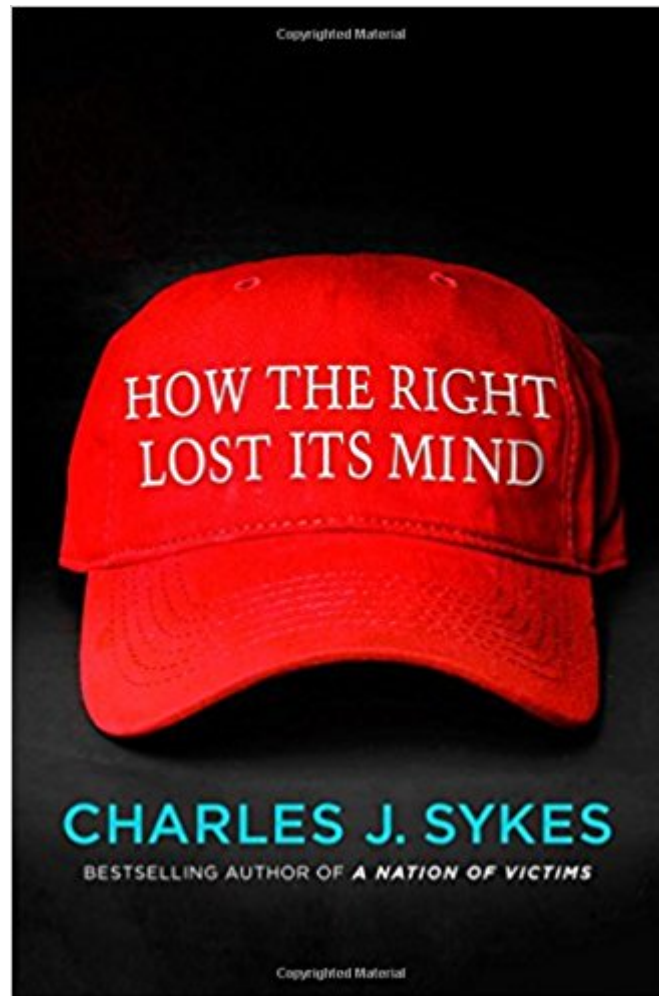




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How The Right Lost Its Mind



Synopsis

Once at the center of the American conservative movement, bestselling author and radio host Charles Sykes is a fierce opponent of Donald Trump and the right-wing media that enabled his rise. In *How the Right Lost Its Mind*, Sykes presents an impassioned, regretful, and deeply thoughtful account of how the American conservative movement came to lose its values. How did a movement that was defined by its belief in limited government, individual liberty, free markets, traditional values, and civility find itself embracing bigotry, political intransigence, demagoguery, and outright falsehood? *How the Right Lost Its Mind* addresses: *Why are so many voters so credulous and immune to factual information reported by responsible media? *Why did conservatives decide to overlook, even embrace, so many of Trump's outrages, gaffes, conspiracy theories, falsehoods, and smears? *Can conservatives govern? Or are they content merely to rage? *How can the right recover its traditional values and persuade a new generation of their worth?

Book Information

Hardcover: 288 pages

Publisher: St. Martin's Press (October 3, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1250147174

ISBN-13: 978-1250147172

Shipping Weight: 1.7 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #13,890 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #21 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Elections & Political Process > Political Parties #35 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Elections & Political Process > Elections #48 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > United States > National

Customer Reviews

"When gale-force winds blew through politics in 2016, leaving moral and institutional wreckage in their wake, many conservatives went into a crouch. Charlie Sykes stood out by standing up. With this scorching book, he reports on the road to ruin and points conservatism toward recovery. —George F. Will" A courageous book destined to make Sykes a target among many of the worst elements that he eviscerates, which will, sadly, just confirm the strength of his thesis." - Kirkus

Charles J. Sykes is the author of eight books on current affairs and education, including *Fail U.*, *A Nation of Victims*, and *Profscam*. He has written pieces for the *Wall Street Journal* and *Time.com* among others, and in 2016 was featured for his critiques of Donald Trump and conservative media in articles on the front page of *The New York Times*, *The New York Times Magazine*, and *NPR*. A longtime host of the #1 conservative talk-radio show in Wisconsin, he resigned that position and is now a regular contributor to *MSNBC*.

Charles Sykes is an old-fashioned Conservative, a title that would once have been considered a tautology but now designates a rarity that is rapidly approaching an endangered species. As I write this, the "Charlottesville" affair is a week old and it might lead one to believe that this book is in response to that, which it obviously isn't nor could be. What it IS, is an examination of the steps, small at first (they always are) that led the Conservative Republican Party with all good intentions, to, little by little, let "things" get ultimately so far out of hand that the movement that was once defined by giants like William F Buckley and George Will became the tool of Donald J Trump. It is NOT a book for Conservatives... or Liberals... for Republicans or Democrats or Independents. It is a book for Americans. And one I think it safe to say that the author hopes becomes aberrant sooner rather than later.

This is not a book that throws Trump under the bus, Well, it kind of does but if that's why you picked it off the shelf you'll be missing the point. This is a book written by an old school conservative who is looking at the current state of the union and wondering what in hell happened. Charles J. Sykes is an acclaimed journalist who has written for the *WSJ* and *Time.com*. He started life following his father into the world of Democratic Liberal activism. He described his father as a curmudgeon and contrarian that loved to discuss politics with him around the dinner table. Unfortunately both came to question the tactics of the left during the era of the Viet Nam protests when social disobedience turned into masses of Che Guevara wannabes who relied on institution take-overs and destruction. As a result, both father and son embraced the new political conservatism of small government and free trade. This is a book that chronicles how Sykes conservatism has become the bastardized version of itself and morphed into what the GOP is offering us today. He points out how legitimate news sources have been mocked and automated "chatbots" have flooded the social media with automated accounts that use hate and scare tactics that proliferate hoaxes. How rationality and

reality have given way to this new version of Invasion of the Body Snatchers. I personally don't think that the past as presented by the author was quite as pristine as he presented it but he has nailed the right handed swing of the pendulum for what it is: sphincter clenching dreadfulness. I'm sure this book is not going to make Charles J. Sykes the most popular boy on the block.

Whether you are a member of the left or the old school right, you must admit that the current Alt Right has derailed from what conservatism once was. It is not nationalism, populism or any of the things Trump and his supporters claim. It was small government, free trade and balanced budgets. When was the last time you heard about those. Sykes details the rise of the original right and its slump following Reagan leaving office. He then explores the rise of the "New" right, particularly the media that provides false stories that are bought up by people who are, sadly to say, too lazy to think for themselves. It is a well written book, and while he is no fan of Trump, it is not a book bashing Trump per se. It is more about the lack of spine in the old school conservative movement who don't stand up to the likes of Trump. I would recommend it to all, especially for your relatives and friends who claim to be conservatives, but read websites from false sources and who loudly proclaim that Trump is going to save this country. If they are willing to think a little, this book should open their eyes!

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