

After graduating from [Jamaica High School](#) in 1958,^{[13][14]} Savage attended [Queens College](#), where he earned a bachelor's degree in biology in 1963.^[9] After college, Savage taught high school for several years in New York City. His first marriage in 1964 to Carol Ely ended in divorce, and he remarried in 1967 after meeting his current wife, Janet. During this time, Savage also worked for famous psychedelic drug advocate [Timothy Leary](#) as keeper of the stone gatehouse on the Hitchcock Cattle Company estate in [Millbrook, New York](#), to which Leary had been given access. Leary hired him to the post because Savage did not use LSD.^[11] Savage then studied at the [University of Hawaii at Manoa](#), earning a [Master of Science in botany](#) in 1970 and a [Master of Arts in anthropology](#) in 1972.^{[15][16]} He obtained a [PhD](#) in 1978 from the [University of California, Berkeley](#), in [nutritional ethnomedicine](#).^{[17][18]} His thesis was titled *Nutritional Ethnomedicine in Fiji*.^[19]

Shift in political opinions

Savage introduced himself to certain writers in the North Beach neighborhood of San Francisco in the 1970s.^[20] He befriended and traveled with Beat poets Allen Ginsberg and Lawrence Ferlinghetti. Savage maintained a correspondence with Ginsberg consisting of ten letters and three postcards across four years, which is maintained with Ginsberg's papers at Stanford University.^{[11][21]} One letter asked for Ginsberg and Ferlinghetti to come do a poetry reading, so others could "hear and see and know why I adore your public image."^[12] Another acquaintance was poet and author Neeli Cherkovski, who says that Savage dreamed of becoming a stand-up comic in the mold of Lenny Bruce.^[11]

Acquaintance Robert Cathcart says that by 1980, in his private conversations with Savage, he knew him to have conservative political views.^[20] Schwartz stated Savage became alienated from the North Beach scene in the early 1980s. Savage had intense arguments with his liberal friends.^[20] When asked about his shift in politics and other views, Savage replied, "I was once a child; I am now a man."^[12] Savage has cited many occurrences in his life that helped shape his conservative views. Savage states that his opinions on welfare were partly shaped by his first job out of college as a social worker.^[22] He described one incident in which his supervisor had him deliver a check to a welfare client to furnish their apartment, while his own apartment was furnished with cardboard boxes.^[23] Another turning point occurred for him as a writer of health and nutrition books in the 1980s, when he experienced what he saw as "political opposition" after making the suggestion that the closure of homosexual bathhouses might be necessary in response to the emerging HIV/AIDS epidemic.^[24] In 1994 his final health and nutrition manuscript, *Immigrants and Epidemics*, was rejected by publishers for being inflammatory.^[25] In 1996, Savage applied to become the Dean of the Graduate School of Journalism at the University of California, Berkeley. The University instead selected award-winning journalist and China scholar Orville Schell. Savage sued the University, contending discrimination for being conservative.^[20] Savage later dropped the lawsuit.^[26]

Career as commentator

Radio

The rejection by publishers of his 1994 manuscript about illegal immigration and epidemics prompted Savage to record a demo tape with a mock radio talk show about the contents of the work. He mailed this tape to 250 radio stations in an attempt to change careers and become a radio talk show host.^[20] On March 21, 1994, Savage began his radio career on KGO (a San Francisco news/talk radio station) as a fill-in host for liberal Ray Taliaferro's overnight show and later as a weekend host. At the time, his slogan was "To the right of Rush and to the left of God." The show quickly became a local hit.

Later in 1994, KGO parent company Capital Cities/ABC Inc. purchased the station KSFO and changed it to a conservative talk format.^[27] On January 2, 1995, the first day of KSFO's new format, Savage debuted as host of afternoon drive time show *The Savage Nation*.^{[27][28]} By 2000, Savage was the most popular afternoon drive host among all adults in San Francisco Arbitron ratings.^[29]

In 1999, Talk Radio Network began syndicating part of *The Savage Nation* nationally.^[30] Starting September 21, 2000, *The Savage Nation* became an entirely national show distributed by TRN.^[31]

In mid-2006, Savage had 8–10 million listeners per week,^[32] which made his show the third most widely heard broadcast in the United States at that time. Savage has described his listeners as "literate callers with intelligence, wit, and energy." He has described his show's production as one with a "... hard edge combined with humor and education ... Those who listen to me say they hear a bit of Plato, Henry Miller, Jack Kerouac, Moses, Jesus, and Frankenstein."^[33] Mark de la Viña of the *San Jose Mercury News* wrote of Savage: "In contrast to Rush Limbaugh, Sean Hannity and Laura Schlessinger, Bay Area-based Savage mixes conservative diatribe and blunt observations with acerbic humor and the gift of gab."^[12]

By 2009, *The Savage Nation* had an audience of 8 to 10 million listeners on 400 stations across the United States, making it the second most listened-to radio talk show in the country at the time.^{[3][4]} Around that time, Savage asked his audience for their opinion prior to consenting to a profile interview by Kelefa Sanneh of *The New Yorker*; Savage eventually accepted that offer and the *New Yorker* profile, titled "Party of One", was published in the August 3, 2009, issue, which covered Savage's life and personality in great detail.^{[9][34]}

On September 10, 2009, KNEW-AM (910 kHz) in Savage's home market of San Francisco announced that it was dropping his program and replacing him with John and Ken from sister station KFI-AM (640 kHz)/Los Angeles.^[35] John Scott, program director of KNEW said in an email that the station was headed "... in a different philosophical and ideological direction, featuring more contemporary content and more local information."^[36] According to Arbitron monthly ratings, KNEW-AM dropped in the ratings since Savage was let go. San Francisco station KTRB picked up the program for the San Francisco market, and saw a ratings boost in the afternoon drive. However, the program was among the first casualties when KTRB went into receivership in September 2010.^[37]

On January 22, 2010, Savage revealed to his audience that a writer for *Playboy* had contacted him via email to do a lengthy interview, and again asked his listeners if he should accept the offer. During the show, Savage read from personal emails between the *Playboy* writer and himself. The writer admitted to being a listener of the *Savage Nation* but a critic of the profile done by *The New Yorker*. The writer also stated that the purpose of the interview was to "rattle" *Playboy*'s readers. On May 12, 2010, Savage revealed that he had granted the interview at his home. *Playboy* published the interview in June 2010.^[23] He read from a pre-publication copy of the 8,000-word *Playboy* interview, in which the writer expressed animosity for Savage and his views. Savage said that he was disappointed at the lack of journalistic objectivity, but did not harbor hatred for the writer. He referred back to the *New Yorker* interview by Kelefa Sanneh, and praised Sanneh as a "real writer" who had understood his subject.

On September 27, 2012, Savage's talk show left the airwaves after he won a legal battle with Talk Radio Network, his longtime employer, and his attorney said discussions with new networks were underway.^[38] Savage began an occasional series of video webcasts via Ustream on September 30, 2012. On October 17, 2012, Savage and his new syndicator Cumulus Media Networks announced that they had made a deal and the program, after several weeks off the air, would be returning as of October 23, 2012.^[39] By April 2013, according to the radio industry's *Talkers Magazine*, Savage had 3.5+ million weekly listeners, putting him in a six-way tie for sixth place, and six talk show hosts getting 7.5+ million weekly listeners.^[40] On September 26, 2013 Cumulus Media Networks announced that Michael Savage's radio show, *The Savage Nation*, would move to the 3p-6p ET time-slot beginning in January 2014. This time slot had been occupied by Sean Hannity.^[41]

In January 2015, it was announced that Savage and Westwood One had reached agreement on a long-term contract renewal for *The Savage Nation*.^[42]

In January 2019, Savage in collaboration with Westwood One introduced a podcast format with a mixture of live-broadcast and studio material.^[43]

On March 24, 2019, Savage celebrated the 25th Anniversary of the radio show.^[44]

On January 1, 2021, *The Savage Nation* was discontinued by Cumulus Media and Westwood One.

TV

Savage had a brief political talk show on MSNBC beginning March 8, 2003, and ending July 7, 2003. Savage was hired by MSNBC president Erik Sorenson to do the one-hour show despite Savage's previous criticism of the network in his book *The Savage Nation* and the objections of NBC employees. Sorenson called Savage

"brash, passionate and smart," and promised that he would provide "compelling opinion and analysis with an edge."^[45] After four months, Savage was fired from the show after remarks made in response to a caller, later identified as prank caller Bob Foster, caused controversy in the gay community.

Political views

Michael Savage calls himself an "independent-minded individualist" and says that he "fits no stereotype."^[33] In a 2006 interview, Savage cited Barry Goldwater as an influence, saying "I'm a Goldwater conservative.... If [another] Goldwater appeared, I'd work for him, I'd give money to him"^[46]

Savage criticizes big government as well as liberalism and liberal activism, and accuses the mainstream news media of liberal bias. He considers the three aspects that define a nation as borders, language, and culture,^[17] those aspects inspired the motto of the Paul Revere Society.^[47]

Wildlife conservation

Savage is a longtime advocate of wildlife conservation, and often points out that "conservative" and "conservation" have the same root, meaning "to conserve". He argues that conservatives should "own" environmental protection and conservation of wildlife resources. A December 2017 Huffington Post article quotes Savage regarding President Trump's revoking of an Obama-era trophy hunting ban: "... long-time animal activist Michael Savage ... implored the president to reconsider:

'Not all Obama legislation was bad," said Savage. 'Some of it (like this) was grand.' "

The article continues ... "Savage also addressed the (biblical) aspects of killing an elephant, lion or giraffe, animals that we don't normally hunt.

'Dominion over animals doesn't mean destroying or terrorizing them,' he said."^[48]

A March 2018 article at The Hill quotes him at greater length: "Conservative radio host Michael Savage has also spoken out against the Fish & Wildlife Service proposed policy this week, writing in a blog post Wednesday that he 'felt betrayed' by the administration's secret decision after having previously spoken in person with Trump on the issue.

'I had spent a dinner talking to the President about environmental issues, and especially this, and this is what happened anyway,' Savage wrote. 'I made it clear that this was a red line that could not be crossed, that now elephants, lions and other big game had a target painted on them. I explained that the root of 'conservative' is the same as 'conservation' and the two do not need to be diametrically opposed. I explained what was meant by dominion, as I carefully spelled out in God Faith and Reason.' 'We hope that the president will step in here and overrule this order,' he added.'^[49]

The private meeting with President Donald Trump at Mar-a-Lago^[50] followed a series of pleas on his radio show for Trump to support legislation that protected wildlife.^[51] In August 2019, following the Trump administration's reauthorization of the use of cyanide bombs against wild animals,^[52] Savage called on the White House and the US Environmental Protection Agency to reverse approval.^[53]

Immigration

Savage opposes immigration, citing the black tar heroin epidemic, large percentage of immigrant prisoners, illegal use of public services, and diminishing American nationalism.^[54] In a tweet on May 17, 2019, Michael said, "Read my lips: no new immigrants."^[17] He frequently warns that migrants carry diseases.^[17] On March 28, 2006, following pro-immigration rallies in California, he encouraged his listeners to burn Mexican flags as an act of American nationalism to protest illegal immigration from Mexico.^{[55][56]}

European Union

Savage describes the European Union as "Hitler's dream of a united Europe under German control." He equates Britain's vote to leave the Union with the Second World War, saying it was "in many ways the Battle of Britain all over again." Savage foresees that, after Brexit, the E.U. risks igniting a civil war to gain total control of the population for their plans of "a new Soviet-style superstate, which have been long on the drawing books."^[57]

Republican presidential candidates

In 2003, Savage said that he voted in 2000 for George W. Bush "quite reluctantly, incidentally."^[58] In 2004, Savage and the Revere Society hosted a party at Schroeder's Cafe in San Francisco celebrating the re-election of Bush.^[47] Savage donated \$5,600 to the campaign of Democratic candidate Jerry Brown in the 2006 California Attorney General election.^[59]

Savage strongly supported Donald Trump, a regular guest on his talk show, since Trump's June 2015 announcement of his candidacy in the United States 2016 presidential election. Trump has claimed to be a listener and a fan of Savage's show, and an April 2016 Salon article described Savage as having been a major influence on Trump's campaign.^[60]



Savage at Moffett Federal Airfield in 2019 before flying on Air Force One with President Donald Trump.

Savage has disagreed strongly with some of Trump's actions and policies, including the appointment of John Bolton as National Security Advisor, the bombings of Syria, what Savage describes as a failure to get illegal immigration to the United States under control, and failure to protect endangered and vulnerable wild animals. Nevertheless, he has endorsed Trump for president in the 2020 United States presidential election.^[61]

Dubai Ports World controversy

In early 2006, the administration of President George W. Bush approved sale of a port security contract to a company, Dubai Ports World (DP World), headquartered in The United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Michael Savage was highly influential in the defeat of the deal. On February 13, the first day it was reported in the news, "Savage used his radio show to attack the transfer of American homeland assets to a company owned by an Arab state."^[62] Savage's concerns were based in part on the fact that "two of the 9/11 suicide hijackers came from the United Arab Emirates, and much of the funding for the attacks flowed through United Arab Emirates banks."^[63] On his February 17 radio show, Savage interviewed Democratic Senator Chuck Schumer of New York, a longtime nemesis with whom Savage otherwise agreed on the Dubai ports issue.^[64]

The White House was listening to Savage: "Though the deal had received some newspaper attention before then, Mr. Savage's angry message raised early concerns inside the Bush White House about trouble ahead."^[62] Savage and other opponents of the deal "generated a wave of anger from Americans across the

country that left lawmakers in Washington -- by their own admission -- following their constituents much more than leading them.” Lawmakers said the negative response from constituents was overwhelming. Congressional offices on Capitol Hill were deluged by phone calls and emails protesting the deal, and congressmen told of being pulled aside wherever they went in their districts. Rep. Don Manzullo, a Republican from Illinois who is chairman of the House subcommittee on small business, said "I got stopped all over the place," he said. "People are big-time upset."^[62]

"White genocide"

According to the Southern Poverty Law Center, Savage subscribes to the white genocide conspiracy theory,^[65] a white nationalist belief, which claims that white people are becoming extinct through forced assimilation or violent genocide. Savage blames Barack Obama^[66] and the Democratic Party for promoting the concept within the United States.^[67] He has claimed there is a "cultural genocide being promulgated against Caucasians".^[68]

COVID-19 pandemic and positions on vaccines

A January 31, 2020 article in Stat News quoted Savage's call for a stop to flights from China: "QUARANTINE! STOP TRAVELERS FROM CHINA NOW!"^[69] Two months later, a April 16, 2020 New York Times feature article credited Savage for being one of the first in the media, especially the conservative media, to take the COVID-19 epidemic seriously. On his radio show Savage used his credentials—a PhD with training in epidemiology—to speak to his fans on coronavirus research: How the virus is transmitted; which treatments were proving effective; and the difference between morbidity and mortality rates. "Savage's views were a departure from those of other conservative commentators, who made a concerted effort to deny that they downplayed the epidemic. Savage attacked their credibility and demanded that they be held accountable for misleading millions of Americans."^[70] As early as February 24, 2020 Savage was saying of Limbaugh and Hannity: "How can we not let our side be called on the carpet when they lie to the people?"^[70] Savage is also sharply critical of the Director of the NIAID, Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, dismissing him as "a grandstander" who mishandled the AIDS epidemic by refusing to close down the gay bathhouses. Savage believes that one-size-fits-all lockdowns are a threat to individual liberty, and calls instead for selective quarantine of at-risk populations.^[70]

In a May 4, 2020 article in the Washington Examiner, Savage is quoted as saying he will refuse to take a coronavirus vaccine, saying that it will likely be "ineffective and dangerous."^[71] Savage has a history of opposing the flu vaccine, for reasons he outlined in a January 15, 2013 interview. Savage argued that the Centers for Disease Control authorities have to guess what the vaccine should be made of. "So they choose five strains out of 250-plus strains of Influenza A, and if they don't choose the right one, you're going to get sick," he said. "So you're putting your faith in the CDC's ability to guess the one that might be a pandemic." He said that "this year" (2013), the CDC guessed right on two of the strains and wrong on one of them.^[72]

In contrast to his views on the flu vaccine, Savage supports vaccines, such as for polio, that last for many years because they address an infectious agent with a low mutation rate. A 2013 Ethics Alarms (<https://ethicsalarms.com/>) article recounts Savage saying that "...one of his heroes growing up was Jonas Salk, not because he invented the first effective polio vaccine, but because he refused to patent it, and gave it to the world for the benefit of humanity. A bit later, Savage noted that Albert Sabin, Salk's bitter rival who later invented the oral vaccine, also declined to profit from his invention. Could all this be true, I wondered? If it is true, why did I not know about it? Why doesn't everybody know about it? It is true. Asked why he didn't patent his vaccine, Salk famously answered, "Can you patent the sun?"^{[73][74]}

Savage opposes wearing masks to slow the spread of COVID-19 in both indoor and outdoor settings. Recently, he accepted wearing masks in indoor public places.

Activism

Legal defense contributions

Savage has regularly donated money toward the legal defense of the U.S. Marines accused of murdering civilians in Haditha, Iraq; occasionally, Savage will offer proceeds from any sales through his website. Savage had regular contact with the attorneys of the accused and criticizes their treatment at Camp Pendleton.^[75] Most recently, Savage has donated over \$10,000 to the U.S. Marines Charity Defense Fund at the Thomas More Law Center.^[76] On April 25, 2007, he pledged \$1 for each copy of *Healing Children Naturally* and *Reducing the Risk of Alzheimer's* purchased from his website to be donated to the U.S. Marines Defense Fund.^[77] The Marines were ultimately found not guilty.

Awards

On March 26, 2020, Savage was named by President Trump to serve on the Board of Directors of The Presidio Trust, which teams with the National Park Service to manage the Presidio of San Francisco, the former military fort that is part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. Savage stated that he hopes "to help save this great legacy while also reminding the public of the military significance of this land."^[78] Once on the board, he regularly protested what he believed to be the museum's overemphasis on the facility's use as a Japanese American internment camp during World War II, an action he insisted was not motivated by racism but military necessity. He also did not get along with other board members, often writing them angry ALL CAPS emails about small things that greatly angered him; in turn, the rest of the board felt he could have lobbied the administration for additional funding far more intensively than he ever did, given his connections.^[79] On May 20, 2021 he was ordered to resign from the Board of Directors of The Presidio Trust or he would be fired by the end of the workday. The current website for the Presidio Trust Board of Directors no longer shows him as a board member.

On November 17, 2016, Savage was inducted into the National Radio Hall of Fame.^[80] Savage describes this event as "The capstone of my career."

On June 9, 2007, *Talkers Magazine* awarded Savage with the publication's annual "Freedom of Speech Award," and he accepted it with a pre-recorded speech.^[81]

Criticism and controversies

In July 2005, former CBS reporter Bernard Goldberg ranked Savage as number 61 in his book *100 People Who Are Screwing Up America*. Goldberg wrote that "Savage's brand of over-the-top bile ... puts him right in there with the angriest haters of the Left."^[82] David Klinghoffer, a National Review columnist, speculated that *The Savage Nation* "is an act, a put-on."^[46] Various progressive advocacy groups such as GLAAD and FAIR accuse Savage of racism, homophobia, transphobia, and Islamophobia because of his controversial statements about homosexuality, Islam, feminism, sex education, and immigration.^{[83][84][85]}

On April 17, 2006, Savage said on the topic of Muslims, "They say, 'Oh, there's a billion of them.' I said, 'So, kill 100 million of them, then there'll be 900 million of them.' I mean, would you rather die—would you rather us die than them?"^[86] The remarks made by Savage were seriously criticized worldwide and was taken from an argument dealing with the possibility of a nuclear conflict in that region. This was repeated in the media after Savage was barred from entering the UK.^[87]

In the wake of the actor Robin Williams' suicide, Savage said that suicide is an "aggressive act" that shows no consideration for loved ones left behind.^[88] The assertion prompted criticism.^[88]

Controversial MSNBC exchange

Savage was hired by MSNBC to do a one-hour show which began in March 2003. Controversy arose four months later over remarks made in response to a caller who insulted Savage's teeth. Savage responded by asking if the caller was a "sodomite", and when the caller replied that he was, Savage said:

"Oh, so you're one of those sodomites. You should only get AIDS and die, you pig; how's that? Why don't you see if you can sue me, you pig? You got nothing better to do than to put me down, you piece of garbage? You got nothing to do today? Go eat a sausage, and choke on it. Get trichinosis. Now do we have another nice caller here who's busy because he didn't have a nice night in the bathhouse who's angry at me today? Put another, put another sodomite on ... no more calls? ... I don't care about these bums; they mean nothing to me. They're all sausages."^[84]

The interchange created a firestorm of protest including calls for his firing by the LGBT group GLAAD.^[84] Savage apologized on his radio program and on his website. He explained that he believed that MSNBC had gone to commercial to cover the gaffe of the attempted sabotage by a prank caller and that he was off the air at the time of the offensive comments, despite the fact that clips of the segment show Savage going to commercial after he made the comments. He also said his remarks were meant only to insult the caller, not all people with AIDS. Nevertheless, MSNBC fired him within days of the event.^[89]

Catholic Church and immigration

In March 2006, Savage criticised Roman Catholic assistance to illegal immigrants (in response to statements by Cardinal Roger Mahony of Los Angeles calling it "pastoral support"). Bill Donohue of the Catholic League canceled an appearance on the show, saying "what is not fine is Savage's diatribe about the 'greedy pigs' in the Catholic Church and how 'the institution is rotten from the top to the bottom.'^[90]

C-SPAN broadcast of Talkers Award

When Talkers Magazine awarded Savage with the publication's annual "Freedom of Speech Award," C-SPAN opted not to broadcast a pre-recorded speech that had been sent by Savage.^[81] Although the award ceremony had received coverage in previous years, C-SPAN did not televise it due to its policy of televising such speeches only when delivered in person. Savage told his listeners to express their ire to C-SPAN through calls and e-mails to the organization.^[91]

Dispute with CAIR

In early November 2007, the Council on American–Islamic Relations (CAIR) called on radio listeners to contact companies that advertise on Savage's program to express their concerns about his comments concerning Muslims. Savage was quoted as saying Muslims "need deportation", and that adherents of Islam would do well to "take your religion and shove it up your behind" because "I'm sick of you."^[92] On his show and website, Savage answered by accusing CAIR of supporting Hamas.

On November 5, 2007, following a campaign by CAIR meant to get Savage off the air by alerting his sponsors to the nature of his comments, Citrix Systems, Inc. pulled its advertisements from his show.^[93]

Savage sued CAIR for copyright infringement for using excerpts from his show on CAIR's website.^[94] The suit alleged that CAIR's repackaging of Savage's comments was "deliberately designed to obscure the specific message conveyed by Michael Savage". The excerpts included Savage's characterization of the Qur'an as "a throwback document" and a "book of hate". CAIR called the suit "bizarre, sloppy and baseless".^[95] On July 25, 2008, United States district court Judge Susan Illston dismissed Savage's suit against CAIR, holding that the posting of the audio clip was protected under fair use.^[96] The court gave Savage the opportunity to file an amended complaint if he wanted to try to cure the defects in his suit. That amended complaint alleged that CAIR was a RICO conspirator in support of terror, including the 9/11 terror attack on the World Trade Center. Permission was granted to allow that filing but on August 14, 2008, however, Savage's lawyer, Daniel Horowitz, announced that Savage would not file an amended complaint and would drop the case.^[97] CAIR then sought attorneys fees against Savage, Judge Illston denied that request.^[98]

Autism

In July 2008, Savage said that the increasing rate of autism diagnoses was the result of "a racket" designed to get disability payments for "poorer families who have found a new way to be parasites on the government."^[99] He returned to the subject on his July 16, 2008, show with the following remarks:

Now, the illness du jour is autism. You know what autism is? I'll tell you what autism is. In 99 percent of the cases, it's a brat who hasn't been told to cut the act out. That's what autism is. What do you mean they scream and they're silent? They don't have a father around to tell them, "Don't act like a moron. You'll get nowhere in life. Stop acting like a putz. Straighten up. Act like a man. Don't sit there crying and screaming, idiot."^[100]

In July 2008 the progressive pressure group Media Matters for America picketed the studios of WOR in New York, along with parents of autistic children.^{[100][101]} WOR issued a statement saying, "We regret any consternation that his remarks may have caused to our listeners."^[99] Also that day, the insurance company Aflac pulled its advertising,^[102] and the Supertalk Mississippi radio network dropped Savage's program, replacing it with The Dennis Miller Show.^[103] Later that evening, Savage devoted his entire three-hour program to the subject, taking calls from parents who took issue with his comments. On that show Savage stated that his remarks had been "ripped out of context" by "far left Stalinists" who want him off of the air. He appeared on Larry King Live with Glenn Beck as the substitute host for Larry King, and said that the real issue he was commenting on was the overdiagnosis of children due to pharmaceutical companies' drive to drug children for higher profits.^[99] On July 25, 2008, Autism United advocates gathered to announce that several advertisers, including RadioShack, Sears, The Home Depot, and DirectBuy, will discontinue their support for Savage's show.^[104]

Savage's syndicator, Talk Radio Network, responded by releasing a lengthy statement, along with a selection of 20 audio clips drawn from Savage's discussions of autism, to show that the comments were taken out of context.^[105]

Permanently banned from entering the United Kingdom

On May 5, 2009, it was announced by then-Home Secretary Jacqui Smith of the Labour party that Savage was on a list of people banned from entering the United Kingdom as he is "considered to be engaging in unacceptable behaviour by seeking to provoke others to serious criminal acts and fostering hatred which might

lead to inter-community violence".^{[106][107][108][109]} During his radio broadcast on that same day, Savage declared that he would sue Smith personally for defamation, calling her a "lunatic".^[110]

During a subsequent NPR talk show, Savage said that he has never advocated violence and repeatedly invoked the United States Constitution's First Amendment. After host Neal Conan pointed out that the U.S. Constitution does not apply to the United Kingdom, Savage replied, "No. Thank God I'm an American. But for this lunatic ... to link me up with Nazi skinheads who are killing people in Russia ... to put me in league with Hamas murderers who killed Jews on buses, is astonishing".^[111] Savage also called on his listeners to support him by canceling travel and business in Britain as well as by boycotting British-made goods, commenting, "If they want to play hardball, we'll play hardball."^[112] When a caller challenged Savage about his talk show rhetoric, Savage called him a "foaming lunatic ... someone in pajamas in a mental asylum ... You're nobody and I'm not going to talk to you!" At that point, Neal Conan invited him to leave.^[111]

Of the banning, the former Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, wrote: "America still has a constitutional protection of free speech, and I have been amazed ... to see how few people in this country are willing to stick up for that elementary principle ... a country once famous for free speech is now hysterically and expensively sensitive to anything that could be taken as a slight."^[113] After Johnson became Prime Minister in 2019, Savage's attorney requested the ban be overturned, however no action has been taken by the Conservative government as of 2020.^{[114][115]} In The Guardian, Catherine Bennett wrote: "The ban on Savage is so far from being a comprehensible act, so staggeringly capricious and stupid, as to defy evaluation."^[116] Sam Leith wrote: "Barring this shock-jock from Britain risks turning a rabid blabbermouth into a beacon for free speech."^[87]

Veteran PTSD

On October 14, 2014, Savage criticized veteran sufferers of posttraumatic stress disorder, accusing them of "weakness". According to Savage, "Everyone has depression in their life. But if the whole nation is told, 'boo-hoo-hoo, come and get a medication, come and get treatment, talk about mental illness.' You know what you wind up with? You wind up with Obama in the White House and liars in every phase of the government. That's what you wind up with. It's a weak, sick, nation. A weak, sick, broken nation. And you need men like me to save the country. You need men to stand up and say stop crying like a baby over everything ... No wonder we're being laughed at around the world. No wonder ISIS can defeat our military."^[117]

Personal life

While in the South Pacific, he became fascinated with the 19th-century sailor Charles Savage, who was believed to have been the first man to bring firearms to Fiji.^[26] That fascination led to Weiner's name change to Savage.

Savage and his second wife, Janet, have two children, a daughter and a son; his son, Russell Weiner, is the founder of the company that produces the Rockstar energy drink.^[118] Russell's mother, Janet, served as CFO of his company until July 2009.^[11] In 1974, Savage and his family moved to Fairfax, California, after Savage completed his master's degree at the University of Hawaii.^[20] Savage has homes in Larkspur and Tiburon in Marin County, California, an apartment in San Francisco, as well as residences in Beverly Hills, California and West Palm Beach, Florida.^{[20][119][120]}

During the 1980s, Savage attended Friday night services at a Jewish Synagogue Chabad house in Berkeley.^[9] In a 2003 interview on The O'Reilly Factor, Savage has said that although he believes in God, he attends houses of worship only once or twice a year.^[121] In his 2012 book *Trickle Down Tyranny*, Savage wrote: "... I'm not religious. Do I believe in God? Sometimes I do, sometimes I don't."^[122] In his podcast aired 25

November 2020, Savage stated: "Trust in God. God leads my footsteps. God has determined that I will be on podcast come January. God determines a lot of things in our lives and you have to trust in God and just say its fate at a certain point. Now, I've always believed that we make our own fate. I've not been one of these leaves-in-a-stream type of personalities..."^[123]

In December 2019, Savage notably suffered a heart attack, but subsequently recovered and returned on air.^[124]

Savage has had many pet dogs throughout his life, his current one being Teddy, a toy poodle.^[125]

Books

In total, Savage has written 44 books, twenty under his real name of Michael Weiner, and twenty-four under the pseudonym of Michael Savage. As Michael Savage, his works include two #1 *New York Times* Best Sellers and three additional books which made *The New York Times* Best Seller list.^{[126][127][128]} have also been reprinted under his alias of Michael Savage.

His earlier books as Michael A. Weiner, Ph.D., draw on his doctoral expertise in the field of nutritional ethnomedicine. In them, he advocates nutritional, herbal, and homeopathic options to approach the prevention and treatment of diseases such as poor diet, aging, arthritis, Alzheimer's disease, cancer, allergies, cocaine addiction, the common cold, and HIV/AIDS.^[129] He has also written about tree planting, beer-tasting, and nutritional cooking.^[129]

His more recent books as Michael Savage are political in nature and published by a variety of different companies. His recent works also include holiday family stories and thrillers.

In 1991, Savage self-published *The Death of the White Male*, an argument against affirmative action, through Quantum Books.^[130] In the book, Savage, calls affirmative action "reverse discrimination", and demonstrates his emerging philosophy. This eventually led to his starting the Paul Revere Society and he continues to sell the book to raise money for this group.^[131]

In January 2003, Savage published *The Savage Nation: Saving America from the Liberal Assault on Our Borders, Language and Culture*, his first major book under the pseudonym Michael Savage. The book directs attacks at "liberal media bias", the "dominating culture of 'she-ocracy'", gay activists, and liberals.

In January 2004, Savage published his second political book *The Enemy Within: Saving America from the Liberal Assault on Our Schools, Faith, and Military*. His next book, *Liberalism Is a Mental Disorder*, was released on April 12, 2005. Unlike *The Savage Nation*, both of these books cited sources for some of the more controversial claims made.

In April 2006, Savage released *The Political Zoo*. The book contains satirical profiles and cartoons of different public figures, most of whom are liberal political figures and celebrities, depicted in caricature as animals in the "Political Zoo", with Savage portrayed as the zoo keeper.

