



Understanding Trump

Newt Gingrich

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In UNDERSTANDING TRUMP, Newt Gingrich provides insight and inspiration for Americans as they embrace and learn about their new president.

Donald Trump and "Trumpism " represent a profound change in the trajectory of American government, politics, and culture. Trump is the only person ever elected president without holding public office or serving as a general in the military. His principles instead grow out of five decades of business and celebrity success. This is why President Trump behaves differently than traditional politicians - because his life experience has been unlike most traditional politicians.

Understanding Trump requires a willingness to study him as the remarkable phenomenon he is. This book explains Trump's actions so far and will help readers to understand the emerging movement and administration.

Newt Gingrich says President Trump should begin every day by reviewing his campaign promises. Trump owes his presidency to the people who believed in him as a candidate, not to the elites in government and the media who have expressed contempt for him since he began his campaign to become president.

"Reasonableness" would be the death of Trumpism. The very essence of Trump's mission is a willingness to enact policies and set goals that send our country in a bold new direction - which is "unreasonable" to Washington but sensible to millions of Americans.

Understanding Trump Details

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From Reader Review Understanding Trump for online ebook

Jay H. Hahn says

I read this book so you don't have to.

I had a plan going into this book. No, honestly, I did. I thought Newt Gingrich, given his experience as a constitutional officer and in academia, would be able to use his far-out-of-the-box perspectives (He prefers to call it 'entrepreneurial.') to provide some small workable understanding of Donald Trump. It was a sort of a 'use one bad lens to correct another' theory. Well, it doesn't work, folks.

All right then. Let's get this over with.

The first two sections praise all things Trump, and perdition to his (Gingrich's) enemies. They contain all the usual elements expected of a candidate for the Red State/ Red Meat book club. There are the accusations and the insults. There is the endless application of the superlative. There are the expected shibboleths to misrepresent why the Left does anything. There are the requisite scapegoat components of the Big Lie, including liberals, the media and the Washington elite, which Gingrich is so bitterly grateful never, ever, *ever* accepted him. There are the 'proven' theories of conservatism that will certainly amaze us in their performance once enough factual information is jettisoned. There are the unfair comparisons, akin to comparing apples to oranges. And there are a surprising number of wildly unfair comparisons, akin to comparing apples to honey badgers.

Maybe I can demonstrate this last point with an example from Page 10: Donald Trump, a builder and a doer, wants a building. He builds a building. (Okay, he hires people to do it for him, but let's not quibble.) At the same time, government entity NASA wants to put a man on Mars. So when was the last time you saw anybody on Mars? Q.E.D. Advantage: Trump.

Until now, I was unaware that throwing together an upscale Day's Inn was as tough as the Mars shot.

The third section of the book was where I'd pinned my hopes that there was more than the usual diatribe to this effort. Gingrich outlines four key 'boxes' from which a Trump administration will 'radically' change America: The first is Safety, which is essentially the Trump position on the border and immigration. The second is Competitiveness, which boils down to deregulation and the on-going conservative desire to finally lure out trickle-down from wherever it's been coyly hiding for the last 37 years.

The third box, Health, had the most promise, with lists of discuss-able (not just debatable) possibilities for the health care industry and its regulators. Unfortunately, recent 'Repeal/ Replace' legislation has not gone anywhere near these ideas, and the White House has shown little leadership on the topic, at odds with a book outlining an active administrative agenda.

The fourth box is Make Government Work, which mostly calls for a coup d'etat of American Civil Service, as well as a drive to replace Their Guys with Our Guys.

One can't help but notice that after only five months on the shelves, how very dated the book seems, likely due to the constant-crisis nature of current politics.

I have given this book one star, but, to be frank, I really don't know who I would recommend it to.

Progressives have had a belly full of this stuff. I can't see an academic interested, except perhaps as an example of how not to frame an argument. Perhaps a moderate would want to 'reach out' to understand Trump, but would he rely on Newt Gingrich to do that? (I did, but in my defense, I'm not a moderate.) And, as the author constantly reminds us, the Trump voter already knows Trump. Why would they turn to Establishment Gingrich to explain to them what they already know?

