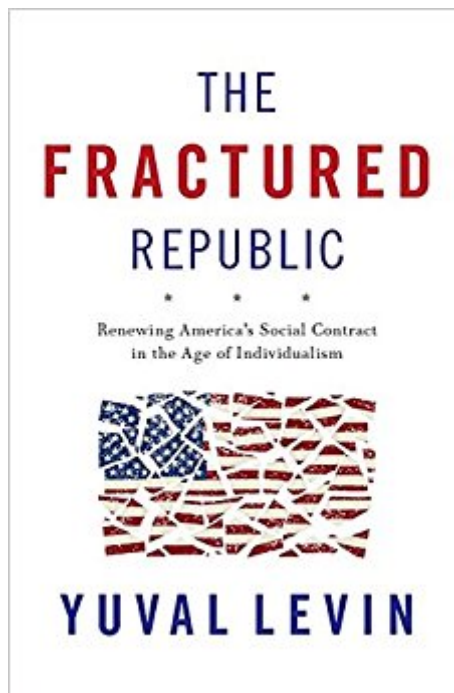




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The Fractured Republic: Renewing America's Social Contract In The Age Of Individualism



Synopsis

Americans today are frustrated and anxious. Our economy is sluggish, and leaves workers insecure. Income inequality, cultural divisions, and political polarization increasingly pull us apart. Our governing institutions often seem paralyzed. And our politics has failed to rise to these challenges. No wonder, then, that Americans--and the politicians who represent them--are overwhelmingly nostalgic for a better time. The Left looks back to the middle of the twentieth century, when unions were strong, large public programs promised to solve pressing social problems, and the movements for racial integration and sexual equality were advancing. The Right looks back to the Reagan Era, when deregulation and lower taxes spurred the economy, cultural traditionalism seemed resurgent, and America was confident and optimistic. Each side thinks returning to its golden age could solve America's problems. In *The Fractured Republic*, Yuval Levin argues that this politics of nostalgia is failing twenty-first-century Americans. Both parties are blind to how America has changed over the past half century--as the large, consolidated institutions that once dominated our economy, politics, and culture have fragmented and become smaller, more diverse, and personalized. Individualism, dynamism, and liberalization have come at the cost of dwindling solidarity, cohesion, and social order. This has left us with more choices in every realm of life but less security, stability, and national unity. Both our strengths and our weaknesses are therefore consequences of these changes. And the dysfunctions of our fragmented national life will need to be answered by the strengths of our decentralized, diverse, dynamic nation. Levin argues that this calls for a modernizing politics that avoids both radical individualism and a centralizing statism and instead revives the middle layers of society--families and communities, schools and churches, charities and associations, local governments and markets. Through them, we can achieve not a single solution to the problems of our age, but multiple and tailored answers fitted to the daunting range of challenges we face and suited to enable an American revival.

Customer Reviews

Chief Executive of HBO, Richard Plepler; Yuval Levin's *The Fractured Republic*, which I hear is one of the smartest looks at how our current political landscape became such a mess. •Washington Post; He explains the illusory appeal of nostalgia-driven politics in the United States, the kind that Trump stokes in coarse, simplistic terms. More important, he offers a path forward for the American right after this campaign, whether it is adjusting to life in Trump's America or coping again with another electoral setback. •Washington Post, Michael Gerson; Instead of desperately trying to go back in time to recover lost unity, Levin urges

citizens to look forward — as well as downward, to improve the cultural patch around them. This future orientation may seem like an odd message for a conservative — and it is all the more powerful for coming from one. The goal is not to make America great... again. It is to make America great in a distinctly 21st-century way.â •Los Angeles Times, Jonah Goldberg“[B]rilliant.â •Representative Paul Ryan, Speaker of the US House of Representatives“Yuval Levin is one of the most insightful and original thinkers of our time. In this book, he shows why conservatives are best-equipped to help Americans navigate this new and fragmented world we're in. This is required reading for anyone interested in saving the American Idea.â •Peggy Noonan, columnist, The Wall Street Journal“Yuval Levin's thinking is serious, substantive, and deeply informed, yet his tone is always heartening and serene. His style itself is an element of his thought. The Fractured Republic helps us think clearly about this moment in the life of our country that almost refuses to be clearly understood. He finds solutions in the best of the American tradition. Our weaknesses, he says, are only the opposite side of our strengths. Anyone looking for a realistic source of hope will find it here.â •Jonathan Haidt, author of The Righteous Mind“What on Earth has happened to our country? This is the question of the decade, and Levin offers the most compelling answer. His history and sociology are magisterial. Whatever your politics, after accompanying Levin on this grand tour, you'll leave behind failed partisan frameworks and see our recent past—and therefore our future—in a new and more hopeful light. This is the book America most needs to read in 2016.â •The Corner, National Review's blog“As original, illuminating, and incisive as you'd expect. If you want to understand this moment in our politics, you have to read it.â •Washington Post's Acts of Faith blog“[An] important new book.â •National Review, Online“Every American citizen and anyone who is concerned about the future of America should be reading two books this summer: Mary Eberstadt's It's Dangerous to Believe and Yuval Levin's The Fractured Republic. Both are accessible reads that should be welcomed by people of good will of all ideological stripes.â •Powerline

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