In October 2010, Savage released *Trickle Up Poverty: Stopping Obama's Attack on Our Borders, Economy, and Security*. Released through the HarperCollins imprint of William Morrow and Company, Savage argues in the book that "Americans are boiling mad over the way Congress and this Marxist/Leninist-oriented President are manipulating the current economic crisis to nationalize businesses."^[132]

In November 2010, it was confirmed that Savage had signed a deal to write two thrillers for publisher St. Martin's Press. The first political thriller, *Abuse of Power*, was released on September 13, 2011. The novel is based on "My fictionalized account of being banned from Britain and hunted by overbearing governments is set in the San Francisco only I know", said Savage. It is set in San Francisco, mainly in North Beach, as well

as London, and Tel Aviv. It tells the story of a failed carjacking that reveals a government cover-up. A dark plot involving British officials and a terrorist group known as "the Hand of Allah". The publisher has described the novel by saying, "will make 9/11 look like child's play".^[133]

In 2014, Savage released *Stop the Coming Civil War: My Savage Truth*, in which Savage writes in part, "We are under assault from both inside and out as our government moves to consolidate its domestic power, while at the same time weakening our defenses against the growing power of our enemies."^[134]

In 2015, Savage released another a book titled *Government Zero: No Borders, No Language, No Culture*. In it he writes that the country has been left without the founding principles of his radio show, "borders, language and culture," and describes what he calls the destruction that the Presidency of Barack Obama brought to the country. He offers several solutions to rebuild the nation.^[135]

In 2016, Savage's book *Scorched Earth: Restoring The Country After Obama*. This work was a blueprint for how then candidate Donald Trump could help get the country back on the right track should he win the election.^[136]

In March 2017, Savage released what he said would be his last political book, *Trump's War: His Battle For America*. The book debuted at number one on The New York Times Best Seller List.^[137]

In November 2017, Savage released a non-political book on his search for spiritual truth, *God, Faith, and Reason*.^[138]

In October 2018, Savage published a book on American psychology, *Stop Mass Hysteria: America's Insanity from the Salem Witch Trials to the Trump Witch Hunt*.^[139] In it he discusses what he calls the many "loud flashpoints" that he believes have engulfed American thought over the nation's history, and relates those phenomena to what he describes as a current obsession with Trump hatred.

In June 2019, Savage published a new book of stories and anecdotes entitled *A Savage Life*.

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Bill O'Reilly (political commentator)

William James O'Reilly Jr.^[1] (born September 10, 1949) is an American journalist, author, and former television host.

O'Reilly's broadcasting career began during the late 1970s and 1980s, when reported for local television stations in the United States and later for CBS News and ABC News. He anchored the tabloid television program Inside Edition from 1989 to 1995. O'Reilly joined the Fox News Channel in 1996 and hosted The O'Reilly Factor until 2017. The O'Reilly Factor was the highest-rated cable news show for 16 years, and he was described by media analyst Howard Kurtz as "the biggest star in the 20-year history at Fox News" at the time of his ouster.^{[2][3][4][5][6]} He is the author of numerous books and hosted The Radio Factor (2002–2009).^[7] O'Reilly is a conservative commentator.^{[8][9]}

O'Reilly's media career took a major blow after a series of 2017 New York Times investigative articles revealed that he had paid six women nearly \$50 million to settle various sexual misconduct lawsuits. After the first New York Times investigation revealed that O'Reilly and Fox News had settled five sexual harassment lawsuits totaling \$13 million, Fox News terminated O'Reilly's employment in April 2017.^{[10][11][12][13][14][15]} He subsequently began hosting a podcast, No Spin News.^[16] In October 2017, The New York Times reported that O'Reilly was also sued by former Fox News legal analyst Lis Wiehl for allegedly initiating a "non-consensual sexual relationship" with her.^[14] O'Reilly paid Wiehl \$32 million to confidentially settle the lawsuit, and when the details of this settlement were leaked, O'Reilly was dropped by the United Talent Agency.^[17]

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1986–1989: ABC News

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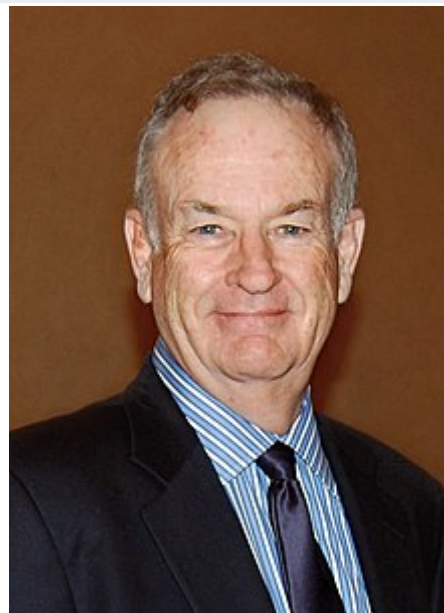
1996–2016: The O'Reilly Factor

Departure from Fox News

Post-Fox News career

Other appearances

Bill O'Reilly



O'Reilly in 2010

Born	William James O'Reilly Jr. <div>September 10, 1949</div> New York City, New York, U.S.
Education	Marist College (BA) <div>Boston University (MA)</div> Harvard University (MPA)
Occupation	Television host · political commentator · author
Years active	1975–present
Political party	Republican (before 2001) <div>Independence (2001–present)</div>
Spouse(s)	Maureen McPhilly (m. 1996; div. 2011)
Children	2
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p://billoreilly.com)

Early life and education

O'Reilly was born on September 10, 1949,^[1] at [Columbia Presbyterian Hospital](#) in Manhattan to parents William James Sr. and Winifred Angela (Drake) O'Reilly from [Brooklyn](#) and [Teaneck, New Jersey](#), respectively.^[18] He is of Irish descent with a small degree of English (Colonial American) ancestry.^[19] Some of his father's ancestors lived in [County Cavan](#), Ireland, since the early eighteenth century, and on his mother's side he has ancestry from [Northern Ireland](#).^[20] The O'Reilly family lived in a small apartment in [Fort Lee, New Jersey](#), when their son was born.^[21] In 1951, his family moved to [Levittown](#) on [Long Island](#).^[22] O'Reilly has a sister, Janet.^[23]

O'Reilly attended St. Brigid parochial school in [Westbury](#) and [Chaminade High School](#), a private Catholic boys high school, in [Mineola](#). His father wanted him to attend Chaminade, but O'Reilly wanted to attend [W. Tresper Clarke High School](#), the public school most of his closest friends would attend.^[24] He played [Little League](#) baseball and was the goalie on the Chaminade varsity hockey team.^[25] During his high school years, he met future pop-singer Billy Joel, whom O'Reilly described as a "hoodlum." O'Reilly recollected in an interview with [Michael Kay](#) on the [YES Network](#) show *CenterStage* that Joel "was in the [Hicksville](#) section—the same age as me—and he was a hood. He used to slick it [his hair] back like this. And we knew him, because his guys would smoke and this and that, and we were more jocks."^[26]

After graduating from Chaminade in 1967, O'Reilly attended [Marist College](#) in [Poughkeepsie, New York](#).^[27] While at Marist, he was a punter in the [National Club Football Association](#)^[28] and also wrote for the school's newspaper, *The Circle*. He was an honors student who majored in history. He spent his junior year of college abroad, attending [Queen Mary College](#) at the [University of London](#).^[29] He received his bachelor of arts degree in history in 1971.^[30] He played [semi-professional](#) baseball during this time as a pitcher for the [New York Monarchs](#).^[31] After graduating from Marist College, O'Reilly moved to [Miami](#) where he taught [English](#) and history at [Monsignor Pace High School](#) from 1970 to 1972.^[32] He returned to school in 1973^[33] and earned a [master of arts degree in broadcast journalism](#) from [Boston University](#).^[30] While attending Boston University, he was a reporter and columnist for various local newspapers and alternative news weeklies,

including the *Boston Phoenix*, and did an internship in the newsroom of WBZ-TV.^[34] In 1995, he attended the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and received a master of public administration degree in 1996.^[30]

Marist College had bestowed an honorary degree upon O'Reilly, which would later be revoked once the sexual abuse allegations came to light.^[35]

Broadcasting career

1973–1980: Early career

O'Reilly's early television news career included reporting and anchoring positions at WNEP-TV in Scranton, Pennsylvania, where he also reported the weather. At WFAA-TV in Dallas, O'Reilly was awarded the Dallas Press Club Award for excellence in investigative reporting. He then moved to KMGH-TV in Denver where he won a local Emmy Award for his coverage of a skyjacking.^[36] O'Reilly also worked for WFSB in Hartford, Connecticut from 1979 to 1980.^[37] In 1980, O'Reilly anchored the local news-feature program *7:30 Magazine* at WCBS-TV in New York. Soon after, as a WCBS News anchor and correspondent, he won his second local Emmy, which was for an investigation of corrupt city marshals.

1982-1986: CBS News and return to local television

In 1982, he became a CBS News correspondent, covering the wars in El Salvador on location and in the Falkland Islands from his base in Buenos Aires, Argentina. O'Reilly left CBS over a dispute concerning the uncredited use in a report by Bob Schieffer of footage of a riot in response to the military junta's surrender shot by O'Reilly's crew in Buenos Aires shortly after the conclusion of the war.^{[38][39]}

After departing CBS News in 1982, O'Reilly joined WNEV-TV (now WHDH) in Boston, as a weekday reporter, weekend anchor and later as host of the station's local news magazine *New England Afternoon*. In 1984, O'Reilly went to KATU in Portland, Oregon, where he remained for nine months, then he returned to Boston and joined WCVB-TV as reporter and columnist-at-large for *NewsCenter 5*.^{[40][41]}

1986–1989: ABC News

In 1986, O'Reilly moved to ABC News, where, during his three-year tenure, he received two Emmy Awards and two National Headliner Awards for excellence in reporting. He had delivered a eulogy for his friend Joe Spencer, an ABC News correspondent who died in a helicopter crash on January 22, 1986, en route to covering the 1985–86 Hormel strike. ABC News president Roone Arledge, who attended Spencer's funeral, decided to hire O'Reilly after hearing the eulogy.^[42] At ABC, O'Reilly hosted daytime news briefs that previewed stories to be reported on the day's *World News Tonight* and worked as a general assignment reporter for ABC News programs, including *Good Morning America*, *Nightline*, and *World News Tonight*.^[43]

1989–1995: Inside Edition

In 1989, O'Reilly joined the nationally syndicated King World (now CBS Television Distribution)-produced *Inside Edition*, a tabloid-gossip television program in competition with *A Current Affair*.^[30] He became the program's anchor three weeks into its run after the involvement of original anchor David Frost had ended.^[44]

In addition to being one of the first American broadcasters to cover the dismantling of the Berlin Wall, O'Reilly obtained the first exclusive interview with murderer Joel Steinberg and was the first television host from a national current affairs program on the scene of the 1992 Los Angeles riots.

In 1995, former NBC News and CBS News anchor Deborah Norville replaced O'Reilly on *Inside Edition*; O'Reilly had expressed a desire to quit the show in July 1994.^[45]

Viral video

On May 12, 2008, an outtake of O'Reilly ranting during his time at *Inside Edition* surfaced on YouTube.^[46] The early 1990s video depicts O'Reilly yelling and cursing at his co-workers while having issues pre-recording the closing lines on his teleprompter, eventually yelling the phrase "Fuck it, we'll do it live!" before continuing the closing segment to his show.^{[47][48]} The original video, titled "Bill O'Reilly Flips Out," was removed, but another user reuploaded it the day after and retitled it "Bill O'Reilly Goes Nuts." Immediately after the video surfaced, O'Reilly acknowledged the video's existence, claiming that he was amusing his co-workers and said "I have plenty of much newer stuff... If you want to buy the tapes that I have, I'm happy to sell them to you."^{[49][50]} The rant was later parodied by Stephen Colbert on *The Colbert Report*^{[49][51]} as well as *Family Guy* and by Trevor Noah on *The Daily Show*,^[52] and was named one of Time's "Top 10 Celebrity Meltdowns."^[53] In October 2008, Wednesday 13 named his first live album after a line in the rant.^{[52][54]} In 2009, a "dance remix" of O'Reilly's rant was nominated for a Webby Award for "Best Viral Video"^[55] but lost to "The Website Is Down: Sales Guy vs. Web Dude".^[56]

1996–2016: *The O'Reilly Factor*

In October 1996, O'Reilly was hired by Roger Ailes, chairman and CEO of the then startup Fox News Channel, to anchor *The O'Reilly Report*.^[57] The show was renamed *The O'Reilly Factor* after his friend and branding expert John Tantillo's remarks upon the "O'Reilly Factor" in any of the stories he told.^{[57][58][59]} The program was routinely the highest-rated show of the three major U.S. 24-hour cable news television channels and began the trend toward more opinion-oriented prime-time cable news programming.^[60] The show was taped late in the afternoon at a studio in New York City and aired every weekday on the Fox News Channel at 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time and was rebroadcast at 11:00 p.m.



O'Reilly interviewing President George W. Bush in 2010

Progressive media monitoring organizations such as Media Matters and Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting have criticized his reporting on a variety of issues, accusing him of distorting facts and using misleading or erroneous statistics.^[61] In 2008, citing numerous inaccuracies in his reporting, MediaMatters for America awarded him its first annual "Misinformers of the Year" award.^{[62][63][64]}

After the September 11 attacks, O'Reilly accused the United Way of America and American Red Cross of failing to deliver millions of dollars in donated money, raised by the organizations in the name of the disaster, to the families of those killed in the attacks. He reported that the organizations misrepresented their intentions for the money being raised by not distributing all of the 9/11 relief fund to the victims. Actor George Clooney responded, accusing him of misstating facts and harming the relief effort by inciting "panic" among potential donors.^[65]

On August 27, 2002, O'Reilly called for all Americans to boycott Pepsi products,^[66] saying that lyrics of Ludacris (then appearing in ads for Pepsi) glamorize a "life of guns, violence, drugs and disrespect of women." The next day, O'Reilly reported that Pepsi had fired Ludacris.^[66] Two years later, Ludacris

referenced O'Reilly in the song "Number One Spot" with the lyrics "Respected highly, hi, Mr. O'Reilly/Hope all is well, kiss the plaintiff and the wifey," in reference to his sexual-harassment suit with Andrea Mackris while married. In an interview with RadarOnline.com in 2010, Ludacris said he and O'Reilly had made amends after a conversation at a charity event.^[67]



O'Reilly at the World Affairs Council of Philadelphia in 2010

Speaking on ABC's Good Morning America on March 18, 2003, he promised that "[i]f the Americans go in and overthrow Saddam Hussein and it's clean [of weapons of mass destruction] ... I will apologize to the nation, and I will not trust the Bush administration again."^[68] In another appearance on the same program on February 10, 2004, he responded to repeated requests for him to honor his pledge: "My analysis was wrong and I'm sorry. I was wrong. I'm not pleased about it at all."^[69] With regard to his trust in the government, he said, "I am much more skeptical of the Bush administration now than I was at that time."^[70]

Beginning in 2005, he periodically denounced George Tiller, a Kansas-based physician who specialized in second- and third-trimester abortions,^[71] often referring to him as "Tiller the baby killer."^[72] Tiller was murdered on May 31, 2009, by Scott Roeder, an anti-abortion activist.^[73] Critics such as Salon's Gabriel Winant have asserted that his anti-Tiller rhetoric helped to create an atmosphere of violence around the doctor.^[74] Jay Bookman of The Atlanta Journal-Constitution wrote that O'Reilly "clearly went overboard in his condemnation and demonization of Tiller" but added that it was "irresponsible to link O'Reilly" to Tiller's murder.^[75] O'Reilly responded to the criticism by saying "no backpedaling here ... every single thing we said about Tiller was true."^[76]

In early 2007, researchers from the Indiana University School of Journalism published a report that analyzed his "Talking Points Memo" segment. Using analysis techniques developed in the 1930s by the Institute for Propaganda Analysis, the study concluded that he used propaganda, frequently engaged in name calling, and consistently cast non-Americans as threats and never "in the role of victim or hero."^{[77][78]} He responded, asserting that "the terms 'conservative', 'liberal', 'left', 'right', 'progressive', 'traditional' and 'centrist' were considered name-calling if they were associated with a problem or social ill." The study's authors said that those terms were only considered name-calling when linked to derogatory qualifiers.^[79] Fox News producer Ron Mitchell wrote an op-ed in which he accused the study's authors of seeking to manipulate their research to fit a predetermined outcome. Mitchell argued that by using tools developed for examining propaganda, the researchers presupposed that he propagandized.^[80]



O'Reilly with Jeffrey Jameison

On April 19, 2017, Fox News announced that O'Reilly would not return to their primetime lineup amid public reporting on the tens of millions of dollars he paid to settle the sexual harassment claims of six women. The show continued, rebranded as The Factor, now hosted by Dana Perino.^[10] On the same day, Fox announced that Tucker Carlson's show would be airing an hour earlier to take over O'Reilly's position and that The Five will replace Carlson's usual time at 9 p.m. with a new co-host, Jesse Watters.^[81] After O'Reilly was fired, the financial markets responded positively to the decision by Fox News, and its parent company 21st Century Fox rose over two percent in the stock market the next day.^[82]

Departure from Fox News

In April 2017, *The New York Times* reported that Fox News and O'Reilly had settled five lawsuits involving women who accused O'Reilly of misconduct.^[83] After the settlements were reported, the *O'Reilly Factor* lost more than half its advertisers within a week;^[84] almost 60 companies withdrew their television advertising from the show^[85] amid a growing backlash against O'Reilly.^{[86][87]} On April 11, O'Reilly announced he would take a two-week vacation and would return to the program on April 24; he normally took a vacation around Easter.^[88] On April 19, Fox News announced that O'Reilly would not be returning to the network.^{[89][10]} The program was subsequently renamed *The Factor* on April 19 and aired its last episode on April 21.^[90]

O'Reilly later stated his regret that he did not "fight back" against his accusers the way Sean Hannity did when facing the loss of advertisers around the same time.^[91]

In late October 2017, O'Reilly's literary agency, WME, announced that they would no longer represent him for future deals, and his talent agency, UTA, informed him that it would not be renewing his contract.^{[92][93]}

Post-Fox News career

O'Reilly launched a podcast called *No Spin News* on April 24, 2017, after his departure from Fox News.^[94] In August 2017, O'Reilly began digitally streaming a video version of *No Spin News*.^{[95][96][97]} In May 2017, O'Reilly began to appear as a recurring guest on Friday editions of the *Glenn Beck Radio Program*.^[98] In June 2017, O'Reilly and Dennis Miller co-headlined the public speaking tour, "The Spin Stops Here."^[99]

O'Reilly made his first appearance on Fox News since his ouster on September 26, 2017, being interviewed by Sean Hannity.^[100] In July 2020, O'Reilly's show *No Spin News* began to air on Newsmax TV,^[101] alongside his periodical appearances as guest on other programs of the conservative cable television news channel.

In June 2021, it was reported that O'Reilly was launching a speaking tour with former president Donald Trump to "provide a never before heard inside view of his administration."^[102]

Other appearances

Newspaper column

O'Reilly wrote a weekly syndicated newspaper column through Creators Syndicate^[103] that appeared in numerous newspapers, including the *New York Post* and the *Chicago Sun-Times*.^[104] He discontinued the column at the end of 2013.

Radio ventures

From 2002–2009, he hosted a radio program called *The Radio Factor* that had more than 3.26 million listeners and was carried by more than 400 radio stations.^[105] According to the talk radio industry publication *Talkers Magazine*, he was No. 11 on the "Heavy Hundred," a list of the 100 most important talk show hosts in America.^[106]

In 2019, O'Reilly returned to radio with a daily 15-minute series *The O'Reilly Update*. The program airs during or near lunch hour on most stations in a time slot previously used by Paul Harvey.^[107]

The Daily Show

From 2001 to 2015, O'Reilly appeared on *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart* fifteen times. Stewart also appeared as a guest various times on *The O'Reilly Factor*. In 2011, Stewart described O'Reilly as "the voice of reason on Fox News", comparing him to "the thinnest kid at fat camp".^[108]

In 2012, Stewart joined O'Reilly in a debate for charity entitled, *The Rumble in the Air-Conditioned Auditorium* at George Washington University.^[109] *The New York Times* remarked that O'Reilly and Stewart "have been guests on each other's programs since 2001" but "rarely agree on anything except their mutual respect for each other".^[110] In 2014, Stewart debated him on the belief of white privilege. During the debate O'Reilly exclaimed, "You think I'm sitting here because I'm white? What are you, a moron? I'm sitting here because I'm obnoxious, not because I'm white!".^[111]

In 2015, O'Reilly briefly appeared on Stewart's final show as host of *The Daily Show*. O'Reilly joked, "Have fun feeding your rabbits, quitter!"^[112] O'Reilly also wrote a lengthy appreciation for Stewart in *Deadline Hollywood* writing, "[Stewart] will leave a void in the world of political satire. Undeniably, Jon Stewart was great at what he did. Whatever that was."^[113]

Film and television appearances

O'Reilly made cameo appearances in the films *An American Carol* (2008), *Iron Man 2* (2010), *Transformers: Dark of the Moon* (2011) and *Man Down* (2015).^{[114][115][116]}

In 2010, he famously appeared on *The View*, where they asked O'Reilly his opinion on whether to remove the mosque near the 9/11 memorial site. O'Reilly responded saying, that he believed they should and during the heated discussion stated, "Muslims killed us on 9/11" to which Whoopi Goldberg, and Joy Behar walked off the set. Barbara Walters chided the other hosts, and stated, "You have just seen what should not happen. We should be able to have discussions without washing our hands and screaming and walking off stage. I love my colleagues, but that should not have happened."^{[117][118]} He also made appearances on various talk and late night shows including, *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*, *The Late Show with David Letterman*, *The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon*, *Jimmy Kimmel Live*, and *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*.

In 2013, he appeared at the Kennedy Center Honors ceremony where he gave tribute to jazz musician Herbie Hancock. O'Reilly's unexpected presence was not lost on the audience, as his appearance elicited audible gasps from the crowd to which O'Reilly responded, "I know I'm surprised too".^{[119][120]} During his tribute to Hancock, O'Reilly stated, "Herbie is a true gentleman. His fame and his skill reflect the values of that have made this country great...It's that embracing of what is good in mankind that that infuses Hancock's music and makes him a national icon".^{[121][122]}

Television projects

O'Reilly was an executive producer on many television projects including on made for television films based upon his books. This includes films, *Killing Lincoln* (2013), *Killing Kennedy* (2013), *Killing Jesus* (2015), and *Killing Reagan* (2016) which aired on National Geographic. O'Reilly received two Primetime Emmy Award nominations for Outstanding Television Movie for *Killing Kennedy* and *Killing Jesus*.^[123]

From 2015 to 2018, O'Reilly also served as an executive producer on the documentary series, *Legends & Lies*.^[124]

Political views and media coverage

On *The O'Reilly Factor* and on his former talk-radio program, O'Reilly focused on news and commentary related to politics and culture.^[125] O'Reilly has long said that he does not identify with any political ideology, writing in his book *The O'Reilly Factor* that the reader "might be wondering whether I'm conservative, liberal, libertarian, or exactly what ... See, I don't want to fit any of those labels, because I believe that the truth doesn't have labels. When I see corruption, I try to expose it. When I see exploitation, I try to fight it. That's my political position."^[126] On December 6, 2000, the *Daily News* in New York reported, however, that he had been registered with the Republican Party in the state of New York since 1994. When questioned about this, he said that he was not aware of it and says he registered as an independent after the interview.^[127] During a broadcast of *The Radio Factor*, O'Reilly said that there was no option to register as an independent voter; however, there was in fact a box marked "I do not wish to enroll in party."^[128] But many view him as a conservative figure.^[125] A February 2009 Pew Research poll found that 66% of his television viewers identify themselves as conservative, 24% moderate, and 3% liberal.^[129] A November 2008 poll by Zogby International found that O'Reilly was the second most trusted news personality, after Rush Limbaugh.^[130]



O'Reilly at Camp Striker, 2006

In a 2003 interview with Terry Gross on National Public Radio, O'Reilly said:

I'm not a political guy in the sense that I embrace an ideology. To this day I'm an independent thinker, an independent voter, I'm a registered independent ... [T]here are certain fundamental things that this country was founded upon that I respect and don't want changed. That separates me from the secularists who want a complete overhaul of how the country is run.^[131]

On a September 2007 edition of *The Radio Factor*, while having a discussion about race with fellow Fox News commentator and author Juan Williams about a meal he shared with Al Sharpton, O'Reilly said "You know when Sharpton and I walked in, it was like... big commotion and everything. But everybody was very nice. And I couldn't get over the fact that there was no difference between Sylvia's Restaurant and any other restaurant in New York City. I mean, it was exactly the same, even though it's run by blacks, primarily black patronship." He commented that no one in Sylvia's was "screaming 'M'Fer, I want more iced tea.'" He further added, "I think that black Americans are starting to think more and more for themselves, getting away from the Sharptons and the Jacksons and people trying to lead them into a race-based culture. They're just trying to figure it out. 'Look, I can make it. If I work hard and get educated, I can make it.'"^[132] The statement drew criticism from a number of places. Roland S. Martin of CNN said that the notion that black people are just now starting to value education is "ridiculous" and that the notion that black people let Sharpton or Jackson think for them is "nuts."^[133] Media Matters for America covered the story on a number of occasions.^{[134][135]} O'Reilly responded, saying, "It was an attempt to tell the radio audience that there is no difference—black, white, we're all Americans. The stereotypes they see on television are not true" and also called out Media Matters, claiming that "Media Matters distorted the entire conversation and implied I was racist for condemning racism."^[136] Juan Williams said the criticism of O'Reilly was "rank dishonesty" and that the original comments "had nothing to do with racist ranting by anybody except by these idiots at CNN." Williams went on to say it was "frustrating" that the media try to criticize anyone who wanted to have an honest discussion about race.^[137]

O'Reilly has long said that his inspiration for speaking up for average Americans is his working-class roots. He has pointed to his boyhood home in Levittown, New York, as a credential. In an interview with *The Washington Post*, O'Reilly's mother said that her family lived in Westbury,^[23] which is a few miles from Levittown. Citing this interview, then liberal talk-show pundit Al Franken accused O'Reilly of distorting his background to create a more working-class image. O'Reilly countered that *The Washington Post* misquoted his

mother^[138] and that his mother still lives in his childhood home which was built by William Levitt. O'Reilly placed a copy of the house's mortgage on his website; the mortgage shows a Levittown postal address.^[139] O'Reilly has also said, "You don't come from any lower than I came from on an economic scale"^[140] and that his father, a currency accountant for an oil company,^[141] "never earned more than \$35,000 a year in his life." O'Reilly responded that his father's \$35,000 income only came at the end of his long career.^[142]

He was the main inspiration for comedian Stephen Colbert's satirical character on the Comedy Central show The Colbert Report, which featured Colbert in a "full-dress parody" of The Factor. On the show, Colbert referred to him as "Papa Bear."^[143] He and Colbert exchanged appearances on each other's shows in January 2007.^[144]

On May 10, 2008, he was presented with the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Governors' Award at an Emmy awards show dinner.^[145]

Disputed claims

George de Mohrenschildt claim

In his bestselling 2013 book Killing Kennedy and on Fox and Friends, O'Reilly claimed he was knocking at the front door of George de Mohrenschildt's daughter's home at the moment Mohrenschildt committed suicide and that he heard the shotgun blast:

In March of 1977, a young television reporter at WFAA in Dallas began looking into the Kennedy assassination. As part of his reporting, he sought an interview with the shadowy Russian professor who had befriended the Oswalds upon their arrival in Dallas in 1962. The reporter traced George de Mohrenschildt to Palm Beach, Florida and traveled there to confront him. At the time de Mohrenschildt had been called to testify before a congressional committee looking into the events of November 1963. As the reporter knocked on the door of de Mohrenschildt's daughter's home, he heard the shotgun blast [Emphasis added] that marked the suicide of the Russian, assuring that his relationship with Lee Harvey Oswald would never be fully understood. By the way, that reporter's name is Bill O'Reilly.