The one conclusion I can reach is this book was written primarily to scoop up some of the storm surge of cash-flow the Trump winds were pushing. This book is a pot-boiler, and should be regarded as such.

Chad says

About 20% too long. That's my only complaint.

Otherwise, this is a guide to things that have happened, things that are currently happening, and things to look forward to from the Trump administration.

Whether that provokes anxiety or glee in you is your business.

Jeanette says

Newt Gingrich does some biography for Trump before his run for President and other personal friendship of years and intersect information before he begins. But the gist of the book is about the run, how it happened- and the resultant 4 blocks (sectional boxes of category for his term) that model the Trump Agenda. These were explained in a common sense and easy language description and were the core of the book. Safety, American Competitiveness, Health, Making-the-Government Work were the 4 boxes which held separate chapters.

There are tidbits of information that I did not know that are pertinent to the last run too. Past history now, but very revealing. All that money spent and Clinton's people had no idea or concept that the people in MN often get WI channels for "local" and vice versa. They didn't even know how networks and news was organized to their audiences in the Midwest and prairie states. So when Trump went to MN they had no idea that he had appealed and been fully exposed in speech in Central WI.

This is a book that those who detest Trump the most should read, but won't. It's filled with "eyes" of the people who voted for Donald Trump and how the "off the edge of the sane world they know" leftist agenda has become to them. Because seriously, they have not begun to learn the lesson of why they lost and what the working person sees. Nor what their (lost Dems who are now Independent or solidly in Rep. party) home and loyalty concepts are either. This is somewhat explained in the Media and Toxic Identity Politics chapters and in other sections of the book. Americans also do not want to be told what to think or say. Never will. Never have. And when their Free Speech Rights become visibly assaulted, it is NOT a small issue that they forget. The author lists a bunch of common liberal blog headlines that are the exact kind of tone, attitude that causes this blue collar and rural "reaction". It would probably be very helpful for progressives to begin to understand this reaction. Just my opinion.

It's a simple and non-theory book. Like Trump this is entirely about Practical Application skills and no theory. Like most of the former Presidents of other centuries, he has NOT come from government occupation but in business or livelihoods of extended associations for product or service that applies to actions and physical techniques and not thought and theory. Erudite language and evasive language is far less important than making the better outcome or more improved happen. What is "nice" in the self-segregating elites manner and speech is not "nice" in working class laboring populations manners or context. Less so every year. Gingrich also gives excellent stats in several ways of the reality right now in which the most educated and the most successful have with one method or another segregated themselves (increasing all the time too) into sections of the country and literally encapsulated themselves from the general concerns and trials for daily living of the "other" in the USA. Not with word count but with their lifestyle and living "crisis" concerns /prime focuses of their hours. Ironically I just heard an entire documentary on Marin

County in California which has rejected any state mandated affordable housing because they have "exceptional" reasons. That and security that they pay for- and yet they want the rest of us to be continually under some danger or assault where we live and try to get to work. I've been assaulted twice in my life for being a stranger, white or just available (pick two out of three). And have had several friends murdered or dead from long term result of assault/ robbery. Or like at least 50% of my family now, becoming taxed out (we have at least 5 major tax levels in IL beyond the humongous Sales Tax) of the places we can work because of high property taxes and/or impossible rents. Some areas (most areas) of the country now are reaching lowest home ownership in decades. My state is losing population in droves and the occurrences of this week have just put the last nail in the coffin. HIGHER state income tax (now gone up from 3rd in the nation). And NO property tax freeze we were promised. We cried in IL this week. We did. Many of us who are leaving or who have had most of our friends gone are now seeing the entire end of a superlative place becoming something it wasn't. And much less in every sense as it loses its best resource- it best, hardest in hours and most productive in quality or education levels workers.

