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Government and Politics from the Left

This bibliography includes a sampling of books about politics, political issues, and controversial topics through a liberal or progressive lens and/or presented by left-leaning authors. To order any of these titles, contact the library by email, phone, mail, in person, or order through our [online catalog](#). Most titles can be [downloaded from BARD](#).

Republican Gomorrah Inside the Movement that Shattered the Party By Max Blumenthal

Read by Jake Williams

12 hours, 52 minutes

Award-winning journalist asserts that the twenty-first-century Republican Party is fully in the grip of its right wing. Examines the political, social, and religious agendas of conservative Christians and their influential members, including James Dobson and Sarah Palin. Some violence, some strong language, and some explicit descriptions of sex. 2009.

[Download from BARD: Republican Gomorrah Inside the Movement that...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB069909

Hegemony or Survival America's Quest for Global Dominance by Noam Chomsky

Read by Michael Scherer

9 hours, 19 minutes

Author of *Deterring Democracy* (RC 34598) dissects the U.S. "imperial grand strategy," which he asserts has intensified since the September 11, 2001, attacks. Chomsky traces American desire for supremacy to the early days of WWII, analyzes the George W. Bush administration's aggressive foreign policies, and warns of dire consequences. Bestseller. 2003.

[Download from BARD: Hegemony or Survival America's Quest for...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB057354

Unbought and Unbossed by Shirley Chisholm

Read by Michele Schaeffer

5 hours, 11 minutes

Shirley Chisholm, who was the first black woman in Congress, discusses her life, family, groundbreaking career, and political convictions. Representing her home district of Brooklyn between 1968 and 1983, Chisholm was outspoken in her support of the urban poor, and she took controversial stands against the Vietnam War and in favor of legal abortion. 1970.

[Download from BARD: Unbought and Unbossed](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB054553

Back to Work Why We Need Smart Government for a Strong Economy by Bill Clinton

Read by Robert Sams

7 hours, 24 minutes

In the wake of the 2010 elections, former U.S. president Clinton explains his views of what has happened to America in the past thirty years and why our political system has not met the challenges facing our nation. Provides forty-six specific proposals to restore economic growth. Bestseller. 2011.

[Download from BARD: Back to Work Why We Need Smart Government...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB073953

Conservatives Without Conscience by John W. Dean

Read by Bill Wallace

10 hours, 14 minutes

John Dean, former counsel to President Richard Nixon and author of *Worse than Watergate* (RC 58240), criticizes the Republican party and Christian fundamentalists. Posits that leaders with ruthless authoritarian personalities have taken over the conservative movement and illustrates his premise with research studies. Some strong language. Bestseller. 2006.

[Download from BARD: Conservatives Without Conscience](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB063177

The Tyranny of Experts Economists, Dictators, and the Forgotten Rights of the Poor by William Easterly

Read by Mark Delgado

12 hours, 13 minutes

Economist examines global poverty and posits that experts often recommend solutions that fix immediate problems without addressing the systemic political factors that created them in the first place. Easterly calls for a major reconsideration of our approach to global economic development, focusing squarely on the rights of the poor. 2013.

[Download from BARD: The Tyranny of Experts Economists, Dictators...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB079087

Liberalism the Life of an Idea by Edmund Fawcett

Read by Bill Burton

20 hours, 10 minutes

Journalist examines the history and development of liberal principles in the political sphere. Details liberalism's early years in Europe through the thinking of Guizot, Tocqueville, and Spencer. Discusses its maturation, from the late 1800s through the mid-twentieth century, and assesses its standing in the early twenty-first century. 2014.

[Download from BARD: Liberalism the Life of an Idea](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB079838

Lies and the Lying Liars Who Tell Them: a Fair and Balanced Look at the Right by Al Franken

Read by Peter Johnson

12 hours, 31 minutes

Author of Rush Limbaugh Is a Big Fat Idiot and Other Observations (RC 41786) satirically condemns conservative politicians, including those in the George W. Bush administration, and their supporters. Attacks right-wing policies and accusations of liberal bias in the mainstream media. Some strong language. Bestseller. 2003.

[Download from BARD: Lies and the Lying Liars Who Tell Them: A Fair...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB056939

Border Wars: Inside Trump's Assault on Immigration by Julie Hirschfeld Davis and Michael D. Shear

Read by Holter Graham

15 hours, 4 minutes

Two New York Times correspondents examine President Trump's steadfast opposition to immigration and the role of those views in his campaign and presidency. Identifies those involved in Trump's anti-immigration policies and behind-the-scenes accounts of the president's decision-making process.

Unrated. Commercial audiobook. Bestseller. 2019.

[Download from BARD: Border Wars: Inside Trump's Assault on...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB097518

Enough Our Fight to Keep America Safe from Gun Violence by Gabrielle D. Giffords

Read by Erik Synnestvedt

7 hours, 43 minutes

Former United States representative who survived an assassination attempt and her husband, a former astronaut, discuss their efforts to enact responsible gun-ownership legislation. The shooting attack on Giffords left six dead and thirteen injured. Assesses the influence of the National Rifle Association. Some violence. 2014.