This claim has been disproven by former Washington Post editor Jefferson Morley, who cites audio recordings made by Gaeton Fonzi indicating O'Reilly was not present in Florida on the day of Mohrenschildt's suicide.^{[146][147]}

War coverage claims

On February 19, 2015, David Corn from Mother Jones broke a story reporting a collection of inconsistencies of O'Reilly when recalling his experience covering the 1982 Falklands War.^[39] On April 17, 2013, O'Reilly said on his show: "I was in a situation one time, in a war zone in Argentina, in the Falklands, (...)"^[148] In his book, The No Spin Zone, he wrote: "You know that I am not easily shocked. I've reported on the ground in active war zones from El Salvador to the Falklands."^[149] On a 2004 column on his website he wrote: "Having survived a combat situation in Argentina during the Falklands war, I know that life-and-death decisions are made in a flash."^[150] Corn claimed O'Reilly was not in the Falklands, but in Buenos Aires, and that no American journalist was in the Islands during the conflict. He also pointed out that according to O'Reilly's own book, The No Spin Zone, he arrived in Buenos Aires soon before the war ended.^[39] On February 20, 2015, O'Reilly said on his show, "David Corn, a liar, says that I exaggerated situations in the

Falklands War" and that he never said he was on the Falkland Islands. O'Reilly went on to describe his experience in a riot in Buenos Aires the day Argentina surrendered.^[151] David Corn replied that they didn't claim O'Reilly "exaggerated" but rather that there were contradictions between his accounts and the factual record and that the 2013 clip from his show proves O'Reilly did in fact say he was on the Falklands.^[152] Corn told The New York Times: "The question is whether Bill O'Reilly was stating the truth when he repeatedly said that Argentine soldiers used real bullets and fired into the crowd of civilians and many were killed."^[153]

In September 2009, during an interview he said he covered the riots in Buenos Aires on the day Argentina surrendered.^[154]

During an interview with TheBlaze television network, O'Reilly said: "And if that moron [Corn] doesn't think it was a war zone in Buenos Aires, then he's even dumber than I think he is."^[155] This characterization by O'Reilly was disputed by former CBS colleague Eric Engberg who was in Buenos Aires at the time and challenged his (O'Reilly's) description of the riot as a "combat situation." Engberg went on to say it was a moderate riot and he heard no "shots fired" and saw no "ambulances or tanks" in the streets.^[156] The following week O'Reilly contradicted Engberg's claims, presenting archived CBS video of the riot that ensued after Argentina's surrender. The video appears to show riot police firing tear gas and plastic bullets toward the crowd; additionally, former NBC bureau chief Don Browne referred to the riot as an "intense situation" with many people hurt and tanks in the streets of Buenos Aires.^[157]

The fallout from the coverage generated by the questioning of O'Reilly's reporting during the Falklands War led to questions of claims made by O'Reilly while in El Salvador and Northern Ireland. In his 2013 book, *Keep it Pithy*, O'Reilly wrote: "I've seen soldiers gun down unarmed civilians in Latin America, Irish terrorists kill and maim their fellow citizens in Belfast with bombs." In a 2005 radio program O'Reilly said he had "seen guys gun down nuns in El Salvador" and in 2012, on *The O'Reilly Factor*, said "I saw nuns get shot in the back of the head." O'Reilly and Fox News clarified that he had not been an eyewitness to any of those events but had just seen photographs of the murdered nuns and Irish bombings.^{[158][159]}

Sexual harassment lawsuits

On October 13, 2004, O'Reilly sued Andrea Mackris, a former producer for *The O'Reilly Factor*, alleging extortion. O'Reilly claimed that Mackris had threatened a lawsuit unless he paid her more than \$60 million. Later the same day, Mackris sued O'Reilly for sexual harassment, seeking \$60 million in damages.^[160] Her complaint alleged that O'Reilly called her engaging in a crude phone conversation.^[161] On October 28, 2004, O'Reilly and Mackris reached an out-of-court settlement in which Mackris dropped her sexual-assault suit against O'Reilly and O'Reilly dropped his extortion claim against Mackris. The terms of the agreement are confidential,^[162] but in 2017 *The New York Times* reported that O'Reilly had agreed to pay Mackris about \$9 million and that they would issue a public statement that there had been "no wrongdoing whatsoever."^[83]

After Fox News executive Roger Ailes was the subject of a sexual harassment lawsuit filed by former Fox News coworker Gretchen Carlson, O'Reilly said in July 2016, that Ailes was a "target" as a "famous, powerful or wealthy person" and called him the "best boss I ever had."^[163] After Ailes was fired and the network settled the lawsuit with Carlson, O'Reilly declined to comment further, saying that "for once in my life, I'm going to keep my big mouth shut."^[164]

Shortly after Ailes was fired, Fox News settled a sexual harassment claim against O'Reilly with former Fox host Juliet Huddy. Huddy alleged that O'Reilly pursued a romantic relationship with her, and made lewd remarks. Legal fees in this case were settled and paid for by Fox News.^[165] *The New York Times* reported the settlement to have been worth \$1.6 million.^[83] In August 2016, former Fox host Andrea Tantaros filed a

sexual harassment lawsuit against Fox News, claiming that O'Reilly made sexually suggestive comments to her.^[166] Judge George B. Daniels dismissed the lawsuit in May 2018 and wrote that Tantaros' allegations were "primarily based on speculation and conjecture".^[167]

The New York Times reported in April 2017 that O'Reilly and Fox News had settled five lawsuits against O'Reilly dating back to 2002. Previously, only the settlements to Mackris and Huddy were publicly reported; *The Times* reported that Fox hosts Rebecca Diamond and Laurie Dhue settled sexual harassment lawsuits in 2011 and 2016 respectively and junior producer Rachel Witlieb Bernstein settled with Fox in 2002 after accusing O'Reilly of verbal abuse. The amount paid to the women filing the complaints was estimated at \$13 million.^[83]

In October 2017, *The New York Times* reported that O'Reilly was also sued by former Fox News legal analyst Lis Wiehl for allegedly initiating a "non-consensual sexual relationship" with her.^[14] O'Reilly paid Wiehl \$32 million to confidentially settle the lawsuit, and when the details of this settlement were leaked, O'Reilly was dropped by the United Talent Agency.^[17]

Personal life

O'Reilly was married to Maureen E. McPhilmy, a public relations executive. The couple met in 1992, and their wedding took place in St. Brigid Parish of Westbury, New York, on November 2, 1996.^[168] O'Reilly and McPhilmy have a daughter Madeline (born 1998) and a son Spencer (born 2003).^[169]

The couple separated on April 2, 2010, and were divorced on September 1, 2011.^[170]

In May 2015, court transcripts from O'Reilly's custody trial with ex-wife Maureen McPhilmy revealed an allegation of domestic violence.^{[171][172][173]} Following this allegation, O'Reilly issued a statement through his attorney describing the account as "100% false" and declined to comment further in order "to respect the court-mandated confidentiality put in place to protect [his] children."^{[173][174]} In February 2016, O'Reilly lost a bid for sole custody of both of his children.^[175]

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O'Reilly has authored or co-authored a number of books:

- O'Reilly, Bill (1998). *Those Who Trespass*. Bancroft Press. ISBN 0-9631246-8-4.
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- O'Reilly, Bill (2001). *The No Spin Zone*. Broadway Books. ISBN 0-7679-0848-1. (Reached No. 1 on the New York Times' Non-Fiction Best Seller list.)^[176]
- O'Reilly, Bill (2003). *Who's Looking Out For You?*. Broadway Books. ISBN 0-7679-1379-5. (Reached No. 1 on the New York Times' Non-Fiction Best Seller list.)^[176]
- O'Reilly, Bill; Charles Flowers (2004). *The O'Reilly Factor For Kids: A Survival Guide for America's Families*. Harper Entertainment. ISBN 0-06-054424-4. (Best-selling nonfiction children's book of 2005)^[177]
- O'Reilly, Bill (2006). *Culture Warrior*. Broadway Books. ISBN 0-7679-2092-9. (Reached No. 1 on the New York Times' Non-Fiction Best Seller list;^[176] Achieved more than one million copies in print in its first three months)
- O'Reilly, Bill (2007). *Kids Are Americans Too* (https://archive.org/details/isbn_9780060846763). William Morrow. ISBN 978-0-06-084676-3.

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 - [Appearances](https://www.c-span.org/person/?billoreilly) (<https://www.c-span.org/person/?billoreilly>) on [C-SPAN](#)
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Michael Medved

Michael Saul Medved (born October 3, 1948) is an American radio show host, author, political commentator, and film critic.^[1] His talk show, *The Michael Medved Show* is syndicated from his home station KTTH in Seattle.^[2] It is syndicated via Genesis Communications Network.^[3]

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Early life and education

Michael Medved was born on October 3, 1948 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to parents Renate (née Hirsch) and David Bernard Medved. His father was a Navy veteran and scientist. Raised in a Jewish home, his family's origin is German and Ukrainian.^{[4][5][6]} The surname Medved means a "bear" in the Slavic languages. Medved was raised in San Diego, California, where his father worked as a defense contractor for Convair and NASA. After the family moved to Los Angeles, California, he attended Palisades High School. Medved entered Yale University as a 16-year-old undergraduate. He received his B.A. with honors in 1969, and later attended Yale Law School, though he did not finish his J.D. degree.^[7] Medved volunteered for the 1968 presidential campaign of Robert F. Kennedy, and was present at his assassination.^{[8][9]}

Career

Writer

Michael Medved



Medved in 2016

Born	October 3, 1948 <u>Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, U.S.</u>
Alma mater	<u>Yale University (BA)</u> <u>San Francisco State University (MFA)</u>
Occupation	Author, political commentator, radio show host, film critic
Spouse(s)	<u>Diane Elvenstar Medved</u>
Children	3
Relatives	<u>David Medved (father)</u>
Website	<u>michaelmedved.com</u> (<u>http://michaelmedved.com</u>)

After his first year of law school, Medved left to work as a head speechwriter for diplomat Joseph Duffey in his unsuccessful bid for U.S. Senate,^{[10][11]} and then for four years as a speechwriter and political consultant. After political campaign work, including a position as an aide to Congressman Ron Dellums, Medved worked in advertising, and coordinated a campaign to recruit more African Americans and Hispanics to the police departments of San Francisco, Oakland and Berkeley.^[7]

After writing more than 40 articles for the book *The People's Almanac*, Medved wrote *What Really Happened to the Class of '65?*, with David Wallechinsky. Focusing on the post-graduation lives of 30 of Medved's Palisades High School classmates who were featured in a 1965 cover story in *Time*, the book became a bestseller in 1976. The book also became the basis for a weekly television series on NBC that ran for 13 weeks in 1978.^[7] As a result of some screenwriting work for feature film projects and television miniseries, Medved joined the Writers Guild of America.

Medved wrote *The Shadow Presidents: The Secret History of the Chief Executives and Their Top Aides* (1979), a study of the leading White House assistants since the establishment of the presidential staff in 1857. The book included interviews with the chiefs of staff of presidents Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, and Ford. After the interviews, Medved continued his involvement in politics, befriending Ford's chief of staff, Dick Cheney, affiliating himself with the Republican Party, and campaigning for Ronald Reagan in 1980.

In 1984, Medved wrote *Hospital: The Hidden Lives of a Medical Center Staff*, which was discussed in *Time*, on ABC's Nightline, and Good Morning America. The book focused on 30 staff people who worked together in a California teaching hospital. In collaboration with his brother, Harry Medved, he wrote four satirical books about movies: *The Fifty Worst Films of All Time* (1979), *The Golden Turkey Awards* (1980), *The Hollywood Hall of Shame* (1984) and *Son of Golden Turkey Awards* (1986).

In November 2008, Medved released his eleventh nonfiction book, *The 10 Big Lies About America: Combating Destructive Distortions About Our Nation*. The follow up volume, *The 5 Big Lies About American Business: Combating Smears Against the Free-Market Economy*, was released in December 2009.

Film reviewer

As a film reviewer, Medved hosted a weekly spot on CNN (1980–83) and a show on British network Channel 4 called *The Worst of Hollywood*. His commentary centered on what he considered to be bad movies, particularly in "The Golden Turkey Awards". The film selected by the Medved Brothers as The Worst Film of All Time, Plan 9 from Outer Space, has become a cult classic.

In 1984, Medved joined Sneak Previews, the weekly movie review show originated by Gene Siskel and Roger Ebert, co-hosting the program for twelve years with Jeffrey Lyons.

In 1993, Medved became chief film critic for the New York Post, a position he held for five years, during which he reviewed more than 700 movies for the newspaper.

Afterwards, Medved played a prominent role in some movie-related controversies. Medved became an outspoken defender of Mel Gibson's film, *The Passion of the Christ* (2004), which had been criticized as antisemitic by many prominent Jewish groups. After Gibson's DUI arrest in July 2006, Medved wrote that he felt "betrayed" by Gibson's antisemitic outburst and urged Gibson to seek "reconciliation" with the Jewish community.^[12]

Some film critics, including Roger Ebert and Jim Emerson, criticized Medved for mentioning the "right to die/assisted suicide" theme in Clint Eastwood's Oscar-winning *Million Dollar Baby* and these critics viewed Medved's statements as a plot spoiler. Medved stated that the inclusion of this theme in the film was "deeply misleading" because it was marketed as a Rocky-esque tale of a plucky female underdog in the boxing

arena.^[13] Medved said that he carefully avoided revealing the final turn in the plot, but felt honor bound to inform his listeners and readers about the movie's content and provocative point of view. Roger Ebert criticized Medved, saying he "has for a long time been a political commentator, not a movie critic."^[14]

Talk radio and political commentary

While focusing on the theme of *Hollywood vs. America*, radio talk show host Rush Limbaugh interviewed Medved and then asked him to guest-host his talk show. In 1996 Medved was offered his own local show on a major Seattle radio station. In his 2005 autobiographical book *Right Turns: From Liberal Activist to Conservative Champion in 35 Unconventional Lessons*, Medved says he welcomed the chance to speak to a wider audience about politics and morality, which were a focus of his written commentary and books. Medved's show was broadcast from Seattle and syndicated through Salem Radio Network.

His three-hour daily show was broadcast on 200 stations coast to coast and reached more than 4.75 million listeners weekly.^[15] For ten consecutive years, *Talkers Magazine* listed Medved as one of its "Heavy Hundred" most important American talk show hosts, and in 2011 tied for eighth place in its ranking of talk hosts by audience size.^[16] Salem Radio announced on November 8, 2018, that Sebastian Gorka would replace Medved's time slot in 2019. Medved said that his show would continue in a "new format"^[17] at the same time (3–6 p.m. Eastern Time). His show continues in that time slot on a smaller number of stations.^{[18][19]}

Medved describes the show as "Your Daily Dose of Debate", often focused on listeners who call in to debate issues with the host. Guests have included those who are generally considered left-of-center, including Noam Chomsky, Michael Moore, John Shelby Spong, Oliver Stone, Warren Beatty, Ralph Nader, Barbara Boxer, Al Gore, Madeleine Albright, Ben Cohen, George Galloway, Thom Hartmann, Naomi Wolf, and Al Franken. Guests who are generally considered right-of-center include Robert Spencer, Condoleezza Rice, and Dinesh D'Souza.

Medved describes himself as "your cultural crusader on politics and pop culture" and common themes on his show include current events, politics, American history and the entertainment industry. He reviews four or more new movies or DVD releases per week. The program also includes a weekly "Disagreement Day", focusing on callers from around the country who wish to contest anything Medved has stated in his written articles or on the radio, and a monthly (when the moon is full) "Conspiracy Day," where callers from across the country expose what they consider the "hidden forces" behind "perplexing and painful present events." He gives historical perspective to current events on the radio show, and has recorded vignettes on major historical events and people in American history, such as the American Revolution and Abraham Lincoln.

Medved writes a regular column for USA Today and is a member of the Board of Contributors for USA Today's Forum Page, part of the newspaper's Opinion section. He writes occasional op-ed pieces for The Wall Street Journal and blogs daily at Townhall.com. He also wrote the 1992 book Hollywood vs. America: Popular Culture and the War on Traditional Values, a condemnation of violence in cinema.^[20]

In October 2007, Medved drew fire from critics after publishing a controversial column regarding the history of slavery in the United States, in which he wrote, "No, it's not true that the 'peculiar institution' featured kind-hearted, paternalistic masters and happy, dancing field-hands, any more than it's true that America displayed unparalleled barbarity or enjoyed disproportionate benefit from kidnapping and exploiting innocent Africans."^[21]

He has argued that voters in the American Jewish community do not necessarily embrace candidates based on their support for the state of Israel as much as they passionately oppose candidates based on their identification with Christianity, especially the Christian Right.^{[22][23]} Medved also states that the Orthodox community, which he states as less than ten percent of the American Jewish population, "gives nearly as disproportionate

support to Republicans as their Reform, Conservative, and secular Jewish neighbors give to Democrats" and argues that this is because "The Orthodox feel no instinctive horror at political alliances with others who make faith the center of their lives."^[23]

Medved criticized the Donald Trump 2016 presidential campaign, taking a Never Trump stance.^{[24][25]} He has continued to criticize President Trump after the election.^[26]

Personal life and religion

Medved is married to Diane Elvenstar Medved; the couple have three children. Diane is a convert to Orthodox Judaism.^{[27][28]}

In 1991, Medved co-founded *Toward Tradition* in Washington state with Orthodox rabbi Daniel Lapin and lobbyist Jack Abramoff.^[29] In October 1994, it co-sponsored the conference "Toward a New Alliance: American Jews and Political Conservatism", with 300 attendees, featuring panelists Grover Norquist (Americans for Tax Reform), Ralph Reed (Christian Coalition), William Kristol (editor, *The Weekly Standard*), and David Horowitz (Center for the Study of Popular Culture). Also with Lapin, Medved helped revitalize the Pacific Jewish Center, an Orthodox synagogue in Venice, California. For fifteen years, Medved served as president of PJC, which states that its mission is outreach to unaffiliated and disconnected Jews. In his book *Right Turns: Unconventional Lessons from a Controversial Life*, he states that his commitment to religion led to his conservative political outlook. He is a baal teshuva (returnee to Orthodox Judaism).^[30]

In November 2007, Medved became a senior fellow at the Discovery Institute, hub of the pseudoscientific intelligent design movement.^{[31][32]}

On January 30, 2015, Medved announced during his live radio broadcast that he would be taking an indefinite leave of absence from his radio show to undergo treatment for throat cancer.^[33] He returned to the air on April 21.^[34]

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External links

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Dennis Prager

Dennis Mark Prager (/ˈpreɪɡər/; born August 2, 1948)^[1] is an American Republican conservative radio talk show host and writer. His initial political work concerned Soviet Jews who were unable to emigrate. He gradually began offering more and broader commentary on politics. His views generally align with social conservatism. In 2009, he co-founded PragerU, an American non-profit organization that creates five-minute videos on various political, economic, and philosophical topics from an American conservative perspective.

Prager is the host of the nationally syndicated radio talk show *The Dennis Prager Show*.

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Early life and education

Dennis Prager was born in Brooklyn to Hilda Prager (née Friedfeld; 1919–2009) and her husband, Max Prager (1918–2014). Prager and his siblings were raised in a Modern Orthodox Jewish home. He attended the Yeshiva of Flatbush in Brooklyn, New York, where he befriended Joseph Telushkin. He went to Brooklyn College and graduated with a major in history and Middle Eastern Studies. Over the next few years he took courses at the Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs and at the University of Leeds; he then left academia without finishing a graduate degree. After he left graduate school, Prager left Modern Orthodoxy but maintained many traditional Jewish practices; he remained religious.^[1]

Career launch

Dennis Prager



Prager in 2018

Born	August 2, 1948 <u>Brooklyn, New York</u> , U.S.
Alma mater	<u>Brooklyn College</u>
Occupation	Radio host · Political commentator · Founder of <u>PragerU</u> · Author
Political party	<u>Republican</u>
Spouse(s)	Janice Prager (m. 1981–1986) Francine Stone (m. 1988–2005) Susan Reed (m. 2008)
Website	<u>www.dennisprager.com</u> (<u>http://www.dennisprager.com</u>)



Prager speaking at the [California Capitol Building](#) in 2008

In 1969, while he was studying in England, he was recruited by a Jewish group to travel to the [Soviet Union](#) to interview Jews about their life there. When he returned the next year, he was in demand as a speaker on repression of [Soviet Jews](#); he earned enough from lectures to travel, and visited around sixty countries.^{[2][3]} He became the national spokesman for the [Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry](#).^[4]

The start of Prager's career overlapped with a growing tendency among [American Jews](#), who had been staunchly liberal, to move toward the center and some to the right, driven in part by the influx of Jews from the Soviet Union.^[5] In 1975, Prager and Telushkin published an introduction to Judaism intended for nonobservant Jews: *The Nine Questions People Ask About Judaism*, which became a

bestseller. Among the questions addressed in the text were: how does Judaism differ from Christianity, and can one doubt the existence of God and still be a good Jew, and how do you account for unethical but religious Jews?^{[1][6]}

Prager supported [Jimmy Carter](#) in the [1976 US presidential election](#).^[7] Prager ran the [Brandeis-Bardin Institute](#) from 1976 to 1983; Telushkin worked with him there.^[1] It was Prager's first salaried job.^[2] He soon earned a reputation as a moral critic focused on attacking secularism and [narcissism](#), each of which he said was destroying society; some people called him a Jewish [Billy Graham](#).^[2]

A higher profile

In 1982, [KABC \(AM\)](#) in [Los Angeles](#) hired Prager to host its Sunday night religious talk show *Religion on the Line*,^[3] which got top ratings^[8] and eventually led to a weekday talk show.^{[9][10]} He and Telushkin published another book in 1983, *Why the Jews? The Reason for Antisemitism*.^[1]

According to a review in *Commentary*, the book depicts [anti-Semitism](#) as a "sinister form of flattery"; the authors wrote that hatred of Jews arises from resentment over Jews' acceptance of the doctrine that they are God's chosen people, charged with bringing a moral message to the world.^[11] The book describes Jews as both a [nation](#) (stateless for a long time) and followers of a religion and says that this identity is essential to Judaism; the book says that calls for Jews to culturally assimilate as well as opposition to [Zionism](#) are both forms of antisemitism.^{[11][12]} The book describes [secular Jews](#) as people who have lost their way, and who generally fall into the error of applying Judaism's mission to reform the world in ways that tend to be leftist, totalitarian, and destructive.^{[11][12]}

He also wrote a syndicated column for newspapers across the country. In 1985, Prager launched his own quarterly journal, *Ultimate Issues*,^[3] which was renamed to *The Prager Perspective*^[10] in 1996.^[1]

In 1986, he divorced and underwent a year of therapy, which the *Encyclopedia of Judaism* says contributed to his 1999 book *Happiness is a Serious Problem*.^[1] In 1990, he wrote an essay called "Judaism, Homosexuality and Civilization" that argued against normalizing homosexuality in the Jewish community^[13] and placed sexual sins on a continuum from premarital sex, celibacy, adultery, homosexuality, bestiality, and incest; he argued that confining sex to heterosexual marriage desexualized religion, which was a great achievement of ancient Jewish tradition that was worth fighting to retain.^[14]

By 1992, he was remarried.^[13] By that time he was, according to the *Los Angeles Jewish Journal*, a "fixture on local radio" and "a Jewish St. George battling the forces of secularity on behalf of simple 'goodness'", and generally [socially conservative](#), with some exceptions; he supported a woman's legal access to [abortion](#)

(although he said it was usually immoral), and supported and justified sex between non-married consenting men and women.^[13] In 1992, he became involved with the Stephen S. Wise Temple and gave talks there,^[1] and got a weekday night talk show on KABC.^[15]

In 1994, Prager also did an hour each weekday, via satellite on WABC, KABC's sister station in New York, before doing his KABC show locally.^[16]

During the 1994–1995 television season, Multimedia Entertainment syndicated a television show featuring Dennis Prager.^{[17][18]} Prager said:

I am ambivalent about television as a medium for deep, intelligent programming, but I am not at all ambivalent about this show. This is an incredible opportunity to reach a mass audience with my belief system.^[19]

In 1995, he moved the studio audience on-stage with him where they could interact with him more directly.^[20]

Political views

In 1994 the Anti-Defamation League published a report on antisemitism in the Christian right movement; Prager, who aligned with the social and political conservatism of the Christian right, attacked the ADL and its report.^[21] In 1995 he urged conservative Jews to be open to working with conservative Christians, like the Christian Coalition.^[22] In 1995 he named Jacob Petuchowski, Eliezer Berkovits, Harold Kushner, C.S. Lewis, Richard John Neuhaus, Michael Novak, and George Gilder as the people who had influenced his theology the most.^[23]

In 1995 Prager criticized the Illinois Supreme Court decision in the Baby Richard case that removed a child from his adoptive parents.^[24]

With KABC he held a "Rally for Baby Richard",^[25] where he got support from actors Priscilla Presley, Tom Selleck, and John McCook.^[9]

In 1996 Prager testified in Congress in favor of the Defense of Marriage Act. Prager testified that "the acceptance of homosexuality as the equal of heterosexual marital love signifies the decline of Western civilization."^[26] Prager worked with Bob Dole's campaign in the 1996 presidential election; when polls prior to the election showed that the Dole campaign did not have much Jewish support, Prager said this was because "American Jews are ignorant regarding the anti Israel aspects of the current Democrat Party."^[27]

Since 1999, he has hosted a nationally syndicated talk show on the socially and politically conservative Christian radio station KRLA in Los Angeles.^[1] KRLA is part of the Salem Media Group that carries other conservative hosts, including James Dobson, Randall Terry, Janet Parshall, Sebastian Gorka and Larry Elder; it is a key voice of the Christian right that seeks to change American politics as well as the way that individual people live.^{[28][29]}

In 2003, he considered running for the US Senate against Barbara Boxer in the 2004 election.^[30]

In 2006, Prager criticized Keith Ellison, the first Muslim elected to Congress, for announcing that he would use the Quran for the reenactment of his swearing in ceremony.^[31] Prager wrote: "Insofar as a member of Congress taking an oath to serve America and uphold its values is concerned, America is interested in only



Prager speaking at a Turning Point USA event in 2020

one book, the Bible. If you are incapable of taking an oath on that book, don't serve in Congress." In response, former New York City Mayor Ed Koch called for Prager to end his service on the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Council.^[32]

In 2009 Prager joined other Salem Radio Network hosts to oppose the Affordable Care Act.^[33] In 2014, while same-sex marriage in the United States was in process of being legalized, he wrote that if that were to happen, then "there is no plausible argument for denying polygamous relationships, or brothers and sisters, or parents and adult children, the right to marry."^{[34][35]} In 2014, he also said that the "heterosexual AIDS" crisis was something "entirely manufactured by the Left".^[35]

Prager endorsed Donald Trump in the 2016 presidential election, but said that Trump was his "17th choice out of 17 candidates". He clarified that he "was not a Trump supporter, when there was a choice" but added, "There is no choice now."^[36] Prager had previously said that Trump was "unfit to be a presidential candidate, let alone president".^[37] Conor Friedersdorf of The Atlantic described how Trump's adultery, character assassination of others, embrace of torture, bad behavior, whining, and use of profanity violate values and principles that Prager has upheld as essential to civil life and noted that Prager had said that endorsing Trump was in line with his principles because "[w]e hold that defeating Hillary Clinton, the Democrats, and the Left is also a principle. And that it is the greater principle". Friedersdorf wrote, "[I]f that's all principle means now, we haven't much need for public moralists to write weekly columns with appeals to Judeo-Christian ethics and the importance of good character. Just pick the political party you like best and let the ends justify the means on its behalf."^[38]

In 2017, Prager was invited to be a guest conductor for the volunteer orchestra of Santa Monica, California, as part of a fundraising concert at the Walt Disney Concert Hall. Some of the orchestra members protested the invitation, which they considered promoting bigotry. The orchestra leader had invited Prager because he admired him, as Prager often discussed and promoted classical music on his shows and had guest-conducted a few times in the past, and because he thought Prager's presence might help raise more money.^{[35][34]} Guido Lamell, music director of the Santa Monica Symphony, in spite of the controversy surrounding Prager's presence, called Prager "a great man, leader and friend".^[39]

In February 2020, he told a caller: "Of course you should never call anybody the n-word, that's despicable," but complained about the word itself being considered unacceptable.^{[40][41]} In April 2020, Prager called the COVID-19 lockdowns "the greatest mistake in the history of humanity."^{[42][43]} He was subsequently criticized in the media for misrepresenting the seriousness of the COVID-19 pandemic.^[44]

PragerU

In 2009, Prager and his producer Allen Estrin started a website called PragerU, which creates five-minute videos on various topics from a conservative perspective.^{[45][46]} BuzzFeed News described PragerU as "one of the biggest, most influential and yet least understood forces in online media." As of 2018 it spent around 40% of its annual \$10 million budget on marketing; each video is produced according to a consistent style. Videos cover topics such as "racism, sexism, income inequality, gun ownership, Islam, immigration, Israel, police brutality" and speech on college campuses. BuzzFeed News wrote that "the biggest reason PragerU has escaped national attention is that it mostly doesn't do Trump," or engage with the political news cycle.^[37] Some of its videos had restricted viewer access by YouTube in 2017.^[47]

Published works

Prager's columns are handled by Creators Syndicate. He has been published in The Wall Street Journal, the Los Angeles Times and Commentary. His weekly syndicated column appears on such online websites as Townhall, National Review Online, Jewish World Review and elsewhere. He also writes a bi-weekly column

for *The Jewish Journal of Greater Los Angeles*.

In 2018, he published a commentary on the Book of Exodus; this was followed by another commentary on the Book of Genesis in 2019. Both were published by the Salem Media Group.^[6]

- *The Nine Questions People Ask About Judaism* (with Joseph Telushkin) (1986) ISBN 978-0-671-62261-9
- *Think a Second Time* (44 Essays on 44 Subjects) (1996) ISBN 978-0-06-098709-1
- *Happiness Is a Serious Problem: A Human Nature Repair Manual*^[10] (1999) ISBN 978-0-06-098735-0
- *Why the Jews? The Reason for Antisemitism* (with Joseph Telushkin) (2003) ISBN 978-0-7432-4620-0
- *Still the Best Hope: Why the World Needs American Values to Triumph* (2012) ISBN 978-0-06-198512-6
- *The Ten Commandments: Still the Best Moral Code* (2015) ISBN 978-1-62157-417-0
- *The Ten Commandments: Still the Best Path to Follow* (2015) (for children) ISBN 978-1-5113-1709-2
- *The Rational Bible: Exodus* (2018) ISBN 978-1-62157-772-0
- *The Rational Bible: Genesis* (2019) ISBN 978-1-62157-898-7

Filmography

- *For Goodness Sake*, 1993
- *For Goodness Sake II*, 1996^[48]
- *Israel in a Time of Terror*, 2002
- *Baseball, Dennis, & the French*, 2011
- *No Safe Spaces*, 2019

See also

- Judaism and politics

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External links

- [Appearances \(https://www.c-span.org/person/?dennisprager\)](https://www.c-span.org/person/?dennisprager) on C-SPAN
 - [Official website \(http://www.dennisprager.com/\)](http://www.dennisprager.com/)
 - [Dennis Prager \(https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0695101/\)](https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0695101/) at IMDb
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Hugh Hewitt

Hugh Hewitt (born February 22, 1956) is an American radio talk show host with the Salem Radio Network and an attorney, academic, and author. A conservative, he writes about law, society, politics, and media bias in the United States. Hewitt is president and CEO of the Richard Nixon Foundation, a law professor at Chapman University School of Law, a columnist for *The Washington Post*, and a regular political commentator on *NBC News* and *MSNBC*.

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Early life

Hewitt is the son of Marguerite (née Rohl) and William Robert Hewitt.^{[1][2][3]} He describes himself as "a descendant of both Ulster and the Republic through a green-orange marriage of immigrants from County Down and County Clare".^[4] He attended John F. Kennedy Catholic High School^[5] in Warren, Ohio. He then graduated *cum laude* from Harvard University with a B.A. in government in 1978. After leaving Harvard, he worked as a ghostwriter for Richard Nixon in California and New York, before studying at the University of Michigan Law School, where he was inducted into the Order of the Coif. Hewitt received his J.D. degree

Hugh Hewitt



Hewitt speaking in January 2017

Born	February 22, 1956 Warren, Ohio, U.S.
Alma mater	<u>Harvard University</u> (BA) <u>University of Michigan</u> (JD)
Occupation	Radio talk show host, lawyer, law professor, television host, political commentator, author
Years active	1983–present
Employer	<u>Salem Radio Network</u> <u>NBC News/MSNBC</u> <u>Chapman University</u> <u>School of Law</u> <u>Richard Nixon</u> <u>Foundation</u>
Television	<i>Hugh Hewitt</i>
Political party	<u>Republican</u>
Spouse(s)	Betsy Hewitt (m. 1982)

in 1983, then moved to Washington D.C. to clerk for Judges Roger Robb and George MacKinnon on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit in 1983–84.

Career

Hewitt worked in many posts in the Ronald Reagan administration, including Deputy Director and General Counsel of the Office of Personnel Management, General Counsel for the National Endowment for the Humanities, Assistant White House Counsel, and Special Assistant to the Attorney General.^[6]

In 1989, Hewitt became the executive director of the Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum.^[7] In 1990, he sparked controversy by proposing screening of researchers wishing to use the library resources. Hewitt suggested refusing admission to researchers deemed "unfriendly" – specifically Bob Woodward, whom he characterized as "not a responsible journalist." John Taylor, a spokesman for Nixon, overturned Hewitt's decision after two days.^[8] It became the subject of editorial rebuke in The New York Times.^[9]

Hewitt left the Nixon Library in 1990. He hosted a weekend radio talk show for the Los Angeles radio station KFI,^[10] where he broadcast until 1995. In the spring of 1992, he began co-hosting L.A. PBS member station KCET's program Life & Times,^[11] and remained with the program until the fall of 2001, when he began broadcasting his own radio show. Hewitt received three Emmys for his work on Life & Times on KCET,^[12] and also conceived and hosted the 1996 PBS series Searching for God in America.^[13]

He has worked as a weekly columnist for the Daily Standard^[14] (the online edition of The Weekly Standard) and World. He has appeared on programs such as The Dennis Miller Show, Hardball with Chris Matthews, Larry King Live, The O'Reilly Factor, The Today Show and The Colbert Report.^[15]

Hewitt also became a Professor of Law at Chapman University School of Law.^[16] Hewitt founded the journal Nexus Journal of Law and Policy.^{[17][18]}

In 2019, Hewitt returned to the Nixon Library as president and CEO of the Richard Nixon Foundation, the nonprofit that co-operates the Nixon Library with the National Archives and Records Administration. On his first day in the job, Hewitt announced that he would split his time between Orange County and Washington, D.C. and open a Nixon Foundation office in Washington.^[19]

In March 2020, after Joe Biden won the South Carolina presidential primary, Hewitt predicted that Biden's victory would be of little benefit to his campaign and that Bernie Sanders would perform strongly on Super Tuesday; after Biden took the lead on Super Tuesday and eventually won the Democratic nomination, Politico named Hewitt's predictions among "the most audacious, confident and spectacularly incorrect prognostications about the year".^[20]

The Hugh Hewitt Show (radio)

Hewitt's nationally syndicated radio show, The Hugh Hewitt Show, is broadcast from California from 6 to 9 am ET on weekdays. The show appears on more than 75 stations^[21] and is syndicated by the Salem Radio Network. Beginning April 4, 2016, the show moved to a morning drive time slot.^[22] Although Hewitt's background is in law, government, and politics, he also covers American cultural trends and the entertainment industry. He frequently critiques the mainstream media on air, often inviting journalists to defend their work on the show. His regular contributors include law professors John C. Eastman, former Dean of Chapman University School of Law, and Erwin Chemerinsky, erstwhile Dean of UC Irvine Law School and current Dean of UC Berkeley School of Law (whom Hewitt calls "The Smart Guys"), James Lileks, Mark Steyn,

United States Naval Academy English professor David Allen White (who does a monthly Shakespeare showcase), and Congressman David Dreier (R-CA), as well as frequent callers from around the country. He used to spend the 15th hour of the week discussing movies with "Emmett of the Unblinking Eye".

