



Parliament of Whores: A Lone Humorist Attempts to Explain the Entire U.S. Government

By P. J. O'Rourke



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Called "an everyman's guide to Washington" (The New York Times), P. J. O'Rourke's savagely funny and national best-seller Parliament of Whores has become a classic in understanding the workings of the American political system. Originally written at the end of the Reagan era, this new edition includes an extensive foreword by the renowned political writer Andrew Ferguson -- showing us that although the names and the players have changed, the game is still the same. Parliament of Whores is an exuberant, broken-field run through the ethical foibles, pork-barrel flimflam, and bureaucratic bullrifle inside the Beltway that leaves no sacred cow unskewered and no politically correct sensitivities unscorched. "Highly pungent and wickedly accurate observations ... [from a] boisterous, pedal-to-the-floor humorist." -- The New York Times Book Review "Outrageous ... It is insulting, inflammatory, profane, and absolutely great reading." -- The Washington Post Book World "A gonzo civics book ... O'Rourke is like a trophy hunter let loose in an unguarded zoo." -- Chicago Tribune

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

If satirists are at their best when tussling with something they hate, then this is P.J. O'Rourke's masterpiece. He clearly hates government--and has hated it since before it was cool to do so--and for all the right reasons, too: it's clumsy, inefficient, hypocritical, greedy, and arrogant. In other words, it magnifies the faults of the poor saps who staff it. *Parliament of Whores* is the humorist's howl of bitter laughter at the entire bloated, numskulled mess. As befits an ex-editor of *National Lampoon*, nothing is out of bounds for O'Rourke. Speaking of the fabled "football"--that satchel that follows the president around 24/7--the author doubts there are really launch codes in there at all--nothing but "a copy of *Penthouse* and a pint bottle of Hiram Walker--a *Penthouse* from back in the seventies, when *Penthouse* was really dirty, I'll bet."

Parliament of Whores is perfect for anyone who longs to cultivate an entertaining brand of cynicism, to be "a lone voice--not crying in the wilderness, thank you, but chortling in the rec room." O'Rourke is a master at making you laugh in spite of the better angels of your nature, and the only negative thing to be said about this tour de force is that his flamethrower brand of satire leaves nothing in its wake--certainly not the suggestion of an improvement. --*Michael Gerber*

From Publishers Weekly

As a conservative, political humorist O'Rourke (*Holidays in Hell*) can get on liberals' nerves with his mindless characterization of environmentalists as "tree huggers" or his mockery of Jesse Jackson's "daft notions." Then again, any satirist who compares George Bush to Captain Kangaroo and would lop millions from the military budget can't be accused of partisan target practice. O'Rourke's basic theme--there's too much government, and what government we have is tremendously inefficient and wasteful--reverberates through his vitriol, as he takes readers through a congressman's typical day, unmasks the hollow charade of presidential conventions and offers squibs on the savings-and-loan bailout, the war on drugs, housing policy, the Supreme Court, etc. Loosely organized as a civics textbook, these essays at their best are deadly accurate, very funny and on-target, a purgation of the Augean stables of American politicswhew! .

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From Library Journal

Investigative humorist O'Rourke puts this vividly cynical examination of how our government works into perspective when he asks: "What the fuck do they do all day, and why does it cost so goddamned much money?" In a manner that is more likely to grab a reader by the lapels and throttle him into hysterics than your average high school civics textbook, O'Rourke deftly skewers our three branches of government. That the enigma of government can be reduced to a parliament of whores is matched only by the enigmatic author himself. Described as an intelligent conservative, he is a *National Lampoon* alumnus and a *Rolling Stone* reporter who also garners critical acclaim from the *National Review* . Intelligent indeed! Sure to be a hit among liberals and conservatives alike. Previewed in *Prepub Alert*, LJ 2/15/91 . --Joe Accardi, Northeastern Illinois Univ. Lib., Chicago

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Richard Benson:

With this era which is the greater individual or who has ability in doing something more are more important than other. Do you want to become one among it? It is just simple method to have that. What you are related is just spending your time very little but quite enough to enjoy a look at some books. One of the books in the top record in your reading list is Parliament of Whores: A Lone Humorist Attempts to Explain the Entire U.S. Government. This book which can be qualified as The Hungry Hills can get you closer in becoming precious person. By looking up and review this reserve you can get many advantages.

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