[Download from BARD: Enough Our Fight to Keep America Safe from...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB080042

The Assault on Reason by Albert Gore

Read by Steven Carpenter

8 hours, 58 minutes

Former United States vice president denounces the unhealthy atmosphere of American politics and posits that democracy is in danger. Decries media consolidation, threats against the judiciary, and the denigration of science. Suggests restoring the "rule of reason." Bestseller. 2007.

[Download from BARD: The Assault on Reason](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB065009

We've Got People: from Jesse Jackson to Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, the End of Big Money and the Rise of a Movement by Ryan Grim

Read by Bob Moore

18 hours, 5 minutes

The author examines the political movement that has been building for decades and has propelled figures like Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez to office and global political stardom. Discusses the movement's origins with Jesse Jackson's presidential run. Some strong language. 2019.

[Download from BARD: We've Got People: from Jesse Jackson to...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB096312

American Fascists: The Christian Right and the War on America by Chris Hedges

Read by Barry Bernson

8 hours, 38 minutes

Journalist and Harvard divinity school graduate warns of the danger to democracy from the Christian Right's dominionist sect. Describes the movement's origins, religious sophism, homophobia, sexism, militancy, conversion techniques, censorship, fear tactics, and more. Asserts that an excessively tolerant, open society is suicidally vulnerable to the intolerance of totalitarianism. 2006.

[Download from BARD: American Fascists: The Christian Right and the...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB071497

Where Have All the Leaders Gone? by Lee A Iacocca

Read by Dan Bloom

7 hours, 23 minutes

Former head of Ford and Chrysler lambastes the Bush administration, business leaders, and the media for the war in Iraq, the deficit, outsourcing, rising healthcare and gas costs, and other national woes. Shares leadership lessons from history and his own experience and urges readers to bring about change. Bestseller. 2007.

[Download from BARD: Where Have All the Leaders Gone?](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB064556

Nemesis the Last Days of the American Republic by Chalmers A. Johnson

Read by John Polk

14 hours, 12 minutes

The author of *Blowback* (RC 54512) and *Sorrows of Empire* (RC 57752) continues his assessment of U.S. foreign and domestic policy and contends that America is undermining its own democracy. Suggests that continuing military intervention abroad will lead to economic bankruptcy and unrest at home. 2006.

[Download from BARD: Nemesis the Last Days of the American Republic](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB064626

American Dreamers How the Left Changed a Nation by Michael Kazin

Read by Gregory Gorton

13 hours, 33 minutes

Historian traces the leftist reform movement from the early 1800s onward. Profiles abolitionists, labor union organizers, civil rights activists, feminists, socialists, and communists. Argues that cultural radicals have had an enduring effect on American life and explores what he perceives as their weakness in the early twenty-first century. 2011.

[Download from BARD: American Dreams How the Left Changed a Nation](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB079352

Why We're Polarized by Ezra Klein

Read by Ezra Klein

8 hours, 34 minutes

A political journalist argues for the inevitability of President Trump's election given the partisan state of politics in early twenty-first century America. The author traces polarization in politics in the late twentieth century and feedback loops that he perceives between polarized political identities and political institutions. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2020.

[Download from BARD: Why We're Polarized](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB098738

The Shock Doctrine the Rise of Disaster Capitalism by Naomi Klein

Read by Kerry Cundiff

24 hours, 58 minutes

Award-winning journalist discusses the rise in opportunistic capitalism after disasters or crises, such as the demise of New Orleans' public schools and the proliferation of privately owned charters experienced in Hurricane Katrina's wake. Explains the use of shock economic therapies in lieu of democratic processes to implement change. 2007.

[Download from BARD: The Shock Doctrine the Rise of Disaster...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB070280

The Necessity of Secularism Why God Can't Tell Us What To Do by Ronald A. Lindsay

Read by Bill Wallace

7 hours, 40 minutes

The author presents the argument that, in a religiously pluralistic society, secularism is the only reliable means of preserving meaningful democracy and rights of conscience for believers and nonbelievers alike. He also argues that secularism and atheism are not synonymous and works to show how secularism benefits all. 2014

[Download from BARD: The Necessity of Secularism Why God Can't...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB080658

This Town Two Parties and a Funeral--Plus Plenty of Valet Parking!--in America's Gilded Capital by Mark Leibovich

Read by Robert Sams

13 hours, 26 minutes

New York Times staff writer offers a portrait of the country's ruling elite. Claims networking, corruption, and dysfunction have taken over Washington and argues that lobbyists' influence on lawmakers--in perquisites as well as money--results in bad legislation. Strong language. Bestseller. 2013.

[Download from BARD: This Town Two Parties and a Funeral—Plus...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB076940

Undeniable Evolution and the Science of Creation by Bill Nye

Read by Bill Wallace

Reading time 11 hours, 26 minutes

Nye, who won an Emmy for Bill Nye the Science Guy, discusses the history and mechanics of evolution, how its practical effects can be witnessed, and how it plays into the search for alien life. Reports on his debate in February 2014 with creationist Ken Ham. Bestseller. 2014.