Jokes aside to the Trump hate ridicule- laugh all you want. If you are an open minded person of any sort you should read this book. Hate the man all you want too- but he has the pulse of the country. As long as the faults of the past (blame and guilt attached by anchors) are the core of a belief system, it will be unsuccessful. Humans do not advance or prosper in that mode looking continually backwards. Diversity of thought is as important to all, as diversity (as it has been redefined twice in my lifetime) is for peoples' conditions and subdivisions by "type". You should never forget that because that IS America. The very FIRST principle it was founded upon was the expression of diversified FREE SPEECH.

But if I were a Progressive I would probably skip the chapter on IYI (Intellectual Yet Idiot). You won't like it.

Bert Hopkins says

Excellent book well worth my time.

Vincent says

This actually could be considered three different books - 1) Understanding Trump, 2) What Trump Should Do as President, and 3) A Collection of Trump's Speeches.

I listened to the Audio Book, so "Book 3" was actually live recordings of Trump's speeches. They are a nice keepsake, but kind of an odd way to end a book.

The first 1/3 of the book is by far the most interesting, since it's the only part that actually gives an insight into the campaign and into Trump's mind and strategic thinking. Gingrich had behind-the-scenes access to candidate Trump, so this could have been a truly fascinating book.

If you want to know what Gingrich would have done as president, with a little bit of Trump thrown in, then you'll like this book. But if you're sincerely looking to "understand Trump," you may be disappointed.

Mark says

The first half of the book, Newt does a good job explaining who Is Trump and how he works. He draws off person experience, observation and references topics covered by Trump in "The Art of the Deal".

Personally, the IYI chapter was the highlight of the book. Newt describes the know it all, control the message intellectuals in the media/ political spectrum who are nay Sayers against a Trump agenda.

The end portion of the book covers Newt's ideas/suggestions for Trump and America. Personally, some ideas are a re-run, some are brilliant and others are just over the top.

Overall, a recommended read for those wanting to understand Trump, the current political culture and entertain yourself with Newt's ideas for America.

Tyler Replogle says

This was a very hard read for me. I didn't like trump and didn't vote form him. I read this to hope to understand what he is doing and him better. He is our president and I want to understand our president. The forward, intro and first 2 chapters were just praising him. There where a few chapters that I liked and some good points that the author makes to help understand him. Out side of those chapters it was just what the Author thought should be done, witch is not what I wanted to hear though I think some of those thoughts are good.

W. Whalin says

Deepen Your Insights With This Book

If I'm going to read about someone, I want that writer to intimately know the person—especially when the person is living like President Donald J. Trump. Newt Gingrich has done a great service to the American public through writing UNDERSTANDING TRUMP. As he advises in the opening pages, “If you want to understand President Trump, ignore what the political establishment and the mainstream media say about him. Instead, start with the key elements of his background that make him different from normal politician an affect the way he operates.” (Page 3)

As a historian and political insider, Gingrich writes with authority and insights such as, “Trump quickly learning Washington the way he learned the hotel and real estate businesses, and his ability to get things done will be amazing. One key to his success is that Trump hires really good people and demands a lot from them. He also delegates details to competent people. But he always gives credit to those who earn it.” (Page 250)

I read UNDERSTANDING TRUMP cover to cover and enjoyed it. I highly recommend this book.

Bettie? says

Trump 'could shift so quickly from topic to topic' on campaign trail

12.06.2017: Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.), an unofficial adviser to Trump whose new book on the president comes out Tuesday, is leading the charge, calling on the Justice Department to scrap the special investigation it launched to bipartisan praise less than one month ago.

Phillip says

I eagerly anticipated this book because I was under the impression it was going to be an analysis of the psyche of President Trump. Though Newt Gingrich makes occasional references to Trump, the vast majority of this novel is understanding Gingrich's vision for America. Once he lays out that vision, he lets us know that Trump shares that vision as well. I didn't understand Trump any more after reading this novel, than I did beforehand. I have tremendous respect for Gingrich as a politician and historian and writer, but I truly feel that the content of the book should reflect its title.

I think my short foray into political topics is over for a while. After much anticipation that something in this country would change, and then watching eight months go by without a single piece of meaningful legislation passed that changes the lives of real people, I have officially given up on politics and politicians for good. I hope everyone can understand.