Hugh Hewitt (television)

On June 24, 2017, *Hugh Hewitt* debuted, a half-hour television show which ran on MSNBC in the Saturdays 8 a.m. EST timeslot.^[23] On the show, he conducted interviews and provided commentary on current events.^[24] On Saturday, June 30, 2018, Hewitt announced that the show had been cancelled, but that he would continue his commentary on the NBC family of networks.^[25]

Political views

Hewitt has described George Will and Charles Krauthammer as models for his style of punditry.^[26] *Politico* described Hewitt as an "ardent Reaganite".^[27]

Foreign policy

In a 2006 interview on CNN with Anderson Cooper, Hewitt said that in regards to George W. Bush's decisions while President, the War in Iraq would go down as "one of the wisest he has made."^[28] In regard to the Syrian Civil War, Hewitt stated that President Donald Trump was making a "major error" in deciding to draw down the number of U.S. troops in the country, over seven years after the beginning of the conflict.^[29] Hewitt has advocated for increasing the defense budget in the United States, stating that "any Republicans who vote against higher defense spending should be fired."^[30]

Donald Trump

Hewitt moderated several of the 2016 Republican primary debates, where he clashed with Donald Trump.^{[31][32]} Hewitt said that Trump did not possess "the temperament to be president".^[27] In February 2016, Hewitt wrote that, despite being repeatedly publicly insulted by Trump, he would support him should he become the Republican nominee for president.^[33] In June 2016, after Trump's controversial remarks concerning Judge Gonzalo Curiel, Hewitt publicly called on the RNC to disendorse Trump as nominee. A week later, Hewitt reversed his position in a *Washington Post* op-ed.^[34] Internal emails showed that a Salem Media executive pressured Hewitt to support Trump, and that the Salem Media executive attributed Hewitt's support for Trump in the aforementioned *Washington Post* op-ed shortly after to the pressure.^[35] Hewitt denied being pressured to change his position on Trump.^[35]

On August 3, he publicly floated the idea of replacing Donald with Ivanka Trump on the ticket.^[36] On October 8, he called on Trump to drop out of the race after the Access Hollywood tape emerged.^[37] Hewitt has said he ultimately voted for Trump.^[38]

<i>Hugh Hewitt</i>	
Genre	Political news/opinion program
Presented by	Hugh Hewitt
Country of origin	United States
Original language	English
Production	
Running time	30 minutes
Release	
Original network	<u>MSNBC</u>
Picture format	<u>480i</u> (SDTV) <u>1080i</u> (HDTV)
Original release	June 24, 2017 – June 30, 2018

Hewitt supported Trump's decision to re-shuffle his foreign policy staff in March–April 2018, and place John Bolton and Mike Pompeo in key national security positions.^{[39][27]} He described John Bolton, a nationalist hawk, as "peace-through-strength, 600-ship [navy], Reagan conservative" (as compared to Trump's approach which Hewitt likened to the Great White Fleet).^[39] According to *Politico*, Hewitt emerged "perhaps the most public advocate for Trump's hawkish new national security team at a time when others, even inside his own party, have voiced increasing fears that Trump is surrounding himself with war-minded hawks who may play to the president's worst instincts."^[27]

Amid the Trump-Ukraine scandal, which led to the impeachment of President Trump, Hewitt floated a conspiracy theory that the whistleblower complaint that set off the scandal was by a whistleblower who was trying to divert attention from his own involvement in a "Clintons-Obama-Biden collusion debacle".^{[40][41]} He penned an op-ed about the impeachment inquiry titled, "Impeachment-minded Democrats, welcome to Al Capone's vault. Look familiar?"^{[42][43]} He said that the FBI had tried a "coup" against Trump and that Democrats were trying "another coup".^[42] He described the phone call where Trump requests that the Ukrainian President investigate Joe Biden, a 2020 Democratic presidential candidate, as a "nothingburger."^{[42][43]}

In October 2019, Hewitt defended Trump's decision to remove a small contingent of US military forces from Northern Syria where they served as a buffer between Turkey and Syrian Kurds, leaving Kurds vulnerable to attack by Turkish forces.^[44]

Immigration

In a June 2018 interview with Attorney General Jeff Sessions, Hewitt repeatedly pressed Sessions about the morality of the Trump administration's decision to separate undocumented immigrant children from their parents.^[45] Hewitt said, "I don't think children should be separated from biological parents at any age, but especially if they're infants and toddlers. I think it's traumatic and terribly difficult on the child."^[45]

Media

A recurring theme on Hewitt's show is accusing the mainstream media of liberal bias and lack of transparency.^[46]

Controversy and potential lawsuit

Scott Pruitt

In April 2018, Hewitt defended EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt amid controversy over his expenditures as Administrator and a conflict of interest over renting a condo at discounted prices from a lobbyist representing clients regulated by the EPA.^[47] *Politico* described Hewitt as "one of Pruitt's staunchest defenders".^[48] Hewitt described the numerous ethics scandals facing Pruitt as "nonsense scandals" and argued that Pruitt's critics were "just trying to stop the deregulation effort".^[48] Hewitt argued that the top EPA ethics official had approved Pruitt's rental arrangement and that it therefore did not constitute a gift.^[47] Richard Painter, ethics lawyer in the George W. Bush administration, argued against Hewitt, saying it was a "violation of the gift rules, and no ethics lawyer could cover that up".^[47]

Hewitt has argued that media coverage of Pruitt has been "hyperpartisan".^[49] In an interview with Pruitt, Hewitt said "I know you are not a climate denier"; Pruitt rejects the scientific consensus on climate change.^[49] After Pruitt resigned amid a dozen separate ethics investigations, Hewitt defended Pruitt, saying he "is a good

friend and a very good man, caricatured by left and MSM. I hope he sets to work on a memoir ASAP and deals out a tenth of what he took."^{[50][51]}

The conflict of interest is that Hugh Hewitt's son, James, is a political appointee working under Pruitt.^{[52][49]} In May 2018, it was reported that Pruitt had personally prioritized a polluted Orange County site for immediate and intense clean-up via long-term federal clean-up funding after Hewitt had brokered a December 2017 meeting between Pruitt and a legal firm representing the polluted district.^[48] The EPA did not disclose the meeting; it was revealed after a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit.^[48] Hewitt lived in Orange County for over two decades before relocating to Virginia in 2015; he is employed by the law firm.^[48] After the meeting, Hewitt would frequently defend Pruitt amid a number of ethics scandals.^[48] Fred Hiatt, the editorial page editor at *The Washington Post*, where Hewitt is a contributing columnist, said that he was "disturbed" by the reports of Hewitt's undisclosed ties, and that Hewitt would not write on issues related to the EPA again.^[53] MSNBC gave Hewitt a verbal warning after he failed to disclose the EPA meeting to viewers of his MSNBC show.^[54]

CNN Debate

Hewitt was booed during a CNN debate in 2015 for his controversial questioning of presidential candidate Ben Carson. He asked whether Carson was capable of ordering "ruthless" military strikes that could kill thousands of innocent children.^[55] Following Carson's initial answer to the question, Hewitt asked Carson to confirm whether he was, in fact, "OK with the death of thousands of innocent children and civilians." The audience subsequently booed Hewitt.^{[55][56]}

Books

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- *The Brief Against Obama: The Rise, Fall & Epic Fail of the Hope & Change Presidency* (2012, ISBN 1-4555-1630-9)
- *The War Against the West: Crucial Conversations with the Most Informed Experts About Our Enemies, Our Defenses, Our Strategy and Our Leaders in the Long War Against Islamist Extremism* (2008, ISBN 978-1-60791-069-5)
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- *Painting the Map Red: The Fight to Create a Permanent Republican Majority* (2006, ISBN 0-89526-002-6)
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- *The Embarrassed Believer* (1998, ISBN 0-8499-1419-1)
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External links

- [Official website \(http://www.hughhewitt.com/\)](http://www.hughhewitt.com/)
 - [Hewitt's columns at Townhall.com \(http://townhall.com/columnists/hughhewitt/\)](http://townhall.com/columnists/hughhewitt/)
 - [Appearances \(https://www.c-span.org/person/?hughhewitt\)](https://www.c-span.org/person/?hughhewitt) on [C-SPAN](#)
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Ann Coulter

Ann Hart Coulter (/ˈkoʊltər/; born December 8, 1961 or 1963)^[2] is an American conservative media pundit, best-selling author, syndicated columnist, and lawyer.

She became known as a media pundit in the late 1990s, appearing in print and on cable news as an outspoken critic of the Clinton administration. Her first book concerned the Bill Clinton impeachment, and sprang from her experience writing legal briefs for Paula Jones's attorneys, as well as columns she wrote about the cases.^[3]

Coulter's syndicated column for Universal Press Syndicate appears in newspapers, and is featured on conservative websites. Coulter has also written 13 best-selling books expressing her political views.^[4]

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Paula Jones – Bill Clinton case

2013 CPAC Conference

VDARE

Candidate endorsements

Controversies

Comments on Islam, Arabs, and terrorism

Anti-semitism accusations

Ann Coulter	
 <div>Ann Coulter in 2019</div>	
Born	<div>Ann Hart Coulter</div> December 8, 1961 or December 8, 1963 <div>New York City, U.S.</div>
Education	<div><u>Cornell University</u></div> <div>(BA)</div> <div><u>University of Michigan</u></div> <div>(JD)</div>
Occupation	Author, columnist, political commentator
Political party	<u>Republican</u> ^[1]
Website	<u>anncoulter.com</u> (http://anncoulter.com)
Signature	 <div><i>Ann Coulter</i></div>

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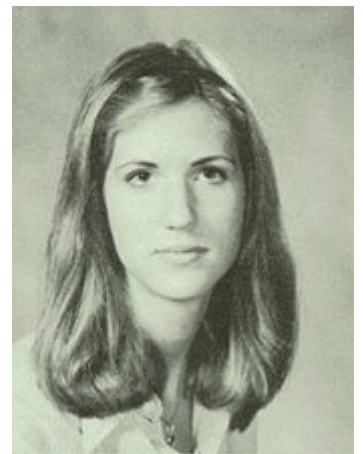
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Early life

Ann Hart Coulter was born on December 8, 1961, in New York City, to John Vincent Coulter (1926–2008), an FBI agent from a working class Catholic Irish American and German American family^[5] in Albany, New York, and Nell Husbands Coulter (née Martin; 1928–2009), who was born in Paducah, Kentucky.

Coulter's mother's ancestry has been traced back on both sides of her family to a group of Puritan settlers in Plymouth Colony, British America arriving on the *Griffin* with Thomas Hooker in 1633,^[6] and her father's family were Catholic Irish and German immigrants who arrived in America in the 19th century. Her father's Irish ancestors emigrated during the famine^[5]—and became ship laborers, tilemakers, brickmakers, carpenters and flagmen. Coulter's father attended college on the GI Bill, and would later idolize Joseph McCarthy.^[7]



Coulter as a senior in high school, 1980

She has two older brothers: James, an accountant,^[8] and John, an attorney.^[9] Her family later moved to New Canaan, Connecticut, where Coulter and her two older brothers, James and John, were raised.^[10] Coulter graduated from New Canaan High School in 1980.^[11]

While attending Cornell University, Coulter helped found *The Cornell Review*,^[12] and was a member of the Delta Gamma national sorority.^[13] She graduated *cum laude* from Cornell in 1984 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in history and received her Juris Doctor from the University of Michigan Law School in 1988, where she was an editor of the *Michigan Law Review*.^[14] At Michigan, Coulter was president of the local chapter of the Federalist Society and was trained at the National Journalism Center.^[15]

Coulter's age was disputed in 2002. While she argued that she was not yet 40, *The Washington Post* columnist Lloyd Grove cited a birthdate of December 8, 1961, which Coulter provided when registering to vote in New Canaan, Connecticut, prior to the 1980 Presidential election, for which she had to be 18 years old to register. A driver's license issued several years later purportedly listed her birthdate as December 8, 1963. Coulter will not confirm either date, citing privacy concerns.^[16]

Career

After law school, Coulter served as a law clerk, in Kansas City, for Pasco Bowman II of the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit.^[17] After a short time working in New York City in private practice, where she specialized in corporate law, Coulter left to work for the United States Senate Judiciary Committee

after the Republican Party took control of Congress in 1994. She handled crime and immigration issues for Senator Spencer Abraham of Michigan and helped craft legislation designed to expedite the deportation of aliens convicted of felonies.^[18] She later became a litigator with the Center for Individual Rights.^[19]

Coulter has written 12 books, and also publishes a syndicated newspaper column. She is particularly known for her polemical style,^[20] and describes herself as someone who likes to "stir up the pot. I don't pretend to be impartial or balanced, as broadcasters do".^[21] She idolized Clare Boothe Luce for her satirical style.^[22] She also makes numerous public appearances, speaking on television and radio talk shows, as well as on college campuses, receiving both praise and protest. Coulter typically spends 6–12 weeks of the year on speaking engagement tours, and more when she has a book coming out.^[23] In 2010, she made an estimated \$500,000 on the speaking circuit, giving speeches on topics of modern conservatism, gay marriage, and what she describes as the hypocrisy of modern American liberalism.^[24] During one appearance at the University of Arizona, a pie was thrown at her.^{[25][26][27]} Coulter has, on occasion, in defense of her ideas, responded with inflammatory remarks toward hecklers and protestors who attend her speeches.^{[28][29]}

Books



Ann Coulter at the 2004 Republican National Convention

Coulter is the author of twelve books, including many that have appeared on The New York Times Best Seller list, with a combined 3 million copies sold as of May 2009.^[30]

Coulter's first book, *High Crimes and Misdemeanors: The Case Against Bill Clinton*, was published by Regnery Publishing in 1998 and made The New York Times Bestseller list.^[3] It details Coulter's case for the impeachment of President Bill Clinton.

Her second book, *Slander: Liberal Lies About the American Right*, published by Crown Forum in 2002, reached the number one spot on The New York Times non-fiction best seller list.^[31] In *Slander*, Coulter argues that President George W. Bush was given unfair negative media coverage. The factual accuracy of *Slander* was called into question by then-comedian and author, later Democratic U.S. Senator from Minnesota, Al Franken; he also accused her of citing passages out of context.^[32] Others investigated these charges, and also raised questions about the book's accuracy and presentation of facts.^{[33][34]} Coulter responded to criticisms in a column called "Answering

My Critics".^[35]

In her third book, *Treason: Liberal Treachery from the Cold War to the War on Terrorism*, also published by Crown Forum, she reexamines the 60-year history of the Cold War—including the career of Senator Joseph McCarthy, the Whittaker Chambers-Alger Hiss affair, and Ronald Reagan's challenge to Mikhail Gorbachev to "tear down this wall"—and argues that liberals were wrong in their Cold War political analyses and policy decisions, and that McCarthy was correct about Soviet agents working for the U.S. government.^[36] She also argues that the correct identification of Annie Lee Moss, among others, as communists was misreported by the liberal media.^[37] *Treason* was published in 2003, and spent 13 weeks on the Best Seller list.^[38]

Crown Forum published a collection of Coulter's columns in 2004 as her fourth book, *How to Talk to a Liberal (If You Must): The World According to Ann Coulter*.^[39]

Coulter's fifth book, published by Crown Forum in 2006, is *Godless: The Church of Liberalism*.^[40] In it, she argues, first, that American liberalism rejects the idea of God and reviles people of faith, and second, that it bears all the attributes of a religion itself.^[41] *Godless* debuted at number one on the New York Times Best

Seller list.^[42] Some passages in the book match portions of others' writings published at an earlier time (including newspaper articles and a Planned Parenthood document), leading John Barrie of iThenticate to assert that Coulter had engaged in "textbook plagiarism".^[43]

Coulter's *If Democrats Had Any Brains, They'd Be Republicans* (Crown Forum), published in October 2007, and *Guilty: Liberal "Victims" and Their Assault on America* (Crown Forum), published on January 6, 2009, both also achieved best-seller status.^[44]

On June 7, 2011, Crown Forum published her eighth book *Demonic: How the Liberal Mob Is Endangering America*.

Her ninth book, published September 25, 2012, was *Mugged: Racial Demagoguery from the Seventies to Obama*. It argues that liberals, and Democrats in particular, have taken undue credit for racial civil rights in America.^[45]

Coulter's tenth book, *Never Trust a Liberal Over 3 – Especially a Republican*, was released October 14, 2013. It is her second collection of columns and her first published by Regnery since her first book, *High Crimes and Misdemeanors*.^[46] Coulter published her eleventh book, *Adios, America: The Left's Plan to Turn Our Country Into a Third World Hellhole* on June 1, 2015. The book addresses illegal immigration, amnesty programs, and border security in the United States.^[47]

Columns

In the late 1990s, Coulter's weekly (biweekly from 1999–2000) syndicated column for Universal Press Syndicate began appearing. Her column is featured on six conservative websites: Human Events Online, WorldNetDaily, Townhall.com, VDARE, FrontPage Magazine, Jewish World Review and her own website. Her syndicator says, "Ann's client newspapers stick with her because she has a loyal fan base of conservative readers who look forward to reading her columns in their local newspapers".^[48]

In 1999, Coulter worked as a columnist for George magazine.^{[49][50]} Coulter also wrote weekly columns for the conservative magazine Human Events between 1998 and 2003, with occasional columns thereafter. In her columns, she discussed judicial rulings, constitutional issues, and legal matters affecting Congress and the executive branch.^[51]

In 2001, as a contributing editor and syndicated columnist for National Review Online (NRO), Coulter was asked by editors to make changes to a piece written after the September 11 attacks. On the show Politically Incorrect, Coulter accused NRO of censorship and said she was paid \$5 per article. NRO dropped her column and terminated her editorship. Editor-at-large of NRO, Jonah Goldberg said: "We did not 'fire' Ann for what she wrote... we ended the relationship because she behaved with a total lack of professionalism, friendship, and loyalty [concerning the editing disagreement]."^[52]

In August 2005, the Arizona Daily Star dropped Coulter's syndicated column, citing reader complaints: "Many readers find her shrill, bombastic, and mean-spirited. And those are the words used by readers who identified themselves as conservatives".^[53]

In July 2006, some newspapers replaced Coulter's column with those of other conservative columnists following the publication of her fourth book, Godless: The Church of Liberalism.^[54] After The Augusta Chronicle dropped her column, newspaper editor Michael Ryan said: "it came to the point where she was the issue rather than what she was writing about."^[55] Ryan added that he continued himself "to be an Ann Coulter fan" as "her logic is devastating and her viewpoint is right most of the time."^[55]

Television and radio

Coulter made her first national media appearance in 1996 after she was hired by the then-fledgling network MSNBC as a legal correspondent. She later appeared on CNN and Fox News.^[56] Coulter went on to make frequent guest appearances on many television and radio talk shows.

Films

Coulter appeared in three films released during 2004. The first was *Feeding the Beast*, a made-for-television documentary on the "24-Hour News Revolution".^[57] The other two films were *FahrenHYPE 9/11*, a direct-to-video documentary rebuttal of Michael Moore's *Fahrenheit 911*, and *Is It True What They Say About Ann?*, a documentary on Coulter containing clips of interviews and speeches.^[58] In 2015, Coulter had a cameo as the Vice President in the made-for-TV movie *Sharknado 3: Oh Hell No!*



Ann Coulter at the 2012 Time 100

Views

Coulter is a Christian and belongs to the Presbyterian denomination.^[59] She is a conservative columnist and has described herself as a "typical, immodest-dressing, swarthy male-loving, friend-to-homosexuals, ultra-conservative."^[60] She is a registered Republican and former member of the advisory council of GOProud since August 9, 2011.^[61]

She supports the display of the Confederate flag.^[62] She came to the defense of Milo Yiannopoulos, of whom she is a friend, for his comments defending pederasty.^[63]

Abortion

Coulter believes Roe v. Wade should be overturned and left to the states. She is anti-abortion, but believes there should be an exception if a woman is raped.^[64] However, in 2015, she prioritized the issue of immigration, stating: "I don't care if [Trump] wants to perform abortions in the White House after this immigration policy paper".^[65]

Christianity

Coulter was raised by a Catholic father and Protestant mother. At one public lecture she said: "I don't care about anything else; Christ died for my sins, and nothing else matters."^[66] She summarized her view of Christianity in a 2004 column, saying, "Jesus' distinctive message was: People are sinful and need to be redeemed, and this is your lucky day, because I'm here to redeem you even though you don't deserve it, and I have to get the crap kicked out of me to do it." She then mocked "the message of Jesus... according to liberals", summarizing it as "something along the lines of 'be nice to people'", which, in turn, she said "is, in fact, one of the incidental tenets of Christianity."^[67]

Confronting some critics' views that her content and style of writing is unchristian,^[68] Coulter said that she is "a Christian first and a mean-spirited, bigoted conservative second, and don't you ever forget it."^[69] She also said: "Christianity fuels everything I write. Being a Christian means that I am called upon to do battle against lies, injustice, cruelty, hypocrisy—you know, all the virtues in the church of liberalism".^[70] In *Godless: The Church of Liberalism*, Coulter characterized the theory of evolution as bogus science, and contrasted her

beliefs to what she called the left's "obsession with Darwinism and the Darwinian view of the world, which replaces sanctification of life with sanctification of sex and death".^[71] Coulter subscribes to intelligent design, a pseudoscientific antievolution ideology.^[72]

Civil liberties

Coulter endorsed the period of NSA warrantless surveillance from 2001 to 2007.^[73] During a 2011 appearance on Stossel, she said "Patriot Act, fantastic, Gitmo, fantastic, waterboarding, not bad, though torture would've been better."^[74] She criticized Rand Paul for "this anti-drone stuff".^[75]

Hate crimes

Coulter opposes hate crime laws, calling them "unconstitutional". She also stated that "Hate-crime provisions seem vaguely directed at capturing a sense of cold-bloodedness, but the law can do that without elevating some victims over others."^[76]

Immigration

Coulter has criticized former president George W. Bush's immigration proposals, saying they led to "amnesty". In a 2007 column, she claimed that the current immigration system was set up to deliberately reduce the percentage of whites in the population. In it, she said:^[77]

In 1960, whites were 90 percent of the country. The Census Bureau recently estimated that whites already account for less than two-thirds of the population and will be a minority by 2050. Other estimates put that day much sooner. One may assume the new majority will not be such compassionate overlords as the white majority has been. If this sort of drastic change were legally imposed on any group other than white Americans, it would be called genocide. Yet whites are called racists merely for mentioning the fact that current immigration law is intentionally designed to reduce their percentage in the population.

Coulter strongly opposes the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965.^[78] Regarding illegal immigration, she strongly opposed amnesty for undocumented immigrants, and at the 2013 CPAC said she has now become "a single-issue voter against amnesty".^[79]

In June 2018, during the controversy caused by the Trump administration family separation policy, Coulter dismissed immigrant children as "child actors weeping and crying" and urged Trump not to "fall for it".^[80]

LGBT rights

Coulter opposes same-sex marriage, opposes Obergefell v. Hodges, and supports, after previously saying she did not, a federal U.S. constitutional amendment defining marriage as a union of one man and one woman.^{[81][82][83]} She insists that her opposition to same-sex marriage "wasn't an anti-gay thing" and that "It's genuinely a pro-marriage position to oppose gay marriage".^[84] Coulter argues that same-sex marriage would "ruin gay culture", because "gays value promiscuous sex over monogamy".^[85] In an April 1, 2015, column, Coulter declared that liberals had "won the war on gay marriage (by judicial fiat)".^[86]

Coulter also opposes civil unions^[87] and privatizing marriage.^[88] When addressed with the issue of rights granted by marriage, she said, "Gays already can visit loved ones in hospitals. They can also visit neighbors, random acquaintances, and total strangers in hospitals—just like everyone else. Gays can also pass on property to whomever they would like".^[89] She also stated that same-sex sexual intercourse was already protected under the Fourth Amendment, which prevents police from going into your home without a search warrant or court order.^[90]

In regard to *Romer v. Evans*, in which the United Supreme Court overturned Article II, Section 30b of the Colorado Constitution, which prohibited the "State of Colorado, through any of its branches or departments, nor any of its agencies, political subdivisions, municipalities or school districts, shall enact, adopt or enforce any statute, regulation, ordinance or policy whereby homosexual, lesbian or bisexual orientation, conduct, practices or relationships shall constitute or otherwise be the basis of or entitle any person or class of persons to have or claim any minority status, quota preferences, protected status or claim of discrimination.", Coulter described the ruling as "they couldn't refuse to give affirmative action benefits to people who have sodomy".^{[91][92]} She also disagreed with repealing Don't Ask Don't Tell, stating that it is not an "anti-gay position; it is a pro-military position" because "sexual bonds are disruptive to the military bond".^[93] She also stated that there is "no proof that all the discharges for homosexuality involve actual homosexuals."^[94] On April 1, 2015, in a column, she expressed support for Indiana's Religious Freedom Restoration Act and said it was an "apocryphal" assertion to claim the Religious Freedom Restoration Act would be used to discriminate against LGBT people.^[86] She expressed her support for the *Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission* ruling.^[95]

Coulter has expressed her opposition to treatment of LGBT people in the countries of Cuba, People's Republic of China, and Saudi Arabia.^{[96][97]} Coulter opposes publicly funded sex reassignment surgery.^[98] She supports the Public Facilities Privacy & Security Act and opposes transgender individuals using bathrooms corresponding to their gender identity.^{[99][100]} She says her opposition to bathroom usage corresponding to gender identity has nothing to do with transgender people, but cisgendered "child molesters" who "now has the right to go into that bathroom."^[101] She supports banning transgender military service personnel from the United States military.^{[100][98]}

Since the 1990s, Coulter has had many acquaintances in the LGBT community. She considers herself "the Judy Garland of the Right", reflecting Garland's large fan base from the gay community. In the last few years, she has attracted LGBT fans, namely gay men and drag queens.^{[85][102]}

At the 2007 CPAC, Coulter said, "I do want to point out one thing that has been driving me crazy with the media—how they keep describing Mitt Romney's position as being pro-gays, and that's going to upset the right wingers", and "Well, you know, screw you! I'm not anti-gay. We're against gay marriage. I don't want gays to be discriminated against." She added, "I don't know why all gays aren't Republican. I think we have the pro-gay positions, which is anti-crime and for tax cuts. Gays make a lot of money and they're victims of crime. No, they are! They should be with us."^[103]

In Coulter's 2007 book *If Democrats Had Any Brains, They'd Be Republicans*, in the chapter "Gays: No Gay Left Behind!", she argued that Republican policies were more pro-gay than Democratic policies. Coulter attended the 2010 HomoCon of GOProud, where she gave a speech about why gays should oppose same-sex marriage.^[104] On February 9, 2011, in a column, she described the national Log Cabin Republicans as "ridiculous" and "not conservative at all". She did, however, describe the Texas branch of Log Cabin Republicans, for whom she has been signing books for years, as "comprised of real conservatives".^[105]

At the 2011 CPAC, during her question-and-answer segment, Coulter was asked about GOProud and the controversy over their inclusion at the 2011 CPAC. She boasted how she talked GOProud into dropping its support for same-sex marriage in the party's platform, saying, "The left is trying to co-opt gays, and I don't think we should let them. I think they should be on our side", and "Gays are natural conservatives".^[106] Later

that year, she joined advisory board for GOProud. On Logos The A-List: Dallas she told gay Republican Taylor Garrett that "The gays have got to be pro-life", and "As soon as they find the gay gene, guess who the liberal yuppies are gonna start aborting?"^[107]

War on Drugs

Coulter strongly supports continuing the War on Drugs.^[108] However, she has said that, if there were not a welfare state, she "wouldn't care" if drugs were legal.^[109] She spoke about drugs as a guest on Piers Morgan Live, when she said that marijuana users "can't perform daily functions".^[110]

White genocide

Coulter is an advocate of the white genocide conspiracy theory.^{[111][112][113]} She has compared non-white immigration into the United States with genocide,^[114] and claiming that "a genocide" is occurring against South African farmers,^[115] she has said that the Boers are the "only real refugees" in South Africa.^{[116][117]} Regarding domestic politics, Vox labelled Coulter as one of many providing a voice for "the 'white genocide' myth",^[118] and the SPLC covered Coulter's remarks that if the demographic changes occurring in the U.S. were being "legally imposed on any group other than white Americans, it would be called genocide".^{[119][77]}

Bernie Sanders

In April 2019, Coulter said of Senator Bernie Sanders she would vote and perhaps even work for him in the 2020 U.S. presidential election if he stuck to his "original position" on U.S. border policy. "If he went back to his original position, which is the pro blue-collar position—I mean, it totally makes sense with him," and "If he went back to that position, I'd vote for him, I might work for him. I don't care about the rest of the socialist stuff. Just, can we do something for ordinary Americans?"^{[120][121]}

Political activities and commentary

Ann Coulter has described herself as a "polemicist" who likes to "stir up the pot" and does not "pretend to be impartial or balanced, as broadcasters do".^[122] While her political activities in the past have included advising a plaintiff suing President Bill Clinton as well as considering a run for Congress, she mostly serves as a political pundit, sometimes creating controversy ranging from rowdy uprisings at some of the colleges where she speaks to protracted discussions in the media.

Time magazine's John Cloud once observed that Coulter "likes to shock reporters by wondering aloud whether America might be better off if women lost the right to vote".^[56] This was in reference to her statement that "it would be a much better country if women did not vote. That is simply a fact. In fact, in every presidential election since 1950—except Goldwater in '64—the Republican would have won, if only the men had voted."^[123] Similarly, in an October 2007 interview with The New York Observer, Coulter said:^[124]

If we took away women's right to vote, we'd never have to worry about another Democrat president. It's kind of a pipe dream, it's a personal fantasy of mine, but I don't think it's going to happen. And it is a good way of making the point that women are voting so stupidly, at least single women. It also makes the point, it is kind of embarrassing, the Democratic Party ought to be hanging its head in shame, that it has so much difficulty getting men to vote for it. I mean, you do see it's the party of women and 'We'll pay for health care and tuition and day care—and here, what else can we give you, soccer moms?'