[Download from BARD: Undeniable Evolution and the Science of Creation](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB080377

Change We Can Believe in Barack Obama's Plan to Renew America's Promise By Barack Obama

Read by Bill Wallace

7 hours, 30 minutes

Details the changes Democratic nominee Obama proposed to implement if he were elected president of the United States. Topics include reviving the economy, restoring America's place in the world, and embracing the country's values. Includes a foreword by Barack Obama and seven speeches from his presidential campaign. Bestseller. 2008.

[Download from BARD: Change We Can Believe in Barack Obama's...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB068229

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR17825](#)

Also available in braille BR017825

Invisible Hands the Making of the Conservative Movement from the New Deal to Reagan by Kim Phillips-Fein

Read by Michael Scherer

11 hours, 19 minutes

Historian discusses the role of certain American businessmen in advancing conservative economics in government, tax codes, and regulations over the course of forty years. Examines the movement from its origins in 1934, as a reaction to the New Deal, to its culmination in 1980, with Ronald Reagan's presidential victory. 2009.

[Download from BARD: Invisible Hands the Making of the Conservative...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB070188

Pro Reclaiming Abortion Rights by Katha Pollitt

Read by Carol Dines

8 hours, 5 minutes

Author of Reasonable Creatures: Essays on Women and Feminism (DB 41125) argues that abortion should be a moral right with positive social implications. Supports expansive and fair-minded discussion of this issue, which, many years after the Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision, remains deeply polarizing. 2014.

[Download from BARD: Pro Reclaiming Abortion Rights](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB080082

Audience of One: Television, Donald Trump, and the Politics of Illusion by James Poniewozik

Read by Matthew Jisdal

11 hours, 35 minutes

An examination of the role of TV and mass media in society and politics from the Reagan era through the election of Trump. Traces the evolution of television and also provides a cultural critique of Donald Trump and his relationship with the media. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2019.

[Download from BARD: Audience of One: Television, Donald Trump...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB096853

Aftershock the Next Economy and America's Future by Robert B. Reich

Read by Robert Sams

4 hours, 58 minutes

Former secretary of labor and the author of Supercapitalism (DB 66190) calls for economic reforms to stabilize the American middle class. Offers suggestions such as higher taxes on the rich, a "reverse income tax" for the poor, a carbon tax, and campaign-finance laws. 2010.

[Download from BARD: Aftershock the Next Economy and America's...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB071986

The Family the Secret Fundamentalism at the Heart of American Power by Jeff Sharlet

Read by Joe Peck

17 hours, 32 minutes

Religious scholar asserts that a network of fundamentalist "followers of Christ" in U.S. government, military, and industry exists that advocates biblical capitalism, American imperialism, and control of the masses. Traces alleged "fellowship" activities, from opposition to FDR's New Deal to the 2001 establishment of federal faith-based initiatives. Bestseller. 2008.

[Download from BARD: The Family the Secret Fundamentalism at the...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB069593

The Way of the World a Story of Truth and Hope in an Age of Extremism by Ron Suskind

Read by Ralph Lowenstein

15 hours, 17 minutes

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and author of The One Percent Doctrine (RC 62715) asserts that the war with Iraq was begun based on falsified documents and that America has lost its moral compass. Warns of nuclear terrorism and bemoans missed opportunities for diplomacy. Strong language. Bestseller. 2008.

[Download from BARD: The Way of the World a Story of Truth and Hope...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB069146

The Future of Liberalism by Alan Wolfe

Read by Robert Sams

13 hours, 45 minutes

Political science professor, who argues for the relevancy and necessity of liberalism in a complex world, contends that society has misconstrued the liberal philosophy. Outlines liberalism's enduring strengths and traces its origins in writings of John Locke, Adam Smith, Immanuel Kant, John Stuart Mill, and John Dewey. 2009.

[Download from BARD: The Future of Liberalism](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB069115

Fire and Fury: Inside the Trump White House by Michael Wolff

Read by Holter Graham and Michael Wolff

11 hours, 58 minutes

Journalist examines the first nine months of President Trump's administration. Discusses, among other things, the staff's opinions of Trump, the reasons for FBI director James Comey's firing, the story behind Trump's claims of being wire-tapped by President Obama, and the state of White House strategies following Steve Bannon's departure. Strong language.

[Download from BARD: Fire and Fury: Inside the Trump White House](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB089802

Fear: Trump in the White House by Bob Woodward

Read by Robert Petkoff

12 hours, 22 minutes

Pulitzer prize-winning investigative journalist details the decision-making process for both foreign and domestic policy within the Trump administration. Draws on interviews with firsthand sources, meeting notes, diaries, files, and documents. Strong language. Commercial audiobook. Bestseller. 2018.

[Download from BARD: Fear: Trump in the White House](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB091876