Pam says

The people who SHOULD read it, won't.
The people who WILL read it already know most of this stuff.
That makes a review rather pointless.

I think I will mail a copy to CNN. But why should they mess up their narrative with sloppy things like facts?

Juliet-Camille says

DNF @ 5%

I *want* to understand, but the wound is still too fresh.

Cherry says

People often give books one star when they would like to rate something as zero stars, but I honestly feel that this book deserves a single star for providing a few nuggets of insight about Trump's supporters amongst the deluge of whitewashing, poor memory and wilful misinterpretation. But that's just for the coverage of the right. It should surprise no one that Gingrich gets it wrong when it comes to trying to describe motivations or

interpret decisions or anything really relating to the other side of the aisle.

Gingrich's definition of "liberalism" is insane and pathological, and of course anti-American, but what he's describing is a lot more like Reagan Republicans than Clinton or Obama Democrats. It's like the bizarro world version of liberalism. Oh, well.

This is a hard book to get through, harder when listening to Gingrich and his annoying accent (I have the same complaint about a lot of politicians reading their own books, BTW, not just Gingrich). I felt like I should be taking notes on all the false claims and ridiculous conclusions and so on. But then I never would have finished it because you can't do that very well while driving -- pause, dictate an incredulous response, resume.... doesn't seem like a good idea in traffic. Anyway, the reason I felt I should go through the process is mostly to get a well-rounded image of what the guy's supporters are thinking, since I already hear a lot of what his detractors are saying.

There wasn't really anything new here for me after having read/listened to a number of other books about the election and having lived through the whole process in the first place as things unfolded, and having survived a year of this administration. I think if Newt Gingrich really believes all the stuff he wrote, he is the one who needs to be taught how to understand Trump. I don't think he actually does, though. I suspect this was written as red meat for the base, to fire them up, to make them feel like they hadn't just entered into a horrible bargain and that they really had held off an apocalypse by electing this guy into office.

The section where Gingrich waxed eloquent about "Intellectual Yet Idiots" who run government without any practical experience in their field and how Trump was going to fix all this really made me laugh because this book was published AFTER Betsy Devos, Ben Carson and Rick Perry were appointed and I'd say they are the epitome of lacking any sort of applicable experience related in any way to the positions they are supposed to run. If Gingrich really believes that these are practical-minded and effective people, as opposed to the actual climate scientists and educators and so on who have run things in the past, well, all I can say is, WOW. I don't think Gingrich is that stupid, but I guess he could have a blind spot. We all do, but still, this is a seriously huge blind spot. Of course around the same area he was talking about all the swamp-draining that would happen, and how all the government waste would be cut and so on.... The cognitive dissonance is strong with this one.

I put off reading/listening to this for a long time, but I finally felt that it was necessary, and that the time had come to get it over with. Yes, I started it multiple times before I managed to get through the introduction from Eric Trump which was only a couple minutes, but hey, I survived a glimpse through the curtain into the mind of someone who is, well, Intellectual yet clearly idiotic. He can't possibly believe half of what he wrote, but the fact that he thinks his base will believe it is significant, right?

Donna Hines says

It's no secret I'm not a fan of Trump for obvious reasons as I married a narcissist for 11 yrs so I know the damage and destruction they provide for the sake of their own advancement.

However, I can't deny that Newt did a glowing review (as best one can) of Donald Trump.

While I disagree with his personal actions and behaviors his thoughts and ideas are a separate entity and I believe his demeanor of take no prisoners is what secured his win for presidency.

Many Americans are sick and tired of the same old thing and want and need change.

Ironically what many find favorable I've long learned is a smoke screen of fog and mirrors and empty

promises.

So with this said, I will note this "Controversy in short sells". Yes Donald is a master at manipulation and using media to his advantage for free press. Every tweet is an attempt for more attention aimed at him and his agenda. Even bad press is good press.