In addition to questioning whether women's right to vote is a good thing, Coulter has also appeared on Fox News and advocated for a poll tax and a literacy test for voters (this was in 1999, and she reiterated her support of a literacy test in 2015).^[125] This is not a viewpoint widely shared by members of the Republican Party.

Paula Jones – Bill Clinton case

Coulter first became a public figure shortly before becoming an unpaid legal adviser for the attorneys representing Paula Jones in her sexual harassment suit against President Bill Clinton. Coulter's friend George Conway had been asked to assist Jones' attorneys, and shortly afterward Coulter, who wrote a column about the Paula Jones case for Human Events, was also asked to help, and she began writing legal briefs for the case.

Coulter later stated that she would come to mistrust the motives of Jones' head lawyer, Joseph Cammaratta, who by August or September 1997 was advising Jones that her case was weak and to settle, if a favorable settlement could be negotiated.^{[18][126]} From the outset, Jones had sought an apology from Clinton at least as eagerly as she sought a settlement.^[127] However, in a later interview Coulter recounted that she herself had believed that the case was strong, that Jones was telling the truth, that Clinton should be held publicly accountable for his misconduct, and that a settlement would give the impression that Jones was merely interested in extorting money from the President.^[18]

David Daley, who wrote the interview piece for The Hartford Courant recounted what followed:

Coulter played one particularly key role in keeping the Jones case alive. In *Newsweek* reporter Michael Isikoff's new book *Uncovering Clinton: A Reporter's Story*, Coulter is unmasked as the one who leaked word of Clinton's "distinguishing characteristic"—his reportedly bent penis that Jones said she could recognize and describe—to the news media. Her hope was to foster mistrust between the Clinton and Jones camps and forestall a settlement ... I thought if I leaked the distinguishing characteristic it would show bad faith in negotiations. [Clinton lawyer] Bob Bennett would think Jones had leaked it. Cammaratta would know he himself hadn't leaked it and would get mad at Bennett. It might stall negotiations enough for me to get through to [Jones adviser] Susan Carpenter-McMillan to tell her that I thought settling would hurt Paula, that this would ruin her reputation, and that there were other lawyers working for her. Then 36 hours later, she returned my phone call. I just wanted to help Paula. I really think Paula Jones is a hero. I don't think I could have taken the abuse she came under. She's this poor little country girl and she has the most powerful man she's ever met hitting on her sexually, then denying it and smearing her as president. And she never did anything tacky. It's not like she was going on TV or trying to make a buck out of it."^[18]

In his book, Isikoff also reported Coulter as saying: "We were terrified that Jones would settle. It was contrary to our purpose of bringing down the President."^[126] After the book came out, Coulter clarified her stated motives, saying:

The only motive for leaking the distinguishing characteristic item that [Isikoff] gives in his book is my self-parodying remark that "it would humiliate the president" and that a settlement would foil our efforts to bring down the president ... I suppose you could take the position, as [Isikoff] does, that we were working for Jones because we thought Clinton was a lecherous, lying scumbag, but this argument gets a bit circular. You could also say that Juanita Broadrick's secret motive in accusing Clinton of rape is that she hates Clinton because he raped her. The whole reason we

didn't much like Clinton was that we could see he was the sort of man who would haul a low-level government employee like Paula to his hotel room, drop his pants, and say, "Kiss it." You know: Everything his defense said about him at the impeachment trial. It's not like we secretly disliked Clinton because of his administration's position on California's citrus cartels or something, and then set to work on some crazy scheme to destroy him using a pathological intern as our Mata Hari.^[128]

The case went to court after Jones broke with Coulter and her original legal team, and it was dismissed via summary judgment. The judge ruled that even if her allegations proved true, Jones did not show that she had suffered any damages, stating, "... plaintiff has not demonstrated any tangible job detriment or adverse employment action for her refusal to submit to the governor's alleged advances. The president is therefore entitled to summary judgment on plaintiff's claim of quid pro quo sexual harassment." The ruling was appealed by Jones' lawyers. During the pendency of the appeal, Clinton settled with Jones for \$850,000 (\$151,000 after legal fees) in November 1998, in exchange for Jones' dismissal of the appeal. By then, the Jones lawsuit had given way to the Monica Lewinsky sex scandal.

In October 2000, Jones revealed that she would pose for nude pictures in an adult magazine, saying she wanted to use the money to pay taxes and support her grade-school-aged children, in particular saying, "I'm wanting to put them through college and maybe set up a college fund."^[129] Coulter publicly denounced Jones, calling her "the trailer-park trash they said she was" (Coulter had earlier chastened Clinton supporters for calling Jones this name),^[130] after Clinton's former campaign strategist James Carville had made the widely reported remark, "Drag a \$100 bill through a trailer park, and you'll never know what you'll find", and called Jones a "fraud, at least to the extent of pretending to be an honorable and moral person".^[129]

Coulter wrote:

Paula surely was given more than a million dollars in free legal assistance from an array of legal talent she will never again encounter in her life, much less have busily working on her behalf. Some of those lawyers never asked for or received a dime for hundreds of thousands of dollars in legal work performed at great professional, financial and personal cost to themselves. Others got partial payments out of the settlement. But at least they got her reputation back. And now she's thrown it away.^[131]

Jones claimed not to have been offered any help with a book deal of her own or any other additional financial help after the lawsuit.^[129]

2013 CPAC Conference

In March 2013, Coulter was one of the keynote speakers at the Conservative Political Action Conference, where she made references to New Jersey Governor Chris Christie's weight ("CPAC had to cut back on its speakers this year about 300 pounds") and progressive activist Sandra Fluke's hairdo. (Coulter quipped that Fluke didn't need birth control pills because "that haircut is birth control enough".) Coulter advocated against a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants because such new citizens would never vote for Republican candidates: "If amnesty goes through, America becomes California and no Republican will ever win another election."^{[132][133]}

VDARE

Since 2006, Coulter has been a contributor to VDARE, a right wing website and blog founded by anti-immigration activist and paleo-conservative Peter Brimelow. VDARE is considered controversial because of its alleged white supremacist rhetoric and support of scientific racism and white nationalism.^[134]

Candidate endorsements

Coulter initially supported George W. Bush's presidency, but later criticized its approach to immigration. She endorsed Duncan Hunter^[135] and later Mitt Romney in the 2008 Republican presidential primaries^[136] and the 2012 Republican presidential primary and presidential run.^[137] In the 2016 Republican Party presidential primaries, she endorsed Donald Trump.^[138] Coulter later distanced herself from Trump following arguments over immigration policies; she called for his impeachment on September 2017, saying "Put a fork in Trump, he's dead".^[139] She described herself in 2018 as a "former Trumper";^[140] in a 2020 speech to a Turning Point USA event, she said, "The Trump agenda without Trump would be a lot easier. Our new motto should be 'Going on with Trumpism without Trump.' That's a winning strategy."^[141] Coulter blamed Trump's son-in-law and advisor Jared Kushner for Trump's 2020 election loss, and said that Trump had failed to deliver for the white working class.^[142]

Other candidates Coulter has endorsed include Greg Brannon (2014 Republican primary candidate for North Carolina Senator),^[143] Paul Nehlen (2016 Republican primary candidate for Wisconsin's 1st congressional district in the United States House of Representatives),^[144] Mo Brooks (2017 Republican primary candidate for Alabama Senator), and Roy Moore (2017 Republican candidate for Alabama Senator).^[145]

Controversies

Comments on Islam, Arabs, and terrorism

On September 14, 2001, three days after the September 11 attacks (in which her friend Barbara Olson had been killed), Coulter wrote in her column:

Airports scrupulously apply the same laughably ineffective airport harassment to Suzy Chapstick as to Muslim hijackers. It is preposterous to assume every passenger is a potential crazed homicidal maniac. We know who the homicidal maniacs are. They are the ones cheering and dancing right now. We should invade *their* countries, kill their leaders and convert them to Christianity. We weren't punctilious about locating and punishing only Hitler and his top officers. We carpet-bombed German cities; we killed civilians. That's war. And this is war.^[146]

This comment resulted in Coulter's being fired as a columnist by the *National Review*, which she subsequently referred to as "squeamish girly-boys".^[147] Responding to this comment, Ibrahim Hooper of the Council on American-Islamic Relations remarked in the *Chicago Sun-Times* that before September 11, Coulter "would have faced swift repudiation from her colleagues", but "now it's accepted as legitimate commentary".^[148]

One day after the attacks (when death toll estimates were higher than later), Coulter asserted that only Muslims could have been behind the attacks:

Not all Muslims may be terrorists, but all terrorists are Muslims—at least all terrorists capable of assembling a murderous plot against America that leaves 7,000 people dead in under two hours.^[149]

Coulter was highly critical in 2002 of the U.S. Department of Transportation and especially its then-secretary Norman Mineta. Her many criticisms include their refusal to use racial profiling as a component of airport screening.^[150] After a group of Muslims was expelled from a US Airways flight when other passengers expressed concern, sparking a call for Muslims to boycott the airline because of the ejection from a flight of six imams, Coulter wrote:

If only we could get Muslims to boycott all airlines, we could dispense with airport security altogether.^[151]

Coulter also cited the 2002 Senate testimony of FBI whistleblower Coleen Rowley, who was acclaimed for condemning her superiors for refusing to authorize a search warrant for 9-11 conspirator Zacarias Moussaoui when he refused to consent to a search of his computer. They knew that he was a Muslim in flight school who had overstayed his visa, and the French Intelligence Service had confirmed his affiliations with radical fundamentalist Islamic groups. Coulter said she agreed that probable cause existed in the case, but that refusing consent, being in flight school and overstaying a visa should not constitute grounds for a search. Citing a poll which found that 98 percent of Muslims between the ages of 20 and 45 said they would not fight for Britain in the war in Afghanistan, and that 48 percent said they would fight for Osama bin Laden she asserted "any Muslim who has attended a mosque in Europe—certainly in England, where Moussaoui lived—has had 'affiliations with radical fundamentalist Islamic groups,'" so that she parsed Rowley's position as meaning that "'probable cause' existed to search Moussaoui's computer because he was a Muslim who had lived in England". Coulter says the poll was "by The Daily Telegraph", actually it was by Sunrise, an "Asian" (therefore an Indian subcontinent-oriented) radio station, canvassing the opinions of 500 Muslims in Greater London (not Britain as a whole), mainly of Pakistani origin and aged between 20 and 45. Because "FBI headquarters ... refused to engage in racial profiling", they failed to uncover the 9-11 plot, Coulter asserted. "The FBI allowed thousands of Americans to be slaughtered on the altar of political correctness. What more do liberals want?"^[152]

Coulter wrote in another column that she had reviewed the civil rights lawsuits against certain airlines to determine which of them had subjected Arabs to the most "egregious discrimination" so that she could fly only that airline. She also said that the airline should be bragging instead of denying any of the charges of discrimination brought against them.^[153] In an interview with The Guardian she said, "I think airlines ought to start advertising: 'We have the most civil rights lawsuits brought against us by Arabs.'" When the interviewer, Jonathan Freedland, replied by asking what Muslims would do for travel, she responded, "They could use flying carpets."^[123]

In the wake of the Boston Marathon bombing, Coulter told Hannity host Sean Hannity that the wife of bombing suspect Tamerlan Tsarnaev should be jailed for wearing a hijab. Coulter continued by saying "Assimilating immigrants into our culture isn't really working. They're assimilating us into their culture." (Tsarnaev's wife was American-born.)^[154]

Anti-semitism accusations

Coulter was accused of anti-semitism in an October 8, 2007, interview with Donny Deutsch on The Big Idea. During the interview, Coulter stated that the United States is a Christian nation, and said that she wants "Jews to be perfected, as they say" (referring to them being converted to Christianity).^[155] Deutsch, a practicing Jew, implied that this was an anti-semitic remark, but Coulter said she didn't consider it to be a hateful comment.^{[156][157]} Coulter's comments on the show were condemned by the Anti-Defamation League, American Jewish Committee and Bradley Burston,^[158] and the National Jewish Democratic Council asked media outlets to cease inviting Coulter as a guest commentator.^[159] Talk show host Dennis Prager, while disagreeing with her comments, said that they were not "anti-semitic", noting, "There is nothing in what Ann

Coulter said to a Jewish interviewer on CNBC that indicates she hates Jews or wishes them ill, or does damage to the Jewish people or the Jewish state. And if none of those criteria is present, how can someone be labeled anti-Semitic?"^{[160][161][162]} Conservative activist David Horowitz also defended Coulter against the allegation.^[163]

Coulter in September 2015 tweeted in response to multiple Republican candidates' references to Israel during a Presidential debate, "How many f—ing Jews do these people think there are in the United States?"^[164] The Anti-Defamation League referred to the tweets as "ugly, spiteful and anti-Semitic".^[165] In response to accusations of anti-Semitism, she tweeted "I like the Jews, I like fetuses, I like Reagan. Didn't need to hear applause lines about them all night."^[164]

Plagiarism accusations

In October 2001, Coulter was accused of plagiarism in her 1998 book *High Crimes and Misdemeanors* by Michael Chapman, a columnist for the journal *Human Events* who claims that passages were taken from a supplement he wrote for the journal in 1997 titled "A Case for Impeachment".^[147]

On the July 5, 2006, episode of *Countdown with Keith Olbermann* on MSNBC, guest John Barrie, the CEO of iParadigms, offered his professional opinion that Coulter plagiarized in her book *Godless* as well as in her columns over the previous year.^[166] Barrie ran "Godless" through iThenticate, his company's machine which is able to scan works and compare them to existing texts. He found a 25 word section of the text that was "virtually word-for-word" matched a Planned Parenthood pamphlet and a 33 word section almost duplicating a 1999 article from the *Portland Press* as some examples of evidence.^[166] Barrie also said that it was "very, very difficult to try to determine whether Ann Coulter was citing that material or whether she was just trying to pass it off".^[166]

Left wing activist group^[167] Media Matters for America has appealed to Random House publishing to further investigate Coulter's work.^[168] The syndicator of her columns cleared her of the plagiarism charges.^[169] Universal Press Syndicate and Crown Books also defended Coulter against the charges.^[170] Columnist Bill Nemitz from the *Portland Press Herald* accused Coulter of plagiarizing a very specific sentence from his newspaper in her book *Godless*, but he also acknowledged that one sentence is insufficient grounds for filing suit.^[171]

Public perception

Coulter rejects "the academic convention of euphemism and circumlocution",^[172] and is claimed to play to misogyny in order to further her goals; she "dominates without threatening (at least not straight men)".^[173] Feminist critics also reject Coulter's opinion that the gains made by women have gone so far as to create an anti-male society^[174] and her call for women to be rejected from the military because they are more vicious than men.^[175] Like the late anti-feminist Phyllis Schlafly, Coulter uses traditionally masculine rhetoric as reasoning for the need for traditional gender roles, and she carries this idea of feminized dependency into her governmental policies, according to feminist critics.^[176]

Personal life

Coulter has been engaged several times, but she has never married and has no children.^[28] She has dated *Spin* founder and publisher Bob Guccione Jr.^[49] and conservative writer Dinesh D'Souza.^[177] In October 2007, she began dating Andrew Stein, the former president of the New York City Council, a liberal Democrat. When asked about the relationship, Stein told the *New York Post*, "She's attacked a lot of my friends, but what can I

say, opposites attract!"^[178] On January 7, 2008, however, Stein told the *New York Post* that the relationship was over, citing irreconcilable differences.^[179] Kellyanne Conway, who refers to Coulter as a friend, told *New York* magazine in 2017 that Coulter "started dating her security guard probably ten years ago because she couldn't see anybody else".^[180]

Coulter owns a house, bought in 2005, in Palm Beach, Florida, a condominium in Manhattan, and an apartment in Los Angeles. She votes in Palm Beach and is not registered to do so in New York or California.^[181]

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- [Ann Coulter \(https://www.imdb.com/name/nm1326010/\)](https://www.imdb.com/name/nm1326010/) at IMDb
- [Appearances \(https://www.c-span.org/person/?anncoulter\)](https://www.c-span.org/person/?anncoulter) on C-SPAN
 - *In Depth* interview with Coulter, August 7, 2011 (<https://www.c-span.org/video/?300573-1/depth-ann-coulter>)

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- [Ann Coulter column archive \(http://findarticles.com/p/search?qt=%22ann+coulter%22&qf=qa3827&tag=content;col1\)](http://findarticles.com/p/search?qt=%22ann+coulter%22&qf=qa3827&tag=content;col1) for *Human Events* articles at BNet Find Articles with advanced search (1998–2007)
- [Ann Coulter column archive \(http://www.humanevents.com\)](http://www.humanevents.com) at *Human Events* (2002–present) (use search feature)

- [Ann Coulter column archive \(https://web.archive.org/web/20051103020613/http://www.nationalreview.com/coulter/coulter-archive.shtml\)](https://web.archive.org/web/20051103020613/http://www.nationalreview.com/coulter/coulter-archive.shtml) at *National Review* (2000–2001)
 - [Ann Coulter column archive \(http://www.uexpress.com/anncoulter/index.html\)](http://www.uexpress.com/anncoulter/index.html) at uExpress.com (1999–present) [select headline archive]
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Laura Ingraham

Laura Anne Ingraham (born June 19, 1963^{[1][2]}) is an American conservative television host.^[3] Ingraham formerly hosted the nationally syndicated radio show *The Laura Ingraham Show* for nearly two decades, is the editor-in-chief of LifeZette, and beginning in October 2017, has been the host of *The Ingraham Angle* on Fox News Channel.^[4]

Ingraham worked as a speechwriter in the Reagan administration in the late 1980s. Afterwards, she earned a J.D. degree and then went on to work as a judicial clerk in the Second Circuit Court of Appeals in New York and then for United States Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas. She also worked for the law firm Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom in New York City. Ingraham began her media career in the mid-1990s.

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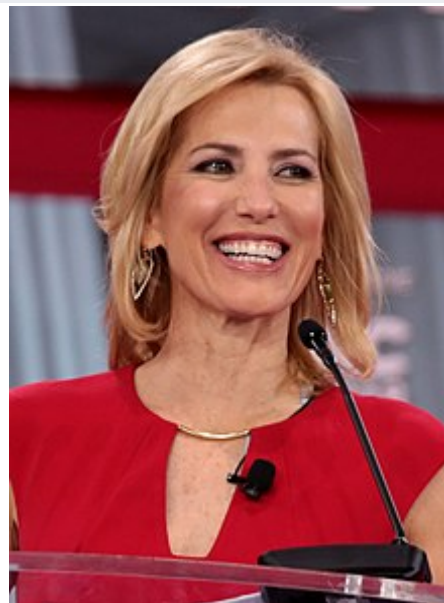
Works

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Laura Ingraham



Ingraham in 2018

Born	<div>Laura Anne Ingraham</div> June 19, 1963 <div> Glastonbury, Connecticut, U.S.</div>
Education	<div> Dartmouth College (BA)</div> <div> University of Virginia (JD)</div>
Political party	 Republican
Children	3
Website	 Official website (http://lauraingraham.com)

Early life and education

Ingraham grew up in Glastonbury, Connecticut, where she was born to Anne Caroline (née Kozak) and James Frederick Ingraham III.^[5] Her maternal grandparents were Polish immigrants, and her father was of Irish and English ancestry.^[6] She graduated from Glastonbury High School in 1981.

In 1985, Ingraham earned a B.A. from Dartmouth College. In 1991, Ingraham earned a Juris Doctor from the University of Virginia School of Law.^[7]

Career

In the late 1980s, Ingraham worked as a speechwriter in the Reagan administration for the Domestic Policy Advisor.^[9] She also briefly served as editor of *The Prospect*, the magazine issued by Concerned Alumni of Princeton. After law school, in 1991, she served as a law clerk for Judge Ralph K. Winter Jr., of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, in New York and subsequently clerked for U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas. She then worked as an attorney at the New York-based law firm Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom.^[10] In 1995, she appeared on the cover of *The New York Times Magazine* in connection with a story about young conservatives.^[11]



Ingraham speaks at the 2016 Republican National Convention^[8]

In 1996, she and Jay P. Lefkowitz organized the first Dark Ages Weekend in response to Renaissance Weekend.^[12]

Television show host

Ingraham has had three stints as a cable television host. She first became a host on MSNBC in 1996.^[13] In the late 1990s, she became a CBS commentator and hosted the MSNBC program *Watch It!*.^[14] Several years later, on her radio program, Ingraham began campaigning for another cable television show. She gained her wish in 2008, when Fox News Channel gave her a three-week trial run for a new show entitled *Just In*.^{[15][16]} In October 2017, she became the host of a new Fox News Channel program, *The Ingraham Angle*.^[17]



Ingraham at a political conference in December 2018

Radio show host

Ingraham launched *The Laura Ingraham Show* in April 2001.^[18] The show was heard on 306 stations and on XM Satellite Radio. It was originally syndicated by Westwood One, but moved to Talk Radio Network in 2004. In 2012, Ingraham was rated as the No. 5 radio show in America by *Talkers Magazine*.^[19] In November 2012, she announced her departure from Talk Radio Network, declining to renew her contract with TRN after nearly a decade of being associated with the network. She was the second major host from TRN's lineup to leave the network that year: TRN's other major program, *The Savage Nation*, left TRN two months earlier. Her new program, syndicated by Courtside Entertainment Group, began airing on January 2, 2013 and went off the air in December 2018.^[20] Ingraham continues to produce podcast material for Courtside's PodcastOne division.^[21]

LifeZette

LifeZette is a conservative American website founded in 2015 by Ingraham and businessman Peter Anthony.^[22] In January 2018, Ingraham confirmed that she had sold the majority stake in LifeZette to The Katz Group, owned by Canadian billionaire Daryl Katz.^[23]

Views and controversies

In 2017, Ingraham was described by *The New York Times* as an "ardent nationalist".^[24] She is known for her strong support for Donald Trump.^{[24][25]} In 2014, she was a fierce critic of the immigration reform then proposed,^{[24][26]} and in 2014 Ingraham said that allowing more immigrant workers to come to the United States would be "obscene to the American experience".^[26] She opposed the proposed bipartisan 2013 US Senate comprehensive immigration reform plan.^[27] Ingraham has said that her influences include Ronald Reagan, Robert Bork and Pat Buchanan.^[24]

Ingraham has been described as "no stranger to generating controversy" by *Variety*,^[28] and as a "name-brand provocateur" by *Politico*.^[29] *Business Insider* has referred to Ingraham's on-air style as "wad[ing] into debates on racism and gun violence".^[30]

In June 2019, Ingraham mocked reports that Trump had delayed his participation in D-Day commemoration activities to sit for an interview with her, strongly dismissing them as "patently false—fake news," despite video of the interview showing Trump saying, "These people are so amazing, and what they don't realize is that I'm holding them up because of this interview, but that's because it's you."^[31]

Homosexuality

In her senior year at Dartmouth College, during her tenure as editor-in-chief of independent campus newspaper *The Dartmouth Review*,^[32] Ingraham wrote several controversial articles. She sent a reporter undercover in 1984 to a campus Gay Students Association meeting, and later received criticism when, despite an oath of confidentiality being read to participants,^[33] Ingraham published a transcript of the meeting and included the names of the attendees, describing them as "cheerleaders for latent campus sodomites".^{[33][34]} Ingraham claimed confidentiality did not apply, because the meeting had been advertised, and defended the outing of the gay students as a "freedom of the press issue".^[33]

Jeffrey Hart, the faculty adviser for *The Dartmouth Review* described Ingraham as having "the most extreme anti-homosexual views imaginable", claiming "she went so far as to avoid a local eatery where she feared the waiters were homosexual".^{[35][36]}

In 1997, Ingraham wrote an essay in *The Washington Post* in which she stated that she had changed her views on homosexuality after witnessing "the dignity, fidelity, and courage" with which her gay brother, Curtis, and his partner coped with the latter being diagnosed with AIDS; Curtis's partner ultimately died of the disease. Curtis, on the other hand, has called his sister "a monster" and said she was influenced by their father, whom he described as a Nazi sympathizer as well as an abusive alcoholic.^[37] Ingraham has stated that she supports civil unions between same-sex partners, but believes marriage "is between a man and a woman".^[38]

Immigration and diversity

Ingraham holds anti-immigration views.^{[39][40]} In 2014, she denounced House Majority Leader Eric Cantor after he expressed support for the DREAM Act and a GOP bill to grant a pathway to citizenship for young immigrants.^[41] At the time, Cantor faced a primary challenge from Dave Brat, which he would go on to lose.^{[42][43]} According to *The New York Times*, "Few people did more than Ms. Ingraham to propel Mr. Brat

... from obscurity to national conservative hero."^[43] Ingraham said the race would go "down as one of the most significant repudiations of establishment immigration reform that I've seen in my 20 years of doing politics,"^[44] and that due to the outcome of the race, "immigration reform is DOA."^[45] That same year, Ingraham harshly criticized Republican congresswoman Renee Elmers for expressing support for a comprehensive immigration bill which included a pathway to citizenship for the 11 million undocumented immigrants who were in the country at the time.^{[46][47]} In an interview with Elmers, Ingraham accused Elmers of supporting amnesty and using liberal talking points, and said her arguments were "infuriating to my listeners".^[47]

In September 2017, amid reports that Trump was considering an agreement with Democrats on amnesty for approximately 800,000 DREAMers, Ingraham criticized Trump, tweeting "When does American working class w/out real wage increase in 15yrs & who send their kids to overcrowded public schools get amnesty?"^[48] In July 2018, Ingraham harshly criticized Republican congressman Kevin Yoder after he expressed support for a Democratic bill that rolled back Attorney General Jeff Sessions' order that immigration judges not be allowed to grant asylum to asylum seekers fleeing domestic abuse or gang violence in their home country.^[49] She called on the congressman "to stop selling out the Trump agenda."^[49]

On the June 18, 2018, broadcast of *The Ingraham Angle*, Ingraham likened detention facilities where children separated from their illegal immigrant parents by the Trump administration are kept to "summer camps" that "resemble boarding schools."^{[50][51][52]} She further described criticism of the family separation policy as "faux liberal outrage."^{[50][53]} Ingraham had referred to the border crossings as "slow-rolling invasion of the United States."^[54] Ingraham's comments followed an MSNBC report by Jacob Soboroff which was broadcast on June 14, 2018. The report described a Texas detention facility setup to be like a "dormitory structure" with a cafeteria and rooms that contained four beds in each.^{[55][56]} The day after Ingraham's comments aired, school shooting survivor and activist David Hogg tried to renew boycotts of businesses that advertise on *The Ingraham Angle*, but the show lost no more advertisers.^{[57][58]}

Ingraham objects to the changing racial demographics of The United States.^{[59][60][61]} In August 2018, in what *The Washington Post* labelled an expression of "white anxiety",^[62] she stated "some parts of the country it does seem like the America we know and love doesn't exist anymore. Massive demographic changes have been foisted upon the American people. And they're changes that none of us ever voted for, and most of us don't like... much of this is related to both illegal and, in some cases, legal immigration that, of course, progressives love."^{[63][64]}

Various commentators criticized Ingraham's comments, with *The Atlantic* claiming she was alluding to the U.S. becoming "less and less white with every passing year".^[65] Many outlets argued that it echoed white nationalist rhetoric or that itself constituted a "white nationalist rant".^{[59][64][66][67][68]} Ingraham's comments were endorsed by David Duke.^{[69][70][71]} In response, Ingraham called Duke a "racist freak whose name I won't even mention."^[72] Some mainstream media described Ingraham's views as advocating the white genocide conspiracy theory.^{[73][74]} In her August 9, 2018 *Ingraham Angle* monologue, Ingraham stated she was not talking about "race or ethnicity" and went on to say, "There is something slipping away in this country and it's not about race or ethnicity. It's what was once a common understanding by both parties that American citizenship is a privilege, and one that at a minimum requires respect for the rule of law and loyalty to our constitution."^[75]

In October 2018, Ingraham urged her audience to vote Republican in the upcoming midterm elections, saying that Democrats "want to replace you, the American voters, with newly amnestied citizens and an ever-increasing number of chain migrants."^[76]

In May 2019, Ingraham showed a graphic on her show of "prominent voices censored on social media", which included "people who believe in border enforcement, people who believe in national sovereignty." Among those listed was Paul Nehlen, known for making numerous anti-Semitic remarks, who was banned

from Twitter after making racist remarks about Meghan Markle, the wife of Prince Harry.^{[77][78]}

In September 2014, Ingraham claimed that President Obama sent assistance to Africa during the 2014 Ebola outbreak and exposed Americans to the virus because of his guilt over "colonialism."^[79] In June 2019, she spread unsubstantiated claims that asylum seekers to the United States may carry ebola.^[80]

"Shut up and dribble"

In February 2018, Ingraham was criticized for making dismissive comments that NBA players LeBron James and Kevin Durant should not opine on politics. Ingraham stated, "It's always unwise to seek political advice from someone who gets paid \$100 million a year to bounce a ball" and that the basketball stars should "shut up and dribble." Her comments came the week following James' interview with Cari Champion of ESPN where James spoke about his personal life as well as politics, stating that he felt statements made by the president are "laughable and scary." Ingraham characterized James' comments as "barely intelligible" and "ungrammatical."^[81]

Ingraham issued the following statement on the matter, obtained by TheWrap: "In 2003, I wrote a New York Times bestseller called 'Shut Up & Sing,' in which I criticized celebrities like the Dixie Chicks & Barbra Streisand who were trashing then-President George W. Bush. I have used a variation of that title for more than 15 years to respond to performers who sound off on politics. I've told Robert De Niro to 'Shut Up & Act,' Jimmy Kimmel to 'Shut Up & Make Us Laugh,' and just this week told the San Antonio Spurs' Gregg Popovich to 'Shut up & Coach.' If pro athletes and entertainers want to freelance as political pundits, then they should not be surprised when they're called out for insulting politicians. There was no racial intent in my remarks – false, defamatory charges of racism are a transparent attempt to immunize entertainment and sports elites from scrutiny and criticism. Additionally, we stated on my show that these comments came from an ESPN podcast, which was not the case – the content was unaffiliated with ESPN."^{[82][83][30][84]} In 2020, when Drew Brees (a white athlete) made his own political commentary, Ingraham was criticized for reversing course and supporting his right to free speech, something she had not supported in the earlier case with African-American athletes.^[85]

Stoneman Douglas shooting comments

In March 2018, Ingraham's show was boycotted by 27 sponsors^[86] after she ridiculed David Hogg, a 17-year-old student survivor of the Stoneman Douglas High School shooting, for supposedly complaining about being rejected by four colleges.^[87] In response, Hogg posted a list of Ingraham's advertisers and called for a boycott,^[88] accusing her of cyberbullying.^[88] After several advertisers left the show^{[89][90][91]} Ingraham apologized,^[92] which Hogg dismissed as insincere.^[93] Advertising time during the show dropped by as much as 52 percent.^{[94][95][96]} After Ingraham returned from a vacation following the boycott, her program earned its best ratings ever, spiking 25% in total viewers and saw an increase of 36% in the key 25–54 age group demographic.^[97] As of October 2018, companies were continuing to shun Ingraham's show despite the increased ratings.^[98]

China

In August 2019, Ingraham credibly condemned China's "brutal violation of basic human rights" and China's Xinjiang re-education camps for Muslim ethnic minority groups.^{[99][100]}

Israel

Ingraham is a supporter of Israel, which she called "one of our closest allies". She criticized Ilhan Omar's controversial comments about Israel's ongoing conflict with Palestine.^[101]

COVID-19 pandemic

During the coronavirus pandemic, Ingraham repeatedly pushed for the unproven drug hydroxychloroquine as treatment for coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).^[102] She characterized it as a miracle drug and booked guests on her show to trumpet the drug.^[102] She mocked Centers for Disease Control and Prevention director Robert R. Redfield after he cautioned against the drug.^[102] After a study was released which tested the drug on 368 Veterans Affairs patients and showed that the drug was associated with an increased risk of death, she attacked the study as "shoddy," "shockingly irresponsible" and "agenda-driven."^[102] She questioned whether attempts to "disprove effectiveness" of the drug was "triggered by pure hatred of Trump? Of Fox? Of me?"^[102] On June 15, 2020 the Food and Drug Administration revoked the Emergency Approval of hydroxychloroquine (and chloroquine). FDA said that a review of some studies showed that the drugs' potential benefits in treating COVID-19 did not outweigh the risks.^[103]

In May 2020, Ingraham criticized requirements that people wear face masks in public as a way to halt the spread of the coronavirus.^[104]

She gave airtime to Harmeet Dhillon, a Republican operative who filed lawsuits against California to stop the implementation of stay-at-home orders intended to halt the spread of the coronavirus. She praised her as "leading the charge to keep Gavin Newsom's power grabs in check."^[105]

In October 2020, Ingraham and her guest Victor Davis Hanson spread misinformation about New Zealand's response to the pandemic on her show. Referring to a "terrifying new response" which was months old, she called New Zealand's managed isolation facilities "camps" when they are in fact lavish hotels.^{[106][107][108]}

U.S. Capitol attack conspiracy theory

Following the storming of the United States Capitol by Trump supporters in January 2021, Ingraham was among those who advanced the conspiracy theory that people associated with antifa were responsible for the attack.^{[109][110]}

Personal life

Ingraham attended a Baptist church until the age of twelve, later converting to Roman Catholicism.^[111] She has studied Spanish and Russian.^{[112][113]}

In April 2005, Ingraham announced that she had undergone treatment for breast cancer.^[114]

She is a single parent of three children: a girl from Guatemala adopted in 2008;^[115] a boy from Russia adopted in 2009;^[116] and a boy adopted in 2011.

