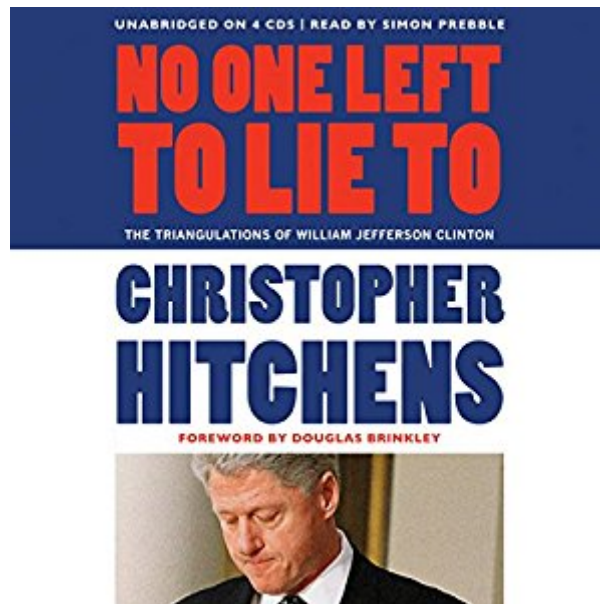


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No One Left To Lie To: The Triangulations Of William Jefferson Clinton



Synopsis

"Just as the necessary qualification for a good liar is a good memory, so the essential equipment of a would-be lie detector is a good timeline, and a decent archive." In *No One Left to Lie To*, a New York Times best-seller, Christopher Hitchens casts an unflinching eye on the Clinton political machine and offers a searing indictment of a president who sought to hold power at any cost. With blistering wit and meticulous documentation, Hitchens masterfully deconstructs Clinton's abject propensity for pandering to the Left while delivering to the Right, and he argues that the president's personal transgressions were ultimately inseparable from his political corruption. Hitchens questions the president's refusals to deny accusations of rape by reputable women and lambasts, among numerous impostures, his insistence on playing the race card, the shortsightedness of his welfare bill, his ludicrous war on drugs, and his abandonment of homosexuals in the form of the Defense of Marriage Act. Opportunistic statecraft, crony capitalism, "divide and rule" identity politics, and populist manipulations - these are perhaps Clinton's greatest and most enduring legacies.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 4 hours and 52 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Hachette Audio

Audible.com Release Date: April 10, 2012

Language: English

ASIN: B007SRMDD0

Best Sellers Rank: #11 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Politics & Current Events > Political History & Theory #49 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > United States > Executive Branch #87 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > History > United States & Canada

Customer Reviews

When Bill Clinton was President, people attacked him from both ends of the American political spectrum. The Right asserted that his policies were too liberal, citing his stance on issues such as national health-care and partial birth abortion, while the Left claimed the opposite, citing as examples his support of welfare reform and opposition to gay marriage. About Clinton's behavior--his frequent lying, his repeated adultery, his draft-dodging, and so on--the Right shouted

in vain for eight years, with no consequences for the President's approval rating. When confronted with these issues, liberals and moderates usually either looked the other way or defended Clinton, fearing that anything short of full support could give credibility and maybe even the executive branch to the Republicans. Christopher Hitchens, a man of the Left on most issues, was an exception. No One Left to Lie To: The Triangulations of William Jefferson Clinton is his 1999 attack not just on Clinton's policies but also his ethics. Hitchens blasts Clinton for enacting policies that are essentially Republican, such as "welfare reform," which stole from the Republicans a key election issue while stranding the liberals who had no alternative but to stick with the President. Clinton has such a conservative record, Hitchens says, that it's a mystery why so many people on the Right hate him as much as they do (81). The Democrats are used to dissent in their ranks about whether Clinton was liberal enough; after all, a significant number of Democrats in both houses of Congress voted against "welfare reform." But not a single Senate Democrat voted for Clinton's removal, and Hitchens objects strongly to this kind of unconditional Democratic/liberal support for Clinton's behavior.

In "No One Left To Lie To", Christopher Hitchens dissects Bill Clinton psychologically, laying his inner nature bare like an anatomist displays the internal organs of a prepared cadaver. Mr Hitchens provides an invaluable historical reference of magazine-style contemporary news essays. He deserves the highest praise for compiling his perceptive thoughts into a literate and coherent selection of meaningful essays. Note, to left-leaning Americans: This book does not argue that Clinton "destroyed the country" from some sort of socially-conservative (i.e., Republican) point of view at all. These are not essays from the pages of The Wall Street Journal by any means. On the contrary, Hitchens testifies that Clinton destroyed American LIBERALISM, from the point of view of a committed socialist, which Hitchens most solidly is. At one point, Hitchens asks why, given the effect he had on both parties, Republicans hate Clinton at all. It is for this reason that this book is an unusual and highly recommendable perspective for anyone who has the slightest interest in the subject, as well as those who have the greatest revulsion. Hitchens examines Clinton's record of war, his accusations of sexual abuse, his relationship with Dick Morris, his skill at "triangulation", and his relationship with his wife, Hillary. These are not new topics, they have been discussed at great length and in excruciating detail for the last ten years, but Hitchens handles them all with such skill and wit that his compendium deserves reading by even the most jaded partisan or news-weary person. In a surprisingly brief volume, but one dense with information, Hitchens portrays in precise detail a man beholden to corporate interests, upper-class elitism, and big money influence-peddling.

Conservatives will be shamed by leftist Chris Hitchens's ability to heap scorn on Bill Clinton. Few have been this effective in exposing Bill Clinton. Hitchens uses a clever and biting wit, elegant prose, and insightful analysis to lift the rock on the debauched Clinton presidency. Hitchens has a remarkable ability to dissect even the most innocuous Clinton statement or event and to show how it is illustrative of a grander tawdriness in Clinton's personal and political composition. The result is a well-reasoned, thoughtful and intelligent book which illuminates like a spotlight the dishonor of Clinton's reign of lies. One word of warning to conservative readers. Hitchens peppers his text with a fair amount of hard core liberal thinking that often seems highly self-righteous. This is especially true when it comes to the subject of welfare reform, for which Hitchens gives way too much credit to Clinton, or as Hitchens would see it, blame, for what was essentially a GOP initiative. Hitchens refuses to allow a role for personal responsibility among welfare recipients. He even expresses offense and indignation at the idea that single mothers who receive welfare should have to reveal the name of the father of their child that he might be made to relieve the taxpayers of some of the burden of raising his child. These digressions aside, Hitchens's artful use of language and remarkable analytical thinking weaves a stunning tapestry of indecency wrought by this president. Hitchens adds richness to the portrait by delving into little explored territory such as the true benefactors and motives driving the failed Clinton health care takeover.

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