Having dealt with a narcissist I can tell you that they are strong leaders, they are productive (in certain cases) they even appear devoted and genuine. However, I know the opposite side exists of the two sided coin of Jekyll and Hyde persona.

Sure he may learn as he goes, he may be a product of Queens not Brooklyn, he may be an entrepreneur , he may be a pragmatist not ideologue, a builder not a financier but he may also be more than all this and many may suffer from it all.

Yes there's that unstoppable will to win at all cost and you noted this," But Trump still wanted more." "He would need to be where the action was."

"Trump flaunts his wealth as a measure of personal achievement." " He made his money by developing real estate that caters to the ultra wealthy." "They saw him as an Anti Left Warrior".

Trump may be:

Anti Left

Anti Stupid

Anti - Pc

Pro American

But is he the right person for the job?

"He was always attacking, always involved, always at the center of attention."

Strike quickly you say, work fast, use branding for self and others.

Ok, but never sit still.

He appears busy enough right: Travel ban, End Sanctuary Cities, Speed up EPA reviews, Approve Keystone XL and Dakota Pipelines.

"Trump favors people with practical knowledge over those with academic knowledge." Which sorry to disappoint means those who are educated are considered the IYI's.

Or aka Intellectuals Yet Idiots.

You see Similar to Super Zip Codes in which those who go to Ivy Leagues or Elite Schools are creating a world in which they are at the top 5% economically and top 5% educational attainment and they create this bubble of like minded thinkers who view media the same way and even reside in same ritzy neighborhoods . Right?

Ok got it.

So Trumps Road to Success:

1. Create Jobs
2. Maintain Global Stability
3. Learn to Lead Congress
4. Learn to Profoundly Change the entrenched bureaucracy
5. Establish Goals so large they build huge momentum for a better future.

Even with all this said, who is the true man behind the mask? After a few years of knowledge do you know the real person?

Are we better off with someone who has temper tantrums, rages, and attacks anyone who goes against his beliefs? Is it all the media's fault as in fake media or are we as adults responsible for our own actions? Is it all democrats fault? Or the founding fathers and prior statutes faults? Are states at fault?

Is this the type of personality and character that we deserve in office and to run our country?

I will say this I reside in an area heavily inundated with poverty, corruption, pay to play schemes and kickbacks, and big boy networks full of power and control.

I watched jobs falter and companies go under. Jobs pay less now than when I was in college in over 25 yrs ago yet cost of living has steadily risen. Jobs here are part time, low salaried, no advancement nor benefits,

grant funded , temp or seasonal. Companies refuse to hire us measly "stay home moms" who have sacrificed our education and careers for our families and judges in family court won't reimburse us for our years of lost income at the expense of our spouse's furthering their own. So we are now locked into poverty with our children alone and afraid of what the future holds for us and our children's future. As a 15 yr volunteer currently working unpaid with 12 nonprofits it's not all about putting yourself out there and applying yourself. It's more who you know not what you know. I currently reside below poverty with my MPA after divorcing my narcissist. I was told I'm overqualified, lacking credit w bankruptcy, have no prior work experience, and am ignored for employment . But not for lack of trying , begging, cold calling, business card dropping, and referrals being used repeatedly. Why are jobs paying less than poverty level? How can we raise our families ? Many of us still pay student loans yet cannot get employed so the debt just snowballs out of control.

I cannot diagnose anyone professionally without meeting them but I can tell you that they are relentless and seek to destroy.

So with this said I enjoyed your read, I enjoyed your description of the person you believe him to be, but I'll let the readers and the intelligent Americans form their own conclusions.

Either way we all need to pray for our President and rally behind him . We need to voice our concerns in a professional courteous way. We need to become involved in our government and leave our nation better than we found it for future generations.

I worry about my children's future and their safety. I worry about how things are currently and how much worse they will become for them.

What will our legacy be?>I wonder!

Jena says

I have never believed in rating a book prior to reading it.

It appears that some Goodreads members don't share my conviction.

So I'm joining the pre-read rating club.

I tell you what though . . I heard the Audible sample, and it was great! :-)