Works

- *The Hillary Trap: Looking for Power in All the Wrong Places*, first published June 2000, it was updated and reissued in paperback December 25, 2005. It accuses Hillary Clinton of being a faux feminist,^[117] whose "liberal feminism has created a culture that rewards dependency, encourages fragmentation, undermines families, and celebrates victimhood."^[118]

- *Shut Up & Sing: How Elites from Hollywood, Politics, and the UN Are Subverting America*, published October 25, 2003, decries liberal elites in politics, the media, academia, arts and entertainment, business, and international organizations, on behalf of disrespected Middle Americans, whom the author praises as "the kind of people who are the lifeblood of healthy democratic societies".^[119]
- *Power to the People*, a *New York Times* number one best seller,^{[120][121]} published September 11, 2007, focuses on what Ingraham calls the "pornification" of America and stresses the importance of popular participation in culture, promoting conservative values in family life, education and patriotism.
- *The Obama Diaries*, a *New York Times* number one best seller,^[122] published July 13, 2010. The book is a fictional collection of diary entries purportedly made by President Barack Obama, which Ingraham uses satirically to criticize Obama, his family, and his administration.^[123]
- *Of Thee I Zing*, a *New York Times* best seller,^[124] published July 12, 2011. The book is a collection of humorous anecdotes meant to point out the decline of American culture, from muffin tops to body shots.
- *Billionaire at the Barricades*, published 2017. The book explains the 2016 election victory of Donald Trump as the continuation of a populist revolution, initiated by Ronald Reagan, with strong working class support.

See also

- List of law clerks of the Supreme Court of the United States

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External links

- [Official website](http://www.lauraingraham.com/) (<http://www.lauraingraham.com/>) 
- [Appearances](https://www.c-span.org/person/?lauraingraham) (<https://www.c-span.org/person/?lauraingraham>) on *C-SPAN*
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Liz Cheney

Elizabeth Lynne Cheney^[1] (/ˈtʃeɪni/ *CHAYN-ee*; born July 28, 1966)^[2] is an American attorney and politician who has served as the U.S. Representative for Wyoming's at-large congressional district since 2017. She served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs in the George W. Bush administration and was the Chair of the House Republican Conference, the third-highest position in the House Republican leadership, from 2019 to 2021.

Cheney is the elder daughter of former Vice President Dick Cheney and Lynne Cheney. She held several positions in the U.S. State Department during the George W. Bush administration, notably as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs and Coordinator for Broader Middle East and North Africa Initiatives. She promoted regime change in Iran while chairing the Iran Syria Policy and Operations Group with Elliott Abrams. In 2009 Cheney and Bill Kristol founded Keep America Safe, a nonprofit organization concerned with national security issues that advocated the positions of the Bush–Cheney administration. She was a candidate for the 2014 election to the U.S. Senate in Wyoming, challenging three-term incumbent Mike Enzi, before withdrawing from the race. In the House of Representatives, she holds the seat her father held for a decade, representing Wyoming from 1979 to 1989.^[3]

Regarded as a leading ideological conservative^[4] in the Bush–Cheney-era tradition and a representative of the Republican establishment,^[5] Cheney is a neoconservative, known for her focus on national security, her support for the U.S. military, a pro-business stance,^[6] foreign policy views, and for being fiscally and socially conservative.^[7] Cheney is considered one of the leaders of the neoconservative wing of the Republican Party^[6] and was critical of the foreign policy of the Donald Trump administration while simultaneously voting steadfastly in support of its overall agenda.^{[8][9][10][11]}

She later supported the second impeachment of Donald Trump for his role in the 2021 storming of the U.S. Capitol.^[12] Because of her stance on the Capitol riot, her impeachment vote and opposition to Trump's false stolen-election narrative, pro-Trump Freedom Caucus members of the House Republican Conference attempted to remove her from party leadership in February 2021. That effort failed, and Cheney remained conference chair until mid-May, when pro-Trump members of the House again pushed for her removal. With House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy supporting the effort, Cheney was removed from her position.^{[13][14][15]} After her

Liz Cheney	
 <div></div>	
Member of the U.S. House of Representatives from Wyoming's at-large district	
Incumbent	
Assumed office	January 3, 2017
Preceded by	<u>Cynthia Lummis</u>
Chair of the House Republican Conference	
In office	January 3, 2019 – May 12, 2021
Deputy	<u>Mark Walker</u> <u>Mike Johnson</u>
Leader	<u>Kevin McCarthy</u>
Preceded by	<u>Cathy McMorris Rodgers</u>
Succeeded by	<u>Elise Stefanik</u>
Personal details	
Born	Elizabeth Lynne Cheney July 28, 1966 <u>Madison, Wisconsin, U.S.</u>
Political party	<u>Republican</u>
Spouse(s)	<u>Philip Perry (m. 1993)</u>

battles with Republican leadership, Cheney received death threats, leading her to spend \$58,000 on a private security detail.^[16] She has said that she intends to be "the leader, one of the leaders, in a fight to help to restore our party"^[17] and that she may be interested in a future presidential run.^[18] In July 2021, Speaker Nancy Pelosi appointed Cheney to the United States House Select Committee on the January 6 Attack.

Children	5
Parents	<u>Dick Cheney</u> <u>Lynne Cheney</u>
Relatives	<u>Mary Cheney (sister)</u>
Education	<u>Colorado College</u> (BA) <u>University of Chicago</u> (JD)
Website	<u>House website (http://cheney.house.gov)</u>

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Early life and education

Elizabeth Lynne Cheney was born on July 28, 1966,^[19] in Madison, Wisconsin,^[20] the elder of two daughters of former Vice President Dick Cheney and former Second Lady Lynne Cheney (née Vincent). At the time of her birth, her parents were studying at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. Her younger sister, Mary Cheney, was also born in Madison. Cheney attended part of sixth and seventh grade in Casper, Wyoming, while her father campaigned for Congress. The family divided its time between Casper and Washington, D.C. in the 1970s through the 1980s, following her father's election to Congress.^[21] In 1984 Cheney graduated from McLean High School, where she was a cheerleader. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Colorado College, her mother's alma mater, where she wrote her senior thesis, "The Evolution of Presidential War Powers".^[2] She received her Juris Doctor from the University of Chicago Law School in 1996. While there, she also took courses in Middle Eastern history at the Oriental Institute.^[22]

Early career

Before attending law school, Cheney worked for the State Department for five years and the United States Agency for International Development between 1989 and 1993. After 1993, she took a job at Armitage Associates LLP, the consulting firm founded by Richard Armitage, then a former Defense Department official and Iran-Contra operative who later served as Deputy Secretary of State.^[23]

After graduating from law school, Cheney practiced law at the law firm of White & Case and as an international law attorney and consultant at the International Finance Corporation, a member of the World Bank Group. She has also served as Special Assistant to the Deputy Secretary of State for Assistance to the former Soviet Union, and as a USAID officer in U.S. embassies in Budapest and Warsaw.^[24]

State Department

Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs

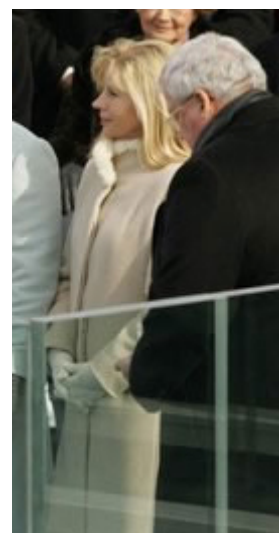
In 2002, Cheney was appointed Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs,^{[25][26]} a preexisting vacant post with an "economic portfolio", a mandate to promote investment in the region. Amid reports, including a New York Times editorial by Paul Krugman, that the job was created especially for her, State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said that she had come recommended by then-Secretary of State Colin Powell.^{[27][28]} The Sunday Times reported that Cheney's appointment was "the most intriguing sign that America is getting serious about Middle East reform" and "a measure of the seriousness with which the administration was taking Middle East programmes for literacy, education, and reform".^[29] The appointment followed publicized policy divisions between the Vice President's office and the State Department on Middle East policy. In that position, she was given control of the Middle East Partnership Initiative, designed to "foster increased democracy and economic progress in a troubled region". The program spent \$29 million in 2002, increased to \$129 million in the following year. Cheney's task was to channel money to prescreened groups, some of which were not identified publicly for fear of retaliations from extant governments they sought to undermine. For the budget year 2004, the project sought \$145 million.^{[30][31]}

2004 Bush–Cheney reelection campaign

After two years of service, Cheney left her State Department post in 2003 to serve in her father's 2004 reelection campaign. She participated in the campaign's "W Stands for Women" initiative to target female voters.^[32]

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs

On February 14, 2005, she returned to the U.S. State Department and was appointed Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State For Near Eastern Affairs and Coordinator for Broader Middle East and North Africa Initiatives.^{[33][34]} In this position, Cheney supported the Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, C. David Welch, and coordinated multilateral efforts to promote and support democracy and expand education and economic opportunities in the Middle East and North Africa. Cheney oversaw the launch of two semi-independent foundations, the Fund of the Future (worth \$100 million), to provide capital for small businesses, and the Foundation of the Future (worth \$55 million), to promote freedom of the press and democracy.^[35] In that capacity, Cheney endorsed a draft of a new Iraqi constitution.^[36]



Cheney at the 2005 presidential inauguration

Iran Syria Policy and Operations Group

Cheney also headed the Iran Syria Policy and Operations Group (ISOG), established in March 2006, a unit within the State Department's Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs.

In April 2006, *The New York Times* published a story that was critical of Cheney's work, particularly with respect to Iran. The International Republican Institute, a grants program administered by Cheney's unit in collaboration with a Republican-affiliated foundation, received particular scrutiny.^[37] The *Times* maintained that when the group became controversial, with critics saying that it was plotting covert actions that could escalate into war with Iran and Syria, the group was disbanded, by May 2006. Shortly before the ISOG group was dissolved, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice initiated a major effort to engage Iran and Syria in efforts to stabilize Iraq.^[38]

Post–State Department career

In June 2007 Cheney signed on as one of three national co-chairs of Fred Thompson's 2008 presidential campaign. The others were Spencer Abraham and George Allen. In a press release issued at the beginning of his campaign, Thompson said he was "very pleased to announce that former Senators Abraham and Allen, as well as Liz Cheney, will serve as co-chairs of my national leadership team". He added: "These distinguished individuals bring wise counsel and invaluable experience to my campaign leadership team, and they will play a critical role in helping spread my consistent conservative message across America."^[39] After Thompson dropped out of the race, Cheney announced on January 27, 2008, that she would work for Mitt Romney's presidential campaign as a senior foreign policy advisor.^[40]

In October 2009, Liz Cheney, William Kristol, and Deborah Burlingame launched, as board members, the nonprofit 501(c)(4) organization Keep America Safe. The group's stated purpose is to "provide information for concerned Americans about critical national security issues".^[41] It drew strong criticism from conservative lawyers, many of whom had worked for the Bush administration, after its campaign against "The Al Qaeda

7", seven Justice Department lawyers in the Obama administration who previously had worked as defense lawyers for Guantanamo detainees.^[42] Shortly after, all information about the organization disappeared from the Internet.^[43]

In January 2012, Cheney was hired as a contributor for Fox News. She guest-hosted programs such as Hannity and Fox News Sunday.^[44] The network terminated her contract in July 2013 after she announced her intention to mount a 2014 bid for the Senate in Wyoming.^[45]

2014 U.S. Senate bid

On July 16, 2013, Cheney announced that she would run for the Senate in 2014 from Wyoming as a Republican, challenging incumbent Republican senator Mike Enzi.^[46] The National Republican Senatorial Committee said it would back Enzi, as was policy.^[47] Cheney was expected to receive strong fundraising, but was subject to public perceptions of carpetbagging, having lived in Wyoming only a few years as a child before purchasing a home there in 2012.^{[48][49][50][51]} When she launched her 2014 Senate campaign, she did it with a Facebook post geotagged to McLean, Virginia, her primary residence at the time.^[52] During that campaign, The New Republic columnist Jon Ward wrote, "she talked up her Wyoming roots and dressed in boots. But when I chatted with her at one stop, her jeans were so new that her hands were stained blue from touching them."^[50] In the video announcing her candidacy, she noted that the Cheney family first came to Wyoming in 1852.^[48] Her father represented Wyoming in the House from 1979 to 1989.^[48]



Liz Cheney campaigning for the U.S. Senate in Buffalo, Wyoming, October 2013

In her first campaign appearance in Cheyenne after announcing her challenge to Enzi, Cheney said, "We have to not be afraid of being called obstructionists. Obstructing President Obama's policies and his agenda isn't actually obstruction; it's patriotism."^[53] Cheney claimed that Obama had "literally declared war" on the First and Second amendments to the United States Constitution as well as the interests of Wyoming ranchers and energy workers who faced regulations from the United States Environmental Protection Agency.^[53]

Cheney's campaign was marred by criticism from her championing of hawkish foreign policy positions to a public spat with her sister over her vocal opposition to same-sex marriage. Enzi's continuing popularity made it difficult for Cheney to make inroads with Wyoming Republicans. On January 6, 2014, Cheney announced her withdrawal from the race, citing family health issues.^{[54][55]}

U.S. House of Representatives

Elections

2016

After incumbent Cynthia Lummis announced her retirement in the fall of 2015, Cheney announced she was considering running for her seat in 2016. On February 1, 2016, Cheney announced her candidacy for Wyoming's House seat. She was widely considered the front-runner, and a poll commissioned by the Casper Star-Tribune and Wyoming PBS showed her leading in the Republican primary – the real contest in this heavily Republican state.^[56] Oil tycoon Simon Kukes contributed to her campaign.^[57] She was elected with over 60% of the vote.

2018

In the November 6 general election, Cheney was reelected to the House with 127,951 votes, defeating Democrat Greg Hunter (59,898 votes), Libertarian Richard Brubaker (6,918) and Constitution Party candidate Daniel Clyde Cummings (6,069). Cheney won 21 of 23 counties, losing Albany and Teton Counties to Hunter. On November 14, the Republican membership elected Cheney chair of the House Republican Conference for the 116th Congress. In this post, she is the third-ranking Republican in the chamber, behind Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy and Minority Whip Steve Scalise.^[58]



Cheney in 2016

2020

Cheney defeated Blake Stanley in the Republican primary with 73% of the vote, and Democrat Lynnette Grey Bull in the general election with 69% of the vote.^[59]

Tenure

Cheney was sworn into office on January 3, 2017. Donald Trump became president that same month, and analysis by FiveThirtyEight found Cheney supported Trump's position in 92.9% of House votes.^[60]

She co-sponsored legislation that would end protection for grey wolves in the Endangered Species Act.^[61]

On March 7, 2019, Cheney joined 22 Republican representatives in opposing HR183, which condemned "anti-Semitism as hateful expressions of intolerance" and "anti-Muslim discrimination and bigotry". Critics of the bill cited a concern it was too broad, as it was initially meant to chastise comments made by Ilhan Omar, and her name and comments were removed from the bill.^[62]

In May 2019, Cheney said that Peter Strzok and another FBI agent who sent personal text messages where they disparaged various politicians (including Trump) sounded as if they were planning a "coup" and may be guilty of "treason".^{[63][64]}

In June 2019, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez compared the holding centers for illegal immigrants at the Mexico–United States border to "concentration camps". Cheney strongly criticized her words, saying they showed "disrespect" for Holocaust victims.^[65]

Speaking as chairwoman at a House Republican Conference in August 2019, Cheney said that the successful litigation (*Crow Tribe et al v. Zinke*) by Native tribes and environmentalists to return the grizzly bear in Greater Yellowstone to the Endangered Species Act "was not based on science or facts" but motivated by plaintiffs' "intent on destroying our Western way of life". Her statements drew comments from indigenous tribal nations and environmentalists. Tribal nations hold the grizzly to be sacred and they and environmentalists have voiced concerns about trophy hunts, livestock and logging interests, and the gas, coal, and oil extraction industries.^{[66][67]}



Robert Aderholt, Liz Cheney, and her father, Dick Cheney, in November 2018

Cheney condemned the Turkish invasion of the Kurdish areas in Syria, which was made possible by Trump's decision to withdraw US military forces that served as a buffer between Turkey and the Kurdish areas in Syria, saying, "The U.S. is abandoning our ally the Kurds, who fought ISIS on the ground and helped protect the U.S. homeland. This decision aids

America's adversaries, Russia, Iran, and Turkey, and paves the way for a resurgence of ISIS."^[68] Cheney partly blamed the Democratic Party and the impeachment inquiry into Trump for Turkey's actions, saying, "It was not an accident that the Turks chose this moment to roll across the border."^{[69][70]} A spokesperson for House Speaker Nancy Pelosi called Cheney's claim about the impact of U.S. presidential impeachment proceedings on the invasion "delusional".^[69]

At a House Republican Conference in July 2020, some Republicans, such as Jim Jordan of Ohio and Andy Biggs of Arizona, criticized Cheney for defending Dr. Fauci amid the COVID-19 pandemic, and for previously endorsing Kentucky Congressman Thomas Massie's primary opponent.^[71]

Cheney expressed support for Israeli plans to annex parts of Palestinian territory in the occupied West Bank.^[72] She signed a letter addressed to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that reaffirms "the unshakeable alliance between the United States and Israel".^[73]

In September 2020, Cheney asked the Justice Department to investigate environmental groups such as the NRDC, Sea Change and the Sierra Club, saying that "robust political and judicial activism – combined with the fact that these groups often espouse views that align with those of our adversaries – makes it all the more critical that the Department is aware of any potential foreign influence within or targeting these groups. I urge the Department to investigate Chinese and Russian attempts to influence environmental and energy policy in the United States".^[74]



Cheney, second from right, at Fiddleback Ranch, near Douglas, Wyoming, on July 31, 2019

Beginning during his time as a Dublin, California city councilman, Eric Swalwell was targeted by a Chinese woman believed to be a clandestine officer of China's Ministry of State Security. Swalwell's general relationship with a suspected Chinese agent has been characterized as problematic, particularly given his high-profile role as a member of the House Intelligence Committee.^[75] Cheney signed a letter demanding Swalwell's removal from the House Intelligence Committee. She also said, "the extent to which [the Chinese Communist Party] caused [COVID-19] to be spread around the world has really shone a spotlight on the nature of that regime, and has really focused the attention of not just people in the United States but our allies around the world on the threat that they pose and how important it is we protect ourselves by moving supply chains, by ending our dependence on the Chinese government".^{[76][77]}

Voting record

From 2017 to 2021, Cheney voted in line with Trump's position 92.9% of the time, supporting him more consistently in House votes than even his former chief of staff Mark Meadows.^[78] In 2019, according to the New York Times, Cheney publicly feuded with Rand Paul over who was "Trumpier".^[79] According to The Atlantic, she was a "loyal Trumpist" and helped build "the party of Trump".^[80]

Second impeachment of Donald Trump

The President of the United States summoned this mob, assembled the mob, and lit the flame of this attack. Everything that followed was his doing. None of this would have happened without the President. The President could have immediately and forcefully intervened to stop the violence. He did not. There has never been a greater betrayal by a President of the United States of his office and his oath to the Constitution.

On January 12, 2021, following the storming of the United States Capitol during the certification process for President-elect Joe Biden, Cheney announced she would vote to impeach Trump for his role in inciting the storming. At a rally just before the storming, Trump told the mob of insurrectionists to "get rid of" Cheney, and the mob then attacked the Capitol while chanting "Hang Mike Pence!" and trying to find lawmakers.^[81] Cheney said that Trump "lit the flame" of the riot and did nothing to stop it. Saying "there has never been a greater betrayal by a President of the United States of his office and his oath", she announced her support for impeachment.^{[82][83]} Nine other Republicans joined her in doing so on January 13.^[84] She was then the third-ranking Republican in the House.^[85] Jim Jordan (one of 139 House members, and 8 senators, who voted for—or supported—the objections to the Electoral College count) called for her removal from Republican Party leadership.^[86] Andy Biggs took offense specifically with the wording of Cheney's remark, saying: "She puts out a statement saying that what this president did is maybe one of the most heinous things in the history of the US presidency. Her words were used over and over again when the Democrats were making their speeches on the floor of the House. And they will be used again when the Senate opens up another bogus trial in the Senate. That is what the problem is."^[87]

Former President George W. Bush's spokesman said on January 30 that Bush supported Cheney's actions and intended to call his former vice president, Dick Cheney, to "thank him for his daughter's service".^[88] Days later, Senate minority leader Mitch McConnell said, "Liz Cheney is a leader with deep convictions and the courage to act on them. She is an important leader in our party and in our nation. I am grateful for her service and look forward to continuing to work with her on the crucial issues facing our nation".^[89] McConnell also condemned Trump supporters' "loony lies".^[90] Senator Lindsey Graham said Cheney "is one of the strongest and most reliable conservative voices in the Republican Party. She is a fiscal and social conservative, and no one works harder to ensure that our military is well prepared".^[7]

Trump supporters were angered by Cheney's vote to impeach, and on February 3, 2021, the House Republican Conference held a closed-door, secret-ballot vote on whether to remove her from her position in the Republican House leadership. She held her position by a 145–61 vote, with one member voting present. After the vote, Cheney said, "we're not going to be divided and that we're not going to be in a situation where people can pick off any member of leadership".^{[91][92]} On February 6, the Wyoming Republican Party censured Cheney for her vote to impeach Trump.^[93] Cheney responded, "My vote to impeach was compelled by the oath I swore to the Constitution. Wyoming citizens know that this oath does not bend or yield to politics or partisanship. I will always fight for Wyoming values and stand up for our Western way of life."^[93] She rejected the Wyoming party's demands that she step down, and noted the censure incorrectly asserted that the January 6, 2021 storming of the United States Capitol was instigated by Antifa and Black Lives Matter.^{[94][95]}

Cheney raised the possibility of a criminal investigation of Trump for provoking violence^[96] and on multiple occasions has said Trump "does not have a role as a leader of our party going forward".^{[97][98][99]} In April 2021, she said she would not vote for him if he were the Republican nominee for president in 2024.^[100] In May 2021, she said, "I will do everything I can to ensure that [Trump] never again gets anywhere near the Oval Office" and "we cannot let the former president drag us backward and make us complicit in his efforts to unravel our democracy."^[101]

In his first speech since the storming of the Capitol, Trump attacked the Bush administration for launching the Afghanistan and Iraq wars, and described Liz Cheney as a "warmonger" and "a person that loves seeing our troops fighting" for her support for the Bush administration's foreign policy.^[102]

In March 2021 former Republican speaker Paul Ryan announced his support for Cheney.^[103] *Salon* wrote that although Cheney is "arch-conservative", she is "now considered too liberal for some GOP extremists".^[104]

Governor Larry Hogan said "Liz Cheney is a solid conservative Republican" who "just stood up and told the truth."^[105]

Removal of Cheney as conference chair

In response to rising calls from pro-Trump factions in the Republican Party for her to be removed from her position as House Republican Conference chair, Cheney wrote an opinion article, "The GOP is at a turning point. History is watching us", published in *The Washington Post* on May 5, 2021. In it, she reiterated her positions on adhering to the principles of the U.S. Constitution, upholding the law, and defending "the basic principles that underpin and protect our freedom and our democratic process"^[106] Senator Joni Ernst criticized the GOP's efforts to remove Cheney from party leadership, comparing it to cancel culture.^[107]

On the eve of a House Republican vote to remove her, Cheney made an address on the House floor after her colleagues had left the chamber, saying in part:

Today we face a threat America has never seen before. A former president, who provoked a violent attack on this Capitol in an effort to steal the election, has resumed his aggressive effort to convince Americans that the election was stolen from him. He risks inciting further violence. Millions of Americans have been misled by the former president. They have heard only his words, but not the truth, as he continues to undermine our democratic process, sowing seeds of doubt about whether democracy really works at all. I am a conservative Republican and the most conservative of conservative principles is reverence for the rule of law. The Electoral College has voted. More than sixty state and federal courts, including multiple judges he appointed, have rejected the former president's claims. The Department of Justice in his administration investigated the former president's claims of widespread fraud and found no evidence to support them. The election is over. That is the rule of law. That is our constitutional process. Those who refuse to accept the rulings of our courts are at war with the Constitution.^{[108][109]}



[Play media](#)

Full speech, May 11, 2021

Cheney was formally recalled by voice vote at a closed-door House Republican Conference meeting on May 12, 2021.^{[13][110]} Five GOP representatives requested a recorded vote, but McCarthy chose to decide the matter by voice vote.^[111] As it was a voice vote conducted behind closed doors, it was unclear which lawmakers supported her ouster.^[110]

Committee assignments

- Committee on Armed Services
 - Subcommittee on Military Personnel
 - Subcommittee on Strategic Forces
- January 6 Select Committee

Caucus memberships

- Republican Study Committee^[112]
- Congressional Western Caucus^[113]

Possible presidential run

In May 2021, Cheney said that she intends to be "the leader, one of the leaders, in a fight to help to restore our party".^[17] An interview on ABC News' *This Week* in which she refused to rule out a presidential bid prompted media speculation about her interest in a presidential run in 2024.^[18]

In June 2021, Cheney joined the board of the Gerald R. Ford Foundation.^[114]

Political positions

Cheney has described herself as a conservative Republican.^[115] Lawrence R. Jacobs has said, "Cheney is an arch-conservative. She's a hard-edged, small government, lower taxes figure and a leading voice on national defense."^[116] Jake Bernstein argued that "Liz Cheney is a true conservative in every sense of the word and she's only a moderate in relation to the radicalism that has seized the Republican party."^[116]

Cheney has several times been described as "Republican royalty".^{[117][118]} The National Interest called her the "heiress to a neoconservative throne".^[6] Salon called her "arch-conservative".^[104]

The Brookings Institution argued that Cheney has a long-term strategy to become the leader of the Republican Party in the post-Trump era, and that "she's a real conservative—Democrats who like her opposition to Trump will never like her politics."^[119]

Drug legislation

Cheney has supported bills to further restrict opioids in the face of the opioid epidemic.^[120]

Foreign policy

Cheney is a neoconservative who rejects America First foreign policy.^[121] Cheney has opposed proposals to withdraw from Afghanistan.^[122]

When working in the United States Department of State as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, Cheney supported the Iraq War, as promoted by her father, Dick Cheney.^[123]

According to Mother Jones, Cheney insists "that one of the main lies of the Bush-Cheney fraudulent case for war—that there had been a significant connection between al-Qaeda and Iraq—was true."^[124] New York Times columnist Maureen Dowd has commented that Cheney used "her patronage perch in the State

Department during the Bush-Cheney years ... [and] bolstered her father's trumped-up case for an invasion of Iraq" while cheering "on her dad as he spread fear, propaganda and warped intelligence".^[125]

On June 17, 2021, Cheney was one of 160 House Republicans to vote against repealing the 2002 AUMF, which granted the Bush administration the authority to wage war with Iraq. She said that repealing the resolution "would send a message of weakness to our adversaries and allies alike".^[126] Cheney's vote was criticized by the National Review.^[127]

In 2015, Cheney and her father expressed opposition to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, saying that it would "lead to a nuclear-armed Iran".^[128] On June 21, 2019, after Trump called off military strikes against Iran for allegedly downing an American drone, Cheney compared Trump not attacking Iran to Barack Obama not attacking Syria in 2013.^[129] On September 18, 2019, she called for the United States to consider a "proportional military response" against Iran after it was attacking oil bases in the Saudi regions of Abqaiq and Khurais.^[130]

January 6, 2021 commission

Cheney was one of 35 Republicans who joined all Democrats in voting to approve legislation to establish the January 6, 2021 commission meant to investigate the storming of the U.S. Capitol.^{[131][132][133]} Before the vote, she was one of few Republican lawmakers who openly expressed support for the commission.^[134]

Same-sex marriage

In 2013, during her Senate bid, Cheney announced her opposition to same-sex marriage.^[135]

This caused a public falling-out with her sister Mary Cheney, who wrote in a Facebook post, "Either [y]ou think all families should be treated equally or you don't. Liz's position is to treat my family as second class citizens."^[136] Mary's wife Heather Poe wrote in a Facebook post, "Liz has been a guest in our home, has spent time and shared holidays with our children, and when Mary and I got married in 2012, she didn't hesitate to tell us how happy she was for us. To have her now say she doesn't support our right to marry is offensive to say the least."^[137] Mary announced she would not support Liz's 2014 Senate candidacy.^[138] The family spat becoming a focus of media attention was cited as one of the reasons Cheney ended her Senate campaign.^[139]

Nuclear weapons

Cheney opposes the no first use nuclear policy. After the second round of the 2020 Democratic Party presidential debates, Cheney criticized Elizabeth Warren when she advocated for "no first use".^[140]

Torture

Cheney has supported the use of torture. In 2009, she defended the use of waterboarding during the George W. Bush administration, comparing it to SERE training.^[141] In 2014, she criticized President Barack Obama after he said, "we tortured some folks".^[142] Also that year, she criticized Nancy Pelosi for calling out her father for using torture.^[143]

