



Excerpts From *Why You're Wrong About the Right*

By S.E. Cupp and Brett Joshpe

Stereotypes of the Right

So from there our goal was clear—interview as many well-known conservatives, Republicans, neoconservatives, far-Righters, libertarians, and moderates as we could find and write a book about the stereotypes surrounding the Right, in their voices and in ours. And, as we soon learned, the stereotypes were many. Republicans, according to popular culture, are racist, misogynistic, homophobic, closed-minded, fanatical, stupid, redneck, elitist, uncaring, uncharitable, prudish, and most offensively, unfunny.... The goal became not only to erase those stereotypes and prove them false, but to prove that not all conservatives behave, talk and think alike. And when all was said and done, we'd asked more than forty “experts” to comment. (pp xvi-xvii)

Definition of a Republican According to UrbanDictionary.com

In fact, we stumbled on one definition of “Republican” [from UrbanDictionary.com] that made particularly adroit use of more than one of these stereotypes: *Republican: An individual who believes that the white male Christian God should be the only object of worship on the planet, that power and wealth should remain in the hands of the 1% of the world's population while the remaining 99% starve, that health care should be privatized so the poor can't afford basic medication, that a rape victim living on welfare should be forced to care for a baby she didn't even ask for, and that America is the only real country on Earth while all those other countries they read about are just fakes invented by communists...oh wait, it's terrorists now, isn't it?* (pp xvi-xvii)

What Makes Me a Nuisance, a Bad Seed, a Danger to the Community, even?

Sure, I might be the toast of Topeka, but here in New York, and undoubtedly in the rest of the blue states and even bluer big cities, I'm a pariah, the worst of the worst. I'm like the ex-con who just moved across the street from the elementary school, or the punk rocker who rented the place above yours, or the weird old lady who throws rocks off her porch and has long conversations with a broom handle. I'm a nuisance, a bad seed, a danger to the community, even. (p xiv)

Disbelieving Liberals Cannot Believe Conservatives Are Funny

The conservative who hasn't faced the Disbelieving Liberal hasn't gotten out much. The DL is, after all, everywhere. He is on planes and trains, in restaurants and bars, in classrooms and office lunchrooms, and he just...can't...believe...('Are you serious?!') that you, his drinking buddy, his ballgame buddy, the guy he discusses sexual misadventures with, are a conservative. And after grilling you on your stand on assorted political issues (and then running to the bathroom to wash his hands) he will leave you, betrayed and shocked, as if he just found out he was adopted. (p 26)

Are Republicans Elitist WASPs or Gun-Toting Hicks?

There are confounding and contradictory myths about the typical Republican. He is both the gun-toting hick, driving barefoot and shirtless in his pickup truck, and the loafer-wearing WASP, sipping scotch on a yacht or lounging in the polo club. The latter stereotype may include the benefits of sophistication and wealth, but by no means extends to likeability. CNN Headline News pundit and radio personality Glenn Beck said of this contradictory imagining of the Republican elite by the left, “When you think of red states, do you think of homes on Central Park and in the Hollywood Hills, or do you think of stupid, redneck hicks in Oklahoma? The media can't have it both ways. There is only one elite, and it's the left.” (p 14)

Fortune 500 NASCAR-Loving Rednecks

Of its 75 million fans, 28.2 percent said they vote Republican, versus 26.8 percent who say they vote Democratic, and 10.3 percent who say they vote Independent. (The 34.7 percent that remains represents fans who are not registered voters.) Other numbers go even farther to debunk the myth: The average NASCAR fan is more affluent and more likely to have children who are under eighteen than the average American; Women make up 40 percent of NASCAR's fan base; People of color account for 20 percent of NASCAR's fan base, making NASCAR the fastest-growing major sport among minorities; NASCAR has the most Fortune 500 Sponsorship of any sport. (p 47)

Laura Ingraham on the Myth that Republicans are the Intolerant Party

Talk-radio host Laura Ingraham, discussing the supposed tolerance of liberals, may have said it best: “They are non-judgmental unless you disagree with them on Iraq, abortion, or recycling – then you're worse than Saddam (whom they routinely describe as merely ‘a bad guy’).” Again, liberal intolerance doesn't prove conservative tolerance, but where the Left is routinely said to have conviction, the Right is inaccurately painted as a bunch of raging zealots and uncultured phobics. (p 86)

Republican Environmental Legacy

Republicans have a rather distinguished history of implementing environmentally protective policies...the legacy extends all the way back to the first Republican president, Abraham Lincoln, who set aside land that eventually became Yosemite Park. Republican president Theodore Roosevelt established the national park system, which has preserved hundreds of thousands of acres of land. Republican president Richard Nixon established the Environmental Protection Agency and signed the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, and the Endangered Species Act. (p 54)

Gay Conservatives Speak Out

“As a gay conservative, I don't believe that government is the answer to every problem,” said [Patrick] Sammon, [head of Log Cabin Republicans]. “I believe in less regulation, maximizing individual liberty, a strong national defense, and less government intrusion into people's families and private lives...less government intrusion is really consistent with the desire to live our own lives, both gay and straight, as we see fit.” (p 194)

Religious Extremist Republicans

In a study conducted by the Barna Group in January 2007 called ‘The God Gap: The Faith of Republicans and Democrats,’ the firm, whose self-stated mission is to “be a catalyst in moral and spiritual transformation in the United States,” uncovered some provocative findings in their polling of over one thousand Americans. According to this study, 61 percent of Republicans considered themselves ‘absolutely committed to Christianity,’ or ‘born-again.’ And among Democrats, 48 percent – nearly half – felt the same way. Likewise, 53 percent of Republicans said they had attended church in the last seven days, compared to 41 percent of Democrats. This means that 47 percent of Republicans don’t attend weekly church services, making a tough case for the Republicans-as-Religious-Fanatics argument, especially when 41 percent of Democrats do. (p 127)

Republicans Love Them Their Guns

According to a study conducted by Responsive Management in 2006, 78 percent of Americans approved of hunting. (This statistic does not include those who approve of fishing – 9 out of 10). This means that while more than three quarters of the nation are not gun owners, necessarily, they support the rights of the legal hunter. Thus, categorizing this group as fringe or ‘backwoods’ is inaccurate, and unfairly conjures images of Ned Beatty running naked through Georgia, oinking to dueling banjos. (p 136)

Republican Women Portrayed as She-Men or Donna Reeds

Indeed, it would seem that the Republican woman who chooses to not get married or have children is an unsympathetic and hysterectomized she-man, incapable of thinking like a real woman. Likewise, the Republican woman who chooses to settle down, get married, and raise a family is a backward-time-traveling Donna Reed, single handedly erasing the women’s lib movement from history books. For the Left, apparently, women of value are supposed to be like Hollywood’s young starlets – married and unmarried over and over again, pregnant by whichever celebrity or behind-the-scenes man they happened to be bedding at the time, and allowing inexperienced fame-hungry models/nannies to raise their children while they tipsily make the rounds at Les Deux and Hyde. (p 150)

Warmongering Republicans

Liberals have long painted Republicans and conservatives as career war-ists, accusing the party of waging “wars” on women, children, the Earth, even science. Saying that they enjoy war is a pet platitude. Indeed, it seems as though the Left and the liberal media are either misinformed or confused about how to characterize Republicans. In the most obvious case, President Bush is routinely portrayed as both a reckless, go-it-alone cowboy who listens to no one *and* a hapless puppet who won’t butter his toast without a consensus from his Svengali advisors. It can’t be both – is he a bloodthirsty warmonger or a spineless victim of the ruthless company he keeps? (p 216)

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