In 2018, when U.S. Senator John McCain criticized CIA nominee Gina Haspel, Cheney again defended the use of enhanced interrogation techniques, saying that it "saved lives, prevented attacks, and produced intel that led to Osama bin Laden". Cheney's remarks were criticized by Meghan McCain, who responded that her father "doesn't need torture explained to him".^[144]

Alleged fringe positions

In 2009, Cheney refused to denounce adherents of Barack Obama citizenship conspiracy theories (birtherism) on the Larry King Live show. She said that the birtherism movement exists because "people are uncomfortable with a president who is reluctant to defend the nation overseas".^{[145][146]}

Bud Goodall has called Cheney a "conspiracy propagandist".^[147] According to *Mother Jones*, the Obama citizenship conspiracy theory was an "odious lie that Liz Cheney also defended".^[124]

In 2009, Cheney gave the keynote address at a dinner hosted by the Center for Security Policy, a conspiracy-oriented SPLC-designated hate group^[148] led by Frank Gaffney.^[149]

Awards and honors

Cheney was selected for the inaugural 2021 *Forbes* 50 Over 50, a list of notable entrepreneurs, leaders, scientists and creators over age 50.^[150]

Personal life

Cheney is a United Methodist.^[151] She is married to Philip Perry, a lobbyist with Latham & Watkins. They were married in Wyoming in 1993. She and Perry have five children.^[54]

Electoral history

Wyoming At-Large Congressional District Republican Primary, 2016 ^[152]			
Party	Candidate	Votes	%
<u>Republican</u>	<u>Liz Cheney</u>	35,043	39.78
<u>Republican</u>	<u>Leland Christensen</u>	19,330	21.95
<u>Republican</u>	<u>Tim Stubson</u>	15,524	17.62
<u>Republican</u>	Darin Smith	13,381	15.19
<u>Republican</u>	Mike Konsmo	1,363	1.55
<u>Republican</u>	Jason Adam Senteney	976	1.11
<u>Republican</u>	<u>Rex Rammell</u>	890	1.01
<u>Republican</u>	Paul Paad	886	1.01
<u>Republican</u>	Heath Beaudry	534	0.61
<u>Write-in</u>		155	0.18
	Total votes	88,082	100.0

Wyoming At-Large Congressional District General Election, 2016^[153]

Party	Candidate	Votes	%
<u>Republican</u>	Liz Cheney	156,176	62.03
<u>Democratic</u>	Ryan Greene	75,466	29.97
<u>Constitution</u>	Daniel Clyde Cummings	10,362	4.12
<u>Libertarian</u>	Lawrence Gerard Struempf	9,033	3.59
<u>Write-in</u>		739	0.29
Total votes		251,776	100.0

Wyoming At-Large Congressional District Republican Primary, 2018^[154]

Party	Candidate	Votes	%
<u>Republican</u>	Liz Cheney (incumbent)	75,183	67.72
<u>Republican</u>	Rod Miller	22,045	19.86
<u>Republican</u>	Blake E Stanley	13,307	11.99
<u>Write-in</u>		478	0.43
Total votes		111,013	100.0

Wyoming At-Large Congressional District General Election, 2018^[155]

Party	Candidate	Votes	%
<u>Republican</u>	Liz Cheney (incumbent)	127,963	63.59
<u>Democratic</u>	Greg Hunter	59,903	29.77
<u>Libertarian</u>	Richard Brubaker	6,918	3.44
<u>Constitution</u>	Daniel Clyde Cummings	6,070	3.02
<u>Write-in</u>		391	0.19
Total votes		201,245	100.0

Wyoming At-Large Congressional District Republican Primary, 2020^[156]

Party	Candidate	Votes	%
<u>Republican</u>	Liz Cheney (incumbent)	78,870	73.46%
<u>Republican</u>	Blake Stanley	28,039	26.12%
<u>Republican</u>	<i>Write-ins</i>	454	0.42%
Total votes		107,363	100.0%

Wyoming's at-large congressional district General Election, 2020^[59]

Party	Candidate	Votes	%
<u>Republican</u>	Liz Cheney (incumbent)	185,732	68.56%
<u>Democratic</u>	Lynnette Grey Bull	66,576	24.58%
<u>Libertarian</u>	Richard Brubaker	10,154	3.75%
<u>Constitution</u>	Jeff Haggit	7,905	2.92%
<u>Write-in</u>		525	0.19%
Total votes		270,892	100.0%

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See also

- Women in the United States House of Representatives

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External links

- [Official website \(http://www.cheneyforwyoming.com\)](http://www.cheneyforwyoming.com)
- [Campaign website \(http://www.cheneyforwyoming.com\)](http://www.cheneyforwyoming.com)

- Biography (<http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=C001109>) at the *Biographical Directory of the United States Congress*
- Profile (<https://www.votesmart.org/candidate/145932>) at *Vote Smart*
- Financial information (federal office) (<https://www.fec.gov/data/candidate/S4WY00089>) at the *Federal Election Commission*
- Legislation sponsored (<https://www.congress.gov/member/liz-cheney/C001109>) at the *Library of Congress*
- 2014 Campaign contributions (<http://www.opensecrets.org/races/summary.php?id=WYS2&cycle=2014>) at *OpenSecrets.org*
- Appearances (<https://www.c-span.org/person/?lizperry>) on *C-SPAN*

Transcripts and videos

- Transcript: appearance on Fox News' *No Spin Zone* (<http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,136214,00.html>), interview with Bill O'Reilly, October 21, 2004
- Transcript: Foreign Press Center briefing on disbursement of MEPI funds (<https://web.archive.org/web/20090517040231/http://2002-2009-fpc.state.gov/56709.htm>), Manama, Bahrain, November 9, 2005
- Interview: Carnegie Endowment (August 25, 2008; HTML) (<https://carnegieendowment.org/sada/21551>) (PDF) (<http://www.carnegieendowment.org/files/Interview.pdf>)

U.S. House of Representatives		
Preceded by <u>Cynthia Lummis</u>	Member of the U.S. House of Representatives from Wyoming's at-large congressional district 2017–present	Incumbent
Party political offices		
Preceded by <u>Cathy McMorris Rodgers</u>	Chair of the House Republican Conference 2019–2021	Succeeded by <u>Elise Stefanik</u>
U.S. order of precedence (ceremonial)		
Preceded by <u>Salud Carbajal</u>	United States representatives by seniority 255th	Succeeded by <u>Lou Correa</u>

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Matt Drudge

Matthew Nathan Drudge (born October 27, 1966) is an American political commentator and the creator/editor of the Drudge Report, an American news aggregator. Drudge is also an author and a former radio and television show host.^[1]

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Matt Drudge	
	
Drudge in 1996	
Born	Matthew Nathan Drudge October 27, 1966 <u>Takoma Park, Maryland, U.S.</u>
Occupation	Political commentator, news editor
Known for	Reporting political scandals, creating the <u>Drudge Report</u>

Early life and education

Matthew Drudge was raised in Takoma Park, Maryland, near Washington, D.C. His parents follow Reform Judaism. Both are Democrats who worked for the federal government, and he is their only child.^[2] His father, Robert Drudge, a former social worker who founded the reference site refdesk.com and owned that site until selling it in 2017,^[2] and his mother, a former staff attorney for U.S. Senator Ted Kennedy,^[1] divorced when he was six. Drudge went to live with his mother.^[2] He had few friends and was an avid news reader and radio talk show fan.^{[2][3]} Drudge graduated 325th out of a high school class of 350.^[4] In his book *Drudge Manifesto*, Drudge says that he "failed his Bar Mitzvah", giving himself, in his words, a "more than adequate curriculum vitae for a post at 7-Eleven".^[2]

Career

Drudge Report

Drudge was unknown before he began the news aggregation site, the Drudge Report.^[5] For many years, he took odd jobs such as night counterman at a 7-Eleven convenience store, telemarketer for Time-Life books, McDonald's manager, and sales assistant at a New York City grocery store. In 1989, he moved to Los Angeles, where he took up residence in a small Hollywood apartment. He took a job in the gift shop of CBS studios, eventually working his way up to manager. Here, he was apparently privy to some inside gossip, part of the inspiration for founding the Drudge Report. Worried about his son's aimlessness, Drudge's father insisted on buying him a Packard Bell computer in 1994.^[1] The Drudge Report began as email notes sent out to a few friends.

The original issues were part gossip and part opinion. They were distributed as an email newsletter and posted to alt.showbiz.gossip Usenet forum. In 1996, the newsletter transitioned slowly from entertainment gossip to political gossip and moved from email to the Web as its primary distribution mechanism.

In March 1995, the Drudge Report had 1,000 email subscribers; by 1997, Drudge had 85,000 subscribers to his email service. Drudge's website gained in popularity in the late 1990s after a number of stories which he reported before the mainstream media. Drudge first received national attention in 1996 when he broke the news that Jack Kemp would be Republican Bob Dole's running mate in the 1996 presidential election. In 1998, he gained popularity when he published the reporting of then-Newsweek reporter Michael Issikoff, becoming the first media outlet to publish the news that later became the Monica Lewinsky scandal.^[6]

Drudge met Andrew Breitbart in Los Angeles during the 1990s and became his mentor, with Breitbart later helping to run the Drudge Report.^{[7][8]} Breitbart announced in 2005 that he was "amicably leaving the Drudge Report after a long and close working relationship with Matt Drudge", but still helped run Drudge's website from Los Angeles by working the afternoon shift, in addition to running Breitbart.^{[9][10][11]}

A story by Business 2.0 magazine from April 2003 estimated that Drudge's website received \$3,500 a day (almost \$1.3 million a year) in advertising revenues. Subtracting his relatively minor server costs, the magazine estimated that the Drudge Report website netted \$800,000 a year.^[12] An article in The Miami Herald from September 2003 said that Drudge estimated he earns \$1.2 million a year from his website and radio show. During an April 30, 2004 appearance on C-SPAN, he confirmed that he earns over \$1 million.

For many years, Drudge was based out of his one-bedroom apartment in Hollywood. Today, he maintains the website from his two properties in Miami, Florida.^{[1][7]} In updating the site, he reportedly monitors multiple television news channels and a number of websites on several computers in his home office.^[13]

Fox News television show

From June 1998 to November 1999, Drudge hosted a Saturday night television show called Drudge on the Fox News Channel. The show ended by joint consent. Drudge had refused to go on air, charging Fox News with censorship when the network prevented him from showing photos of surgery on Samuel Armas. Drudge, who is pro-life, wanted to use a picture of a tiny hand reaching out from the womb to dramatize his argument against late-term abortion, but Fox's John Moody decided that that would be misleading because the photo was not of an abortion but an emergency operation on the fetus for spina bifida.^[14] Fox News alleged breach of contract but, after Drudge issued an apology,^[15] Fox issued a statement calling the parting "amicable".^[15]

Radio talk show

Drudge hosted a Sunday night talk radio show – "the only time anyone will let me on the air", he claimed. The show, which was also named the Drudge Report, was syndicated by Premiere Radio Networks. He guest hosted for the conservative radio talk show host Rush Limbaugh. Drudge gained notice in the early 2000s by

becoming a frequent reference for news material on Limbaugh's, Sean Hannity's, and Mark Levin's radio shows. He was often acknowledged by Michael Savage as a source of topics for *The Savage Nation*. Lynn Samuels, for a time, served as Drudge's call screener.

Drudge left his position as radio host with Premiere effective September 30, 2007. He was replaced by Cincinnati radio station WLW's Bill Cunningham on the network and in most markets,^[16] though in a few larger markets, John Batchelor replaced him instead.

Books

The Drudge Revolution: The Inside Story of How Talk Radio, Fox News, and a Gift Shop Clerk with an Internet Connection Took Down the Mainstream Media was published on July 28, 2020. In the book, author and investigative journalist Matthew Lysiak interviews more than 200 former friends and associates, including former Drudge Report editor Joseph Curl, to reveal the first inside look at Drudge and his website.

Drudge wrote a book with Julia Phillips in 2000 titled *Drudge Manifesto*, which reached the New York Times Best Seller list.^{[17][18]} The book features a transcript of a Q&A session conducted at the National Press Club on June 2, 1998, which lays out Drudge's *raison d'être*. It also contains copies of emails sent to Drudge by his readers, dialogues between Drudge and his cat, and extensive descriptions of parties Drudge has attended and how the celebrities there reacted to him. A review in the Washington Post said: "Indeed, while *Drudge Manifesto* runs 247 pages ... Which leaves, in the end, 112 pages of new material, including nine pages of poetry."^{[19][20]} A review from the Columbia Journalism Review stated: "By any standard, Drudge's book is padded", and: "It is a weird, stream-of-conscious mixture of telling readers how he got his stories and mocking his critics."

Influence

In the 2020 book *Drudge Revolution*, author Matthew Lysiak describes how every major presidential campaign dating back to the late 90s had a staffer whose responsibility was to make a connection and potentially influence Drudge. Ahead of the 2008 Democratic primaries, Hillary Clinton communication director Tracy Sefl befriended Drudge, a relationship which she describes in the book as "scary" due to the power of the Drudge Report.

In their 2006 book *The Way to Win*, Mark Halperin and John Harris report that Republican National Convention chairman Ken Mehlman "kind of brags" (as then-CNN host Howard Kurtz put it) about utilizing the Drudge channel.^[21] They also wrote that "Drudge, with his droll Dickensian name, was not the only media or political agent whose actions led to John Kerry's defeat. But his role placed him at the center of the game."^[22]

In 2006, Time named Drudge one of the 100 most influential people in the world,^[23] describing the Drudge Report as "a ludicrous combination of gossip, political intrigue and extreme weather reports ... still put together mostly by the guy who started out as a convenience-store clerk."

ABC News concluded that the Drudge Report sets the tone for national political coverage.^[24] The article says "Republican operatives keep an open line to Drudge, often using him to attack their opponents."

In October 2006, Washington Post editor Len Downie, speaking at the Online News Association's annual convention in Washington, D.C., said, "Our largest driver of traffic is Matt Drudge."^[25]

On October 22, 2007, *New York Times* reporter Jim Rutenberg wrote that Republican and Democratic presidential candidates, including Hillary Clinton, were cooperating with Drudge and "working harder than ever to get favorable coverage for their candidates – or unfavorable coverage of competitors – onto the Drudge Report's home page, knowing that television producers, radio talk show hosts and newspaper reporters view it as a bulletin board for the latest news and gossip."^[26] Rutenberg stated that Nielsen/NetRatings show that the Drudge Report gets three million unique visitors over the course of a month, or approximately one percent of the population of the United States.

During the 2012 Republican presidential primaries, Drudge was described by some, including former presidential candidate Fred Thompson, as having a pro-Mitt Romney slant.^[27]

Personal life

Drudge's relationships have always been with older men. He was a regular at gay clubs in Washington, D.C. when he was a teenager.^[28]

Drudge previously lived in Hollywood, California. As of 2007, he owned two properties in Miami, Florida – a \$1.4 million Mediterranean-style stucco house on Rivo Alto Island^[1] and a \$1 million-plus condominium in Miami's Four Seasons hotel.^[7] By early 2009, Drudge earned millions of dollars a year, traveled extensively, and moved to another property in Miami and had become reclusive.^[13] In 2003, he said his one indulgence, apart from travel, was his Corvette.^[29]

Political views

The Daily Telegraph has described Drudge as a conservative populist.^[31]

In 1998, Drudge claimed that his politics are "libertarian except for drugs and abortion".^[32] In 2001, he told the *Miami New Times*:

"I am a conservative. I'm very much pro-life. If you go down the list of what makes up a conservative, I'm there almost all the way."^[33] In 2002, he described himself as "Free from any Corporate Concerns".^[30] In a 2005 interview with *The Sunday Times*, Drudge described his politics:

"I'm not a right-wing Republican. I'm a conservative and want to pay less taxes. And I did vote Republican at the last election. But I'm more of a populist."^[34]

In every state and nearly every civilized nation in the developed world, readers know where to go for action and reaction of news – at least one day ahead... Free from any corporate concerns, there are simply too many to thank since the site's inception in 1994. This new attempt at the old American experiment of full freedom in reporting is ever exciting. Those in power have everything to lose by individuals who march to their own rules.

–*The Drudge Report*, Matt Drudge, on reaching one billion page views, 2002^[30]

Comments by journalists

Drudge has been called "the Walter Cronkite of his era" by Mark Halperin and John F. Harris,^[22] and "the country's reigning mischief-maker" by Todd Purdum of *The New York Times*.^[35] Michael Isikoff of *Newsweek* said "Drudge is a menace to honest, responsible journalism. And to the extent that he's read and people believe what they read, he's dangerous."^[36] According to Camille Paglia, he is "the kind of bold,

entrepreneurial, free-wheeling, information-oriented outsider we need far more of in this country."^[37] David McClintick described him as "a modern Tom Paine, a possible precursor to millions of town criers using the Internet to invade the turf of bigfoot journalists."^[38]

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External links

- [Transcript, audio, video of Matt Drudge's National Press Club speech](http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/mattdrugdenationalpressclub.htm) (<http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/mattdrugdenationalpressclub.htm>)
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Jonah Goldberg

Jonah Jacob Goldberg (born March 21, 1969) is an American conservative syndicated columnist, author, political analyst, and commentator. The founding editor of *National Review Online*, from 1998 until 2019 he was an editor at *National Review*.^[1] Goldberg writes a weekly column about politics and culture for the *Los Angeles Times*.^[2] In October 2019, Goldberg became founding editor of the online opinion and news publication *The Dispatch*.^{[3][4][5][6]} Goldberg has authored the No. 1 *New York Times* bestseller *Liberal Fascism*, released in January 2008; *The Tyranny of Cliches: How Liberals Cheat in the War of Ideas*, released in 2012;^[7] and *Suicide of the West*, which was published in April 2018 and also became a *New York Times* bestseller, reaching No. 5 on the list the following month.^{[8][9]}

Goldberg is also a regular contributor on news networks such as CNN, Fox News, and MSNBC, appearing on various television programs including *Good Morning America*, *Nightline*, *Hardball with Chris Matthews*, *Real Time with Bill Maher*, *Larry King Live*, *Your World with Neil Cavuto*, the *Glenn Beck Program*, and *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*. Goldberg is an occasional guest on a number of Fox News shows such as *The Five*, *The Greg Gutfeld Show*, and *Outnumbered*. He is also a frequent panelist on *Special Report with Bret Baier*. From 2006 to 2010, Goldberg was a frequent participant on *bloggingheads.tv*. Goldberg has been a noted critic of President Donald Trump, fellow Republicans, and the conservative media complex during and after the Trump presidency.^[10]

Jonah Goldberg



Goldberg in 2012

Born	Jonah Jacob Goldberg <div>March 21, 1969</div> New York City, New York, U.S.
Education	Goucher College (BA)
Occupation	Journalist and author
Employer	<i>The Dispatch</i>
Spouse(s)	Jessica Gavora (m. 2001)
Children	1
Parent(s)	Lucianne Goldberg and Sidney "Sid" Goldberg

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Early life and education

Goldberg was born on the Upper West Side of New York City's Manhattan borough to Lucianne Goldberg (Nee Steinberger), a literary agent, and Sidney Goldberg, who died in 2005, an editor and media executive.^{[11][12]} In speaking about his upbringing, Goldberg has said that his mother is an Episcopalian and that his father was Jewish and that he was raised Jewish.^{[13][14]} After graduating high school in 1987, Goldberg left New York City to attend Goucher College in Towson, Maryland, from which he earned his bachelor's in 1991, majoring in political science.^[15] Goldberg's class at Goucher, which was a women's college until 1986, was the second to admit men.^[16] While at Goucher, Goldberg was active in student politics and served as the co-editor of the school newspaper, *The Quindecim*, for two years. Goldberg and Andreas Benno Kollegger were the first men to run the paper. He later interned for Scripps Howard News Service, United Press International, and other news organizations. He also worked for Delilah Communications, a publishing house in New York.

Career

After graduating, Goldberg taught English in Prague for less than a year before moving to Washington D.C. in 1992 to take a job at the American Enterprise Institute.^[17] While at AEI he worked for Ben J. Wattenberg. He was the researcher for Wattenberg's nationally syndicated column and for Wattenberg's book, *Values Matter Most*. He also worked on several PBS public affairs documentaries, including a two-hour special hosted by David Gergen and Wattenberg.^[18] Goldberg was also invited to serve on Goucher College's Board of Trustees immediately after graduating in 1991, a position he held for three years.^[19]

In 1994, Goldberg became a founding producer for Wattenberg's *Think Tank with Ben Wattenberg*. That same year he moved to New River Media, an independent television production company, which produced "Think Tank" as well as numerous other television programs and projects. Goldberg worked on a large number of television projects across the United States, as well as in Europe and Japan. He wrote, produced, and edited two documentaries for New River Media, *Gargoyles: Guardians of the Gate* and *Notre Dame: Witness to History*.

He joined *National Review* as a contributing editor in 1998. By the end of that year he was asked to launch *National Review Online* (NRO) as a sister publication to *National Review*. He served as editor of NRO for several years and later became editor-at-large.

Clinton–Lewinsky scandal

Goldberg's mother Lucianne Goldberg was involved in the Clinton–Lewinsky scandal as detailed in *The New Yorker*.^{[20][21]} Goldberg has spoken of his mother and the Lewinsky scandal:

My mother was the one who advised Linda Tripp to record her conversations with Monica Lewinsky and to save the dress. I was privy to some of that stuff, and when the administration set about to destroy Lewinsky, Tripp, and my mom, I defended my mom and by extension Tripp ... I have zero desire to have those arguments again. I did my bit in the trenches of Clinton's trousers.^[22]

These tapes became the focal point of the Lewinsky scandal.

Current work

Writing for *National Review* and other publications

Beginning in 1998, Goldberg was an editor and wrote a twice-weekly column at *National Review*, which is syndicated to numerous papers across the United States, and at [Townhall.com](#). *National Review* consists of fellow contributors such as [Ramesh Ponnuru](#), [Richard Brookhiser](#), and [Kevin D. Williamson](#).^[23]



Goldberg in 2007

Goldberg also wrote the "Goldberg File"^[24] at *National Review*, a column that was generally lighter and more focused on humor and cultural commentary. Goldberg's column often made pop-culture references to works including *Star Trek* and *Battlestar Galactica*, of which he has said he is a fan.^{[25][26]} Goldberg was also a frequent contributor at the *National Review* blog *The Corner*, often authoring posts with light-hearted, comedic and pop-culture references.

Goldberg left *National Review* in May 2019.

Aside from being a member of the *USA Today* Board of Contributors, he has written for *The New Yorker*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Commentary*, *The Public Interest*, *The Wilson Quarterly*, *The Weekly Standard*, *The New York Post*, and *Slate*. *The Los Angeles Times* added Goldberg to its editorial lineup in 2005.

In 2020, Goldberg co-founded *The Dispatch*, an online news publication aimed at offering political, social and cultural analysis from a center-right perspective.^[27]

Online media

Goldberg is the host of *The Remnant with Jonah Goldberg*,^[28] an interview podcast that covers a variety of topics in the spheres of politics, conservative theory, and current events. Goldberg is a frequent participant in programs produced by [Ricochet](#),^[29] including the podcast *GLoP Culture* which features Goldberg, [John Podhoretz](#), and Ricochet co-founder [Rob Long](#).^[30] From 2006 to 2010, he was a frequent participant on [Bloggingheads.tv](#).^[31]

Books

Goldberg's first book, *Liberal Fascism: The Secret History of the American Left, from Mussolini to the Politics of Meaning*, was published in January 2008. It reached No. 1 on the *New York Times* Best Seller list of [hardcover nonfiction](#) in its seventh week on the list.^[32] While in preparation, the book had a number of different subtitles, including "The Totalitarian Temptation from [Hegel](#) to [Whole Foods](#)" and "The Totalitarian Temptation From Mussolini to [Hillary Clinton](#)". After being published in paperback, the subtitle was changed

to *The Secret History of the American Left, from Mussolini to the Politics of Change*. Some historians have denounced the book as being "poor scholarship",^[33] "propaganda",^[34] and not scholarly.^[35] Other reviewers described the book as "provocative"^[36] and "a wealth of challenging insights, backed up by thorough research".^[37] The audiobook version of *Liberal Fascism* was narrated by Johnny Heller. Goldberg followed the book with *The Tyranny of Clichés: How Liberals Cheat in the War of Ideas* in 2012. The paperback edition of *Tyranny of Cliches* came out on April 30, 2013. Goldberg himself narrated the audiobook version. His most recent work, *Suicide of the West*, was released in 2018.

Pulitzer claim controversy

In May 2012, Goldberg was touted as a "two-time Pulitzer prize nominee" in the book jacket of his second book, *The Tyranny of Cliches: How Liberals Cheat in the War of Ideas*. NBC News reporter Bill Dedman pointed this out as misleading because Goldberg had in fact only been an entrant in the Pulitzer contest and had never been nominated as a finalist, as the moniker "Pulitzer nominee" would seem to suggest. Becoming an entrant in the Pulitzer contest requires only that either the author of a written work submit an entry form along with a small fee or that someone else does so on their behalf. Following Dedman's reporting, Goldberg and his publishing company acknowledged the mistake and subsequently removed the line from the book jacket.^[38]

Media appearances and commentary

Frequent topics

Some frequent topics of his articles include censorship, meritocracy, liberty, federalism and interpretation of the Constitution, he has attacked the ethics and morals of liberals and Democrats, and his disagreements with libertarians also appear often in his writings. In the years of the Trump presidency, his writings turned critical of the Trump movement and the moral rot within the Republican Party.^[39] He was a supporter of the Iraq War and has advocated American military intervention elsewhere in the world, suggesting that "Every ten years or so, the United States needs to pick up some small crappy little country and throw it against the wall, just to show the world we mean business."^[40] He has defended historical colonialism in places such as Africa as more beneficial than it is generally given credit for; in one column, he suggested that U.S. imperialism on the continent could help solve its persistent problems.^[41] When he wrote in October 2006 that invading Iraq was a mistake, he called it a "noble" mistake and still maintained that liberal opponents of the war policy wanted America to fail: "In other words, their objection isn't to war per se; it's to wars that advance U.S. interests. ... I must confess, one of the things that made me reluctant to conclude that the Iraq war was a mistake was my distaste for the shabbiness of the arguments on the antiwar side."^[42]

He popularized and expanded on a commentary by the late Time writer William Henry III. Henry had written on the subject of multiculturalism and cultural equality, stating that "it is scarcely the same thing to put a man on the moon as to put a bone in your nose". Goldberg stated that "[m]ulticulturalism—which is simply egalitarianism wrapped in rainbow-colored paper—has elevated the notion that all ideas are equal, all systems equivalent, all cultures of comparable worth."^[41]

He has criticized the idea of " social justice" as meaning "anything its champions want it to mean" or "'good things' no one needs to argue for and no one dare be against".^[43]

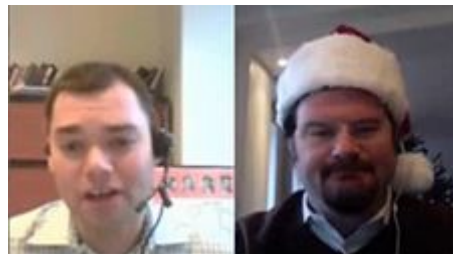
Relations with other writers and public figures

Goldberg has publicly feuded with people on the political left, like Juan Cole, over U.S. Iraq policy, and Air America Radio commentators such as Janeane Garofalo, who has accused him of being a chickenhawk on the Iraq War. On February 8, 2005, Goldberg offered Cole a wager of \$1,000 "that Iraq won't have a civil war, that it will have a viable constitution, and that a majority of Iraqis and Americans will, in two years' time, agree that the war was worth it".^[44] Cole refused to accept and the wager was never made.^[45] Goldberg later conceded that if Cole had accepted the bet, Cole would have won.^[46]

Goldberg and Peter Beinart of The New Republic hosted a conservative vs. liberal webtv show, What's your Problem?, from 2007 to 2010. It originally could be found on National Review Online^[47] and later moved to Bloggingheads.tv.^[31]

The news media

Regarding Fox News, Goldberg said, "Look, I think liberals have reasonable gripes with Fox News. It does lean to the right, primarily in its opinion programming but also in its story selection (which is fine by me) and elsewhere. But it's worth remembering that Fox is less a bastion of ideological conservatism and more a populist, tabloidy network."^[48] During the Trump years and beyond, while Goldberg has defended certain news hosts and shows on Fox News, he has become more sympathetic towards critiques of Fox News, especially regarding their Opinion hosts, including Tucker Carlson, Sean Hannity, and Mark Levin.^{[49][50][27]}



Peter Beinart and Goldberg engaged in a discussion on Bloggingheads.tv

Goldberg has criticized liberals for disliking Fox News, claiming they have no "problem with the editorializing of MSNBC's Keith Olbermann or Chris Matthews, they think it's just plain wrong for conservatives to play that game".^[48] Goldberg has referred to Olbermann as "MSNBC's answer to a question no one asked".^[51]

During the years of the Trump Presidency, Goldberg has remained very critical of conservative media's embrace of President Trump. On Trump's defenders in the media, Goldberg said this:

For nearly five years now, it has been obvious that Trump was unfit for the job and the arguments marshaled in his defense were cynical rationalizations that, for some, eventually mutated into sincerely held delusions. Sure, some deluded themselves from the beginning, but I've talked to too many Republican politicians and conservative media darlings who admitted it in private.^[52]

Critic of Donald Trump

During the Trump Presidency, Goldberg became increasingly critical of both the Republican Party's embrace of President Trump and their abandonment of pre-Trump principles.^{[53][10]}

Personal life

Goldberg is married to Jessica Gavora, chief speechwriter and former senior policy adviser to former Attorney General John Ashcroft.^[54] They have one daughter. He lives in the Palisades, Washington, D.C. neighborhood.^{[55][56]}

Goldberg's brother, Joshua, died in 2011 from a fall. Goldberg's father, Sidney, died in 2005, and was survived by his wife, Jonah's mother, Lucianne.^[13]

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External links

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 - [Goldberg's National Review Online biography \(https://www.nationalreview.com/author/jonah-goldberg/\)](https://www.nationalreview.com/author/jonah-goldberg/)
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Michelle Malkin

Michelle Malkin (/ˈmɔːlkɪn/; née **Maglalang**; born October 20, 1970)^[1] is an American conservative political commentator. She was a Fox News contributor, and in May 2020 joined Newsmax TV. Malkin has written seven books, and founded the conservative websites Twitchy and Hot Air.^[2]

Around 2019, Malkin began to publicly support members of the extreme right, including Nick Fuentes.^{[3][4][5]} Malkin has faced criticism for her association with white nationalists, neo-Nazis, and Groypers, including Fuentes and Identity Evropa leader Patrick Casey.^{[3][5][6]} In November 2019, she was dropped by conservative organization Young America's Foundation (YAF) due to her support of antisemites and white nationalists.^{[5][7]}

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Michelle Malkin



Malkin in 2016

Born	Michelle Maglalang <div>October 20, 1970</div> Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, U.S.
Education	Oberlin College (BA)
Occupation	Author, <u>syndicated columnist</u> , <u>television personality</u> , and <u>blogger</u>
Political party	<u>Republican</u>
Spouse(s)	Jesse Malkin (m.. 1993)
Children	2

Early life

Michelle Malkin was born October 20, 1970^[1] in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to Philippine citizens Rafaela (née Perez), a teacher, and Apolo DeCastro Maglalang, who was then a physician-in-training.^[1] Several months prior to Malkin's birth, her parents immigrated to the United States on an employer-sponsored

visa.^{[1][8]} After her father finished his medical training, the family moved to Absecon, New Jersey.^[1] Malkin has a brother.^[9] She has described her parents as Ronald Reagan Republicans who were "not incredibly politically active".^[1]

Malkin, a Roman Catholic,^{[1][10]} attended Holy Spirit High School, where she edited the school newspaper and aspired to become a concert pianist.^[1] Following her graduation in 1988, she enrolled at Oberlin College.^[1] Malkin had planned to pursue a bachelor's degree in music, but changed her major to English.^[1] During her college years, she worked as a press inserter, tax preparation aide, and network news librarian.^[11] At Oberlin, she wrote for a conservative student newspaper started by Jesse Malkin, who later became her husband.^{[1][12]} Her first article for the paper heavily criticized Oberlin's affirmative action program, and she said it received a "huge[ly] negative response" from other students on campus.^[1] She graduated in 1992 and later described her alma mater as "radically left-wing".^{[13][14]}

Career

Journalism

Malkin began her journalism career at the Los Angeles Daily News, working as a columnist from 1992 to 1994. In 1995, she worked in Washington, D.C. as a journalism fellow at the libertarian think tank Competitive Enterprise Institute.^{[11][15]} In 1996, she moved to Seattle, Washington, where she became a columnist for The Seattle Times. According to Goldsea, by the end of the year "Malkin was unleashing the no-holds-barred style of political spitballing that would ultimately make her a poster girl for the radical right".^[1]

Since 1999, Malkin has written a syndicated column for Creators Syndicate.^[16] Her column is published by outlets including Townhall. Some publications which previously carried her column, such as The Daily Wire and National Review, stopped doing so around 2019 when she began to espouse more extreme views.^{[3][17]} The white supremacist publication American Renaissance began publishing her column in 2020.^[18]

On April 24, 2006, Malkin launched the conservative blog Hot Air, where she remained CEO until she sold the website in 2010.^{[19][20]} The site's staff at launch included Allahpundit and Bryan Preston; Preston was later replaced by Ed Morrissey on February 25, 2008.^{[19][21]} In February 2010, Salem Communications bought Hot Air from Malkin.^{[22][20]} In March 2012, Malkin founded the website Twitchy, a Twitter content curation site. She sold Twitchy, also to Salem Communications, the following year.^[23]

For years, Malkin was a frequent commentator for Fox News and a regular guest host of The O'Reilly Factor.^{[3][24][25]} In 2007, she announced that she would not return to The O'Reilly Factor, alleging that Fox News had mishandled a dispute over derogatory statements made about her by Geraldo Rivera in a Boston Globe interview.^{[26][27]} Malkin joined Conservative Review's online television network, CRTV, when it launched in 2016, to host the documentary-style show Michelle Malkin Investigates.^{[28][25]} Malkin left CRTV under unclear circumstances when it merged with TheBlaze in December 2018.^{[29][30][31]} Malkin later joined competitor Newsmax TV in May 2020, where she began to host the show Sovereign Nation.^{[24][32]}

Books

Malkin published her first book, Invasion: How America Still Welcomes Terrorists, Criminals, and Other Foreign Menaces, in 2002.^[33] It reached #14 on the New York Times bestseller list.^[34]

In 2004, she published *In Defense of Internment: The Case for 'Racial Profiling' in World War II and the War on Terror*,^[35] defending the U.S. government's internment of 112,000 Japanese Americans in prison camps during World War II, and arguing that racial profiling is acceptable in times of war.^[36] The book drew harsh criticism from mainstream scholars, organizations, and individuals including the Japanese American Citizens League and Fred Korematsu.^{[37][38][6]} The Historians' Committee for Fairness, an organization of scholars and professional researchers, published an open letter condemning the book for not having undergone peer review and arguing that its central thesis is false.^{[39][40]} Some conservative scholars spoke out in support of the book, including Thomas Sowell and Daniel Pipes.^[38] As a result of the controversy, the Hawaii-based newspaper MidWeek dropped her column in August 2004,^[41] The Virginian-Pilot called her "an Asian Ann Coulter" and dropped her column in November 2004.^[42]

Malkin's third book, *Unhinged: Exposing Liberals Gone Wild*, was released in October 2005.^[43] Malkin released her fourth book, *Culture of Corruption: Obama and His Team of Tax Cheats, Crooks, and Cronies*, in July 2009.^[44] It remained on the *The New York Times* Non-Fiction, Hardcover Best Seller list for six weeks.^{[45][46][47]} Her fifth book, *Who Built That: Awe-Inspiring Stories of American Tinkerpreneurs*, was released in May 2015 and was a response to the "you didn't build that" statement made by President Barack Obama three years earlier, on July 13, 2012.^{[48][49]} Malkin published *Sold Out: How High-Tech Billionaires & Bipartisan Beltway Crapweasels Are Screwing America's Best & Brightest Workers* in 2015 along with John Miano.^[50] She published *Open Borders Inc.: Who's Funding America's Destruction?* in 2019.^[51]

Blogging

In June 2004, Malkin launched a political blog, MichelleMalkin.com.^[52] A 2007 memo from the National Republican Senatorial Committee described Malkin as one of the five "best-read national conservative bloggers".^[53] In December 2008, Malkin's blog was the largest conservative blog,^[54] and in 2011, the people search company PeekYou reported that Malkin had the largest digital footprint of any political blogger.^[55] In April 2020, Malkin moved her blog and its archives to *The Unz Review*,^[56] a far-right website run by former publisher of *The American Conservative*, Ron Unz.^{[57][58]} According to the Anti-Defamation League, *The Unz Review* is "a site that features numerous white supremacists and antisemites and is run by Ron Unz, who has written a number of antisemitic tracts."^[4]

Malkin has also been a contributor to the far-right anti-immigration website VDARE, writing a weekly column since 2002.^[59]

Jamil Hussein

In late 2006 and early 2007, Malkin was a leading voice among several right-wing bloggers who questioned both the credibility and the existence of Iraqi police captain Jamil Hussein, who had been used as a source by the Associated Press in over 60 stories about the Iraq war.^{[60][61][62]} The controversy began in November 2006 when the AP reported that six Iraqis had been burned alive as they left a mosque and that four mosques had been destroyed, citing Hussein as one of its sources. The Iraqi Ministry of the Interior and the United States military initially denied Hussein existed, leading Malkin and others to dispute the AP's reporting.

On January 4, however, the AP reported that the Ministry had acknowledged Hussein's existence, and that he was wanted for arrest for speaking to the press.^{[61][62][63]} Malkin reported the Iraqi government's confirmation. According to *The Washington Post*, Malkin also "expressed regret", though media scholar Arthur S. Hayes wrote in his 2008 book *Press Critics are the Fifth Estate* that her post "contains no apology or words of regret from her".^{[64][62]}

On January 21, Malkin published an op-ed in the New York Post in which she wrote that she and Eason Jordan had traveled to Iraq the previous week and found that the mosques that Hussein had described as "destroyed", "torched", and "burned and [blown] up" were "still standing". She wrote that this brought into question the credibility of all AP stories citing Hussein.^{[61][65]} HuffPost wrote that "the photographic and other evidence marshalled by Malkin certainly gives credence to the claims that the mosques were at least 'torched' and 'burned'".^[61]

Speaking

For 17 years, Malkin was a featured speaker for Young America's Foundation (YAF). On November 14, 2019, during a YAF-sponsored speech at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), Malkin praised white nationalist political commentator Nick Fuentes.^[66] In the same speech, she spoke supportively of the Proud Boys, Laura Loomer, and former Iowa Republican Representative Steve King.^[3] YAF cut ties with Malkin on November 18, saying, "there is no room in mainstream conservatism or at YAF for holocaust deniers, white nationalists, street brawlers, or racists".^{[67][3]} Organizers at Bentley University also canceled a scheduled book promotion event after the incident.^[3]



Malkin speaking at the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) in 2016

Malkin has spoken at the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC). She was a featured speaker in 2019, and her anti-immigration speech, in which she condemned the "ghost" of John McCain, drew controversy.^[67] In 2020, Malkin spoke at the America First Political Action Conference (AFPAC), an event organized by Nick Fuentes that was described by Rolling Stone as the "right-wing extremist answer to CPAC".^{[3][68]} She also received press credentials to attend CPAC 2020, but did not speak at the conference.^[69] She spoke again at AFPAC 2021.^[70]

Views

Until 2019, Malkin was generally described as a conservative.^{[54][62]} Beginning in 2019, some publications began to describe her as right-wing, while some continue to describe her as conservative.^{[67][70][71][72]} She has been described as far-right by HuffPost in 2019, and Business Insider, Vanity Fair, and the Washingtonian in 2020.^{[73][74][75][76]} She has been described as alt-right by The Bulwark and The Independent in 2020.^{[77][78]}

Immigration

Malkin supports stricter immigration laws in the United States. She was a featured speaker at the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) in 2019, where she said levels of immigration into the United States amount to an "invasion" and "endanger our general welfare and the blessings of liberty".^[73] She also condemned politicians, including the "ghost" of recently deceased Senator John McCain, for failing to enact stricter immigration regulation.^{[79][80]}

Since 2002, Malkin wrote a weekly column for VDARE, a far-right anti-immigration website.^[6] In a 2002 appearance on Hannity & Colmes, Malkin called for militarization of the Canadian border, comparing Canada to conflict zones where United States troops were deployed and saying, "Canada bears a lot of responsibility for making us as vulnerable as we are to terrorism".^[81]

In 2017, Malkin endorsed alt-right candidate Paul Nehlen in his ultimately unsuccessful primary challenge against Paul Ryan for Wisconsin's 1st congressional district, citing Nehlen's opposition to "elites" who support open borders as the reason for her endorsement.^{[17][77]}

Muslims

Malkin has advocated for interning Muslims on national security grounds.^[37] Malkin also defended "racial, ethnic, religious, and nationality profiling policies" used during the War on Terror.^[6]

Malkin has covered anti-Muslim topics on episodes of her CRTV show *Michelle Malkin Investigates*, including "The Muslim Refugee Rape Epidemic" and "Honor Killings: The Real War on Women".^[6] Malkin promoted her 2019 book, *Open Borders Inc.*, at the David Horowitz Freedom Center, a non-profit that has been described as Islamophobic.^[6]

Support for white nationalists

Amanda Carpenter wrote in March 2020 that Malkin had begun to "link arms with the most vocal elements of the white nationalist movement".^[3] In August 2020, the Anti-Defamation League wrote, "in the past year ... she has publicly and explicitly allied herself with white supremacists" and that she herself was "echoing" white supremacist views.^[4] The Southern Poverty Law Center described her in January 2021 as a "former conservative-pundit-gone-white-nationalist-apologist".^[82]

YAF dismissed Malkin in November 2019 after she gave a YAF-sponsored speech at UCLA titled "America First: the Torch Is Being Passed". In her speech, she praised Nick Fuentes as "one of the New Right leaders", and also spoke supportively of the Proud Boys, Laura Loomer, and Steve King.^[3] In 2020, Malkin faced criticism for speaking at the America First Political Action Conference, which is hosted by white nationalist Nick Fuentes and also featured Patrick Casey, the founder of the neo-Nazi group Identity Evropa.^{[3][5]} Malkin has also supported Gavin McInnes, and has described him and Laura Loomer as friends of hers.^[6] She has described herself as the "mommy" of the Groypers, a loose collection of white nationalists who follow Nick Fuentes.^{[83][84]}

In 2020, Malkin appeared on *Red Ice*, a white supremacist radio program, and cautioned listeners about changing demographics and "multicultural rot".^[18]

Conspiracy theories

Antisemitism

Malkin has promoted antisemitic conspiracy theories about George Soros on her social media and on Fox News programs.^[6] In 2019, Malkin joined far-right commentator Gavin McInnes for a Facebook Live event to promote her book, and agreed with him when he claimed that Soros was "not a Holocaust survivor" but a "Holocaust facilitator".^[6] At the 2020 America First Political Action Conference, Malkin said it was "not anti-semitic" to question "whatever the precise number of people is who perished in World War II."^[7]

2020 United States presidential election

Following the 2020 United States presidential election, Malkin helped advance the conspiracy theory that the election was stolen from Trump. She used the #StopTheSteal hashtag on Twitter, and spoke at a Stop the Steal rally in her hometown of Colorado Springs to protest the election results.^[85] She also appeared in a trailer for a film about the movement, which also featured Fuentes and Stop the Steal organizer Ali Alexander.^[86]

On November 13, 2020, Malkin interviewed Colorado businessman and right-wing activist Joe Oltmann, who alleged that he had infiltrated a local antifa group and listened to a conference call with an employee of Dominion Voting Systems in which the employee said he "made sure" Trump would not win the election.^[87] The following month, Malkin and Oltmann were both named in a defamation suit filed by the employee, who had been forced into hiding due to death threats.^[88]

Personal life

While in college at Oberlin, she began dating Jesse Malkin.^[25] They married in 1993, and have two children.^[16] Jesse Malkin worked as a healthcare consultant for RAND Corporation.^[1] In 2004, Malkin reported on her website that her husband had left his job to be a stay-at-home dad.^{[89][90]} He also helps book his wife's speaking engagements and helps her run her business.^[25]

Malkin and her family lived in North Bethesda, Maryland, until 2008 when they relocated to Colorado Springs, Colorado.^{[91][92]}

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External links

- [Michelle Malkin \(http://www.creators.com/opinion/michelle-malkin.html\)](http://www.creators.com/opinion/michelle-malkin.html) at Creators Syndicate

- [Appearances \(https://www.c-span.org/person/?michellemalkin\)](https://www.c-span.org/person/?michellemalkin) on [C-SPAN](#)
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Erick Erickson

Erick Woods Erickson (born June 3, 1975) is a conservative evangelical American blogger and radio host. He hosts the radio show *Atlanta's Evening News with Erick Erickson*, broadcast on 750 WSB (AM), and runs the blog *The Resurgent*. Previously, he served as the editor-in-chief and the CEO of the conservative political blog RedState^[2] and was a political contributor for CNN.

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Early life and career

Erick Woods Erickson was born in Jackson in East Feliciana Parish, Louisiana, moved to Dubai, United Arab Emirates when he was five, and returned to Jackson when he was fifteen.^{[3][4]} Erickson attended the American School of Dubai, previously known as the Jumeirah American School. His father worked for Conoco Oil^[5] as an oil company production foreman.^[6] Erickson received a bachelor's degree from Mercer University in Macon, Georgia, and a J.D. degree from Mercer University Walter F. George School of Law. He is an inactive member in good standing of the State Bar of Georgia.^[7]

Macon city council

Erick Erickson



Erickson in 2011

Member of the Macon City Council

In office

November 7, 2007 – February 16, 2011

Preceded by Cole Thomason

Succeeded by Beverly Blake^[1]

Personal details

Born Erick Woods Erickson
June 3, 1975
Jackson, Louisiana, U.S.

Political party Republican

Spouse(s) Christy Erickson

Residence Macon, Georgia, U.S.

Alma mater Mercer University (BA, JD)

Occupation Writer, columnist, and radio host

Website theresurgent.com (http://theresurgent.com)

Erickson was elected on November 6, 2007 to a four-year term as a Republican member of the Macon, Georgia city council.^[8] He resigned his office on February 16, 2011, partway through his first term to pursue a job with WSB radio in Atlanta;^[9] The Macon Telegraph noted his poor attendance as a council member before his resignation.^[10]

Political commentator

RedState

Erickson, who had been blogging on RedState since 2004,^[11] joined the conservative blog in 2005.^[12] He later served as its editor-in-chief. Erickson was CEO of RedState, Inc. While working at RedState, Erickson developed a reputation as one of the most influential American conservatives.^[13] Erickson's "Morning Briefing" e-mails grew from 498 subscribers when they began in February 2009 to nearly 70,000 by January 2010. The Washington Post noted that "The ability of a single e-mail to shape a message illustrates the power of the conservative network." The article described Erickson as one of the American conservative movement's "key national players".^[14]

Erickson wrote the "Confessions of a Political Junkie" blog and is former editor-in-chief of the "Peach Pundit" blog. His first book, *Red State Uprising: How to Take Back America* (co-authored with Lew Uhler), was published by Regnery Press in September 2010.^{[15][16]} Later that month, Erickson said that growing up his parents refused to serve "Asian food" on December 7, the anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor.^[17] Erickson's mother appeared to deny the claim to a journalist.^[18] Erickson criticized the report, citing his mother's age.^[19]

In 2014, RedState was sold by RedState, Inc. to Salem Media Group.^[20] In December 2015, Erickson left his position at the site to focus on his radio show.^[12]

Television and radio

From 2010 to January 2013, Erickson was a political contributor at CNN.^{[21][22]} Erickson later joined FOX News as a contributor.^[23]

In January 2011, Erickson began hosting a local radio show on WSB Radio 750/95.5, replacing Michael Savage. Erickson eventually moved to the slot vacated by Herman Cain when he announced his 2012 presidential bid. In 2014 and 2015, Erickson guest-hosted the national broadcast of The Rush Limbaugh Show on numerous times. Toward the end of Erickson's career at RedState he began to increase his focus on his radio show, which was owned by Cox Media Group.^[20] He eventually quit the site to work on it full-time.^{[12][20]}

The Resurgent

In January 2016, Erickson launched the conservative website The Resurgent.^[24]

Political views and controversies

The Daily Telegraph of London put Erickson on its "List of Most Influential US Conservatives", giving him a rank of 69th most influential in 2007 and 65th in 2010.^[25] According^[20] to the 2007 newspaper article: "Erickson epitomises the new power of the internet. A small-government fiscal and social conservative based

in the South, he taps into and influences the Republican 'base' that the GOP's 2008 candidates are courting."^[26] According to *The Atlantic*, Erickson's conservatism is more traditional (as opposed to libertarian) and "deeply informed by his evangelical faith".^[13] Erickson emphasizes small government, strong national defense, and the primacy of the traditional family.^[13]

Donald Trump

During a CNN interview after a Republican Party debate hosted by Fox News on August 6, 2015, Donald Trump had said that Fox News anchor and debate co-moderator Megyn Kelly had "blood coming out of her eyes, blood coming out of her wherever" while questioning him during the debate. The next day, Erickson disinvited Trump from a RedState gathering held in Atlanta,^[27] calling Trump's remark "a bridge too far" and that even "blunt talkers and unprofessional politicians should not cross" certain lines, including decency.^[27] The following day, Trump released a statement stating that Erickson had a history of making controversial statements for which he has had to apologize, and that he, Trump, was an outsider who did not fit into Erickson's agenda.^[28]

Erickson described Trump as "a racist" and "a fascist", and insisted, "I will not vote for Donald Trump. Ever."^[29] In February 2019, Erickson endorsed Trump for re-election in the 2020 presidential election.^[30]

Gender

In 2013, Erickson was criticized for saying in an interview on Fox Business Network that males dominate females in the "natural world" and it was only "science" for men to be the breadwinners for their family.^[31]

Guns

In December 2015, Erickson posted a picture of a bullet ridden copy of The New York Times that he had shot at. That day's edition contained a front-page editorial in favor of gun control.^{[32][33]}

Erickson spread a false story by RedState which claimed that 17-year old Parkland, Florida school shooting survivor David Hogg was not actually at the Parkland school when it was attacked.^[34] He later described Hogg as a "bully" after Hogg called for an advertiser boycott of right-wing Fox News host Laura Ingraham when she mocked him for not getting into a number of universities.^{[35][36]}

LGBT rights

In 2017, Erickson signed a manifesto, the Nashville Statement, which condemned homosexuality and transgender identity, saying that homosexual and transgender identity was not according to God's plan.^[37]

Attacks on public figures

In April 2009, Erickson described retiring Supreme Court Justice David Souter on his Twitter account as "the only goat fucking child molester to ever serve on the Supreme Court". In an appearance on The Colbert Report, Erickson said the statement was "not my finest hour."^[25] Erickson called Texas state senator Wendy Davis "Abortion Barbie".^[13] In a blog post, Erickson considered whether President Obama was "shagging hookers" and wondered whether Michelle Obama (whom he called a "Marxist harpy") "would go Lorena

Bobbit [sic] on him should he even think about it.”^[13] Erickson argued that President Obama won the Nobel Prize because of an “affirmative action quota.”^[38] Erickson compared the Obama administration's health care communications director Linda Douglass to Nazi propagandist Joseph Goebbels.^[39]

Augusto Pinochet

In November 2018, Erickson tweeted that foreign aid to Guatemala, Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador and Mexico would be more effectively spent installing “Pinochet types” in these countries. He added that the US should “support strong leaders who support free market reforms and promote economic stability, even if with a heavy hand”. When challenged on this proposal, Erickson replied “I'm hoping for some helicopters in this plan”, a reference to Death flights in Chile during Pinochet's regime.^[40]

Kathryn Sikkink, a professor in International Relations at the Harvard Kennedy School, responded to Erickson's remarks. She noted that “Pinochet was a Chilean dictator who committed massive human rights abuses,” and that Erickson got the “facts exactly backward. Recent history and social science don't show that authoritarian regimes stop people from fleeing across borders. They show that they make more people want to flee.”^[41]

Book

In 2017 he published a book *Before You Wake: Life Lessons from a Father to His Children*.^[42]

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External links

- [Appearances \(https://www.c-span.org/person/?erickerickson\)](https://www.c-span.org/person/?erickerickson) on C-SPAN
 - "Confessions of a Political Junkie" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20100712115425/http://www.erickerickson.org/blog/>) blog
 - "Peach Pundit" (<http://www.peachpundit.com/>) blog
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Dana Loesch

Dana Lynn Loesch (/læʃ/ *LASH*; née **Eaton**; born September 28, 1978)^{[1][2]} is an American radio and TV host. She is a former spokesperson for the National Rifle Association. She is a former writer and editor for Breitbart News and the host of the program *Dana* on TheBlaze TV from 2014 to 2017. She also hosts a weekday nationally syndicated radio talk show. Loesch has appeared as a guest on television networks such as Fox News, CNN, CBS, ABC, and HBO.

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Early life

Loesch was raised by her mother, Gale, in an extended family of Southern Baptists. She is descended from Cherokees in Georgia who were removed from their land on the Trail of Tears (as she described it "the Trail of Genocide")^{[3][4][5]} and were listed on the Dawes Roles, as well as a paternal grandmother of Irish descent.^[6] She graduated from Fox High School in Arnold, Missouri. She later attended St. Louis Community College at Meramec before transferring to Webster University to study journalism.^[7] While there, she was a Democrat and worked on Bill Clinton's reelection campaign.^[8] Following a pregnancy, Loesch dropped out of college and married, having her first child when she was 23.^[9] Loesch became disillusioned with the Democratic Party after the Clinton–Lewinsky scandal^[10] and fully rejected it after the September 11 attacks.^[7]

Media career

Dana Loesch



Born	Dana Lynn Eaton <div>September 28, 1978</div> Missouri, U.S.
Education	St. Louis Community College <div>Webster University (BA)</div>
Occupation	Commentator, radio and television host, author
Employer	Radio America
Political party	Democratic (Before 2001) <div>Republican (2001–present)</div>
Spouse(s)	Chris Loesch (m., 2000)
Children	2
Website	Official website (http://d anaradio.com)

After leaving Webster University, Loesch began writing for St. Louis Magazine, doing investigative news articles, and began her website "Mamalogues". The St. Louis Post-Dispatch ran "Mamalogues" as a weekly online column 2006–2008, winning Loesch Riverfront Times' "Best Newspaper Columnist St. Louis" for 2007.^[11] Loesch started hosting her radio show in 2008; it became a nationally syndicated, daily program, The Dana Show: The Conservative Alternative, on Radio America from flagship station KFTK-FM in St. Louis.^[12] In July 2008, Loesch was chosen as one of St. Louis Business Journal's top 30 Under 30.^{[13][14][15]} She was recognized by the Nielsen ratings as one of the Top 50 Most Powerful Mom Bloggers.^[16] In October 2010, Loesch was hired to be editor-in-chief of Big Journalism, a conservative website created by Andrew Breitbart.^[17] In February 2011, CNN hired Loesch as a political analyst in preparation for its 2012 election coverage.^[18] In 2009, Loesch co-founded the St. Louis Tea Party along with its board president, Bill Hennessy.^[19] Loesch left the organization in December 2011.^[19]

In 2012, Loesch was the recipient of Accuracy In Media's Grassroots Journalism award.^{[20][21]} She also guest hosts for other national radio hosts such as Glenn Beck and Michael Savage. Loesch was added to Talkers Magazine's top 100 "heavy hitters" in 2012^[22] and was number 24 in 2017.^[23] Loesch hosted the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) in 2013.^[24] In January 2012, Loesch spoke on her show in defense of U.S. Marines videotaped urinating on the corpses of dead Taliban fighters, commenting that "I'd drop trou and do it, too. That's me though. I want a million cool points for these guys (Marines). Is that harsh to say?"^[25]

In December 2012, after the death of founder Andrew Breitbart earlier in the year, Loesch sued the parent company of her former employer, Breitbart LLC. Loesch claimed in court documents that owner and operator Breitbart LLC bound her to "what amounts to indentured servitude in limbo" after she said she was forced to terminate her contract as the result of a hostile working environment.^[26] She reached a non-monetary settlement with Breitbart in 2013.^[27]

In May 2013, after a series of public comments back and forth between Loesch and Piers Morgan on Twitter regarding the murder of British soldier Lee Rigby, Morgan vowed to ban Loesch from his show, Piers Morgan Live.^[28] Loesch returned to the show in January 2014 after their producers, who were friends, arranged for Loesch and Morgan to work out their differences amicably.^[29]

On January 10, 2014, Loesch debuted her new daily TV Show, Dana, on Glenn Beck's TheBlaze TV. The show featured regulars such as author Benjamin Howe, and writer Brandon Morse. Loesch left in November 2017.^[30] In 2016, KFTK-FM in St. Louis, her original radio station, dropped her show.^[31] The show was picked up by WSDZ shortly thereafter.^[32]

During the 2016 Republican presidential primary, she endorsed the Ted Cruz campaign^[33] while disparaging the candidacy of Donald J. Trump.^{[34][35][36][37]} However, according to The Atlantic, since Trump's election Loesch has become one of the Trump presidency's most visible "passionate defenders".^[38]

In 2016, Loesch labelled the mainstream media as "the rat bastards of the Earth. They are the boil on the backside of American politics ... I'm happy frankly to see them curb stomped."^[39] When the videos resurfaced after a mass shooting at the Capital Gazette newsroom in Annapolis, Maryland in 2018, Loesch said she had meant she wanted some news stories to be curb-stomped and was not encouraging violence against journalists.^[40]

Loesch's show, which had already aired in the same time slot as The Rush Limbaugh Show during the last few years of Limbaugh's life, was picked up by several stations owned by Audacy, Inc., including her former flagship KFTK, in June 2021 after Limbaugh died.^[41]

National Rifle Association

Loesch held the post of special assistant to the executive vice president for public communication with the National Rifle Association (NRA) from 2017 until June, 2019.^[42] She hosted *The DL* on NRA TV until the NRA ended production of the channel on June 25, 2019,^[43] and she has featured prominently in other NRA-produced videos.

Statements made by Loesch in advocacy for the NRA have stirred controversy, and she has received death threats as a result.^[10]

2017

Loesch was featured in an online video published by the National Rifle Association in April 2017. In the video, Loesch talked about an unspecified "they" and depicted protests against Donald Trump in a negative light. She went on to say, "... They use their movie stars and singers and comedy shows and award shows to repeat their narrative over and over again. And then they use their ex-president to endorse the resistance... To smash windows, burn cars, shut down interstates and airports, bully and terrorize the law-abiding – until the only option left is for the police to do their jobs and stop the madness... The only way we stop this, the only way we save our country and our freedom, is to fight this violence of lies with the clenched fist of truth..."^{[44][45]}

The video, known as "The Violence of Lies", was condemned by some commentators.^[46] DeRay Mckesson, a leader in the Black Lives Matter movement, said that the ad was "an open call to violence to protect white supremacy".^[44] Jon Favreau, a former speechwriter for President Obama, called the video "revolting and frightening".^[44] U.S. Senator Chris Murphy (D, Ct.) said, "I think the NRA is telling people to shoot us. Now might be the right time to cancel your membership."^[47] Conservative columnist Anne Applebaum said that it called on Americans "to arm themselves to fight liberals. Violence is coming".^[45] An online petition calling for the video to be removed from Facebook said, "The video tries to create an 'us-vs-them' narrative and pit Americans against one another. It paints liberals as liars and as violent, unruly protesters who law-abiding gun owners need protection from."^[48]

Loesch defended the ad,^[49] saying that it condemned rather than condoned violence.^[44] She stated, "There was nowhere in this video... where I called for anyone to move toward violence, to silence anyone, or where I called for anyone to even pick up a firearm and enact violence."^[47]

In a second video released by the NRA in April 2017, Loesch criticized The New York Times, calling it an "old gray hag" and an "untrustworthy, dishonest rag that has subsisted on the welfare of mediocrity." She stated, "We've had it with your constant protection of your Democrat overlords, your refusal to acknowledge any truth that upsets the fragile construct that you believe is real life." Warning that her video should be considered "a shot across your proverbial bow," she concluded, "We're going to laser-focus on your so-called 'honest pursuit of truth.' In short, we're coming for you."^[50]

After the second video received increased attention in August 2017, Michael Luo, the editor of NewYorker.com, described the video as "strikingly bellicose even by the standards of the association."^[51] Press group Digital Content Next wrote a letter to Loesch in which it said, "Ninety-nine people out of a hundred would interpret this language about 'coming for' as threatening and to suggest otherwise is disingenuous at best and dangerous at worst. Bottom line: It is un-American to threaten journalists."^[51]

In October 2017, Loesch spoke in another video for the NRA, saying, "We are witnesses to the most ruthless attack on a president and the people who voted for him, and the free system that allowed it to happen, in American history."^[52] She added that critics of Trump are trying to "drive their daggers through the heart of [America's] future."^[52]

2018

In February 2018, Loesch said at the annual Conservative Political Action Conference, "Many in legacy media love mass shootings. You guys love it. Now I'm not saying that you love the tragedy. But I am saying that you love the ratings." She criticized the FBI's response to warnings in advance of the Stoneman Douglas High School shooting and said that the institution had become politicized.^{[53][54]} Later that month Loesch said the NRA bore no responsibility for curbing gun violence.^[55]

In March 2018, Loesch appeared in an NRA video in which she turned an hourglass and said to celebrities, politicians, and media figures, "Your time is running out. The clock starts now." She later said the video was not intended as a threat to shoot anyone.^[56]

In September 2018, she said that the police shooting of Philando Castile was justified.^[57]

In December 2018, the NRA settled a lawsuit filed against them by the artist Anish Kapoor over the 2017 video "The Violence of Lies", starring Loesch, by agreeing to remove an image of Kapoor's sculpture Cloud Gate (popularly known as "The Bean") from the film.^[58]

2019

In June 2019, the NRA cut ties with Ackerman McQueen, the advertising agency responsible for the production of NRA TV.^[59] Loesch subsequently lost her role as a paid spokesperson for the NRA.

Personal life

In 2000, Loesch married music producer^{[42][60]} Chris Loesch.^{[7][61]} Chris became Loesch's manager.^{[2][62]} The Loesches homeschooled their two children for eight years.^{[2][63]}

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External links

- [Official website \(https://danaloesch.com\)](https://danaloesch.com)
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