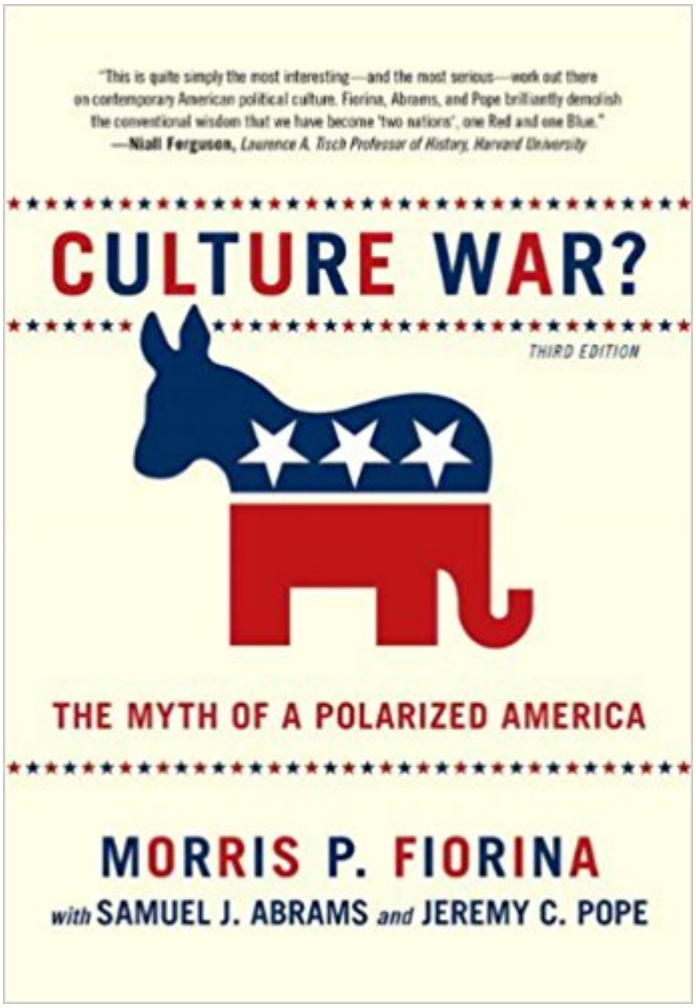
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Culture War? The Myth Of A Polarized America (3rd Edition)



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Synopsis

Updated in a new 3rd edition and part of theÃ Â "Great Questions in Politics" series, Culture War? The Myth of a Polarized AmericaÃ Â combines polling data with a compelling narrative to debunk commonly-believed myths about American politicsÃ¢â ¬â •particularly the claim that Americans are deeply divided in their fundamental political views. Authored by one of the most respected political scientists in America, this brief, trade-like text looks at controversial and hot topic issues (such as homosexuality, abortion, etc.) and argues that most Americans are not polarized in relation to them.

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Customer Reviews

What Culture War? Abortion, Gay Marriage, School Prayer, Gun Control Ã Â Is the nation really polarized on these hot-button moral, religious, and cultural issues?Ã Â Should we believe the media pundits and politicians who tell us that Americans are deeply divided? No, says Morris Fiorina.Ã Â At a time when the rift between the Ã¢â ¬Å“redÃ¢â ¬Â• and Ã¢â ¬Å“blueÃ¢â ¬Â• states can seem deeper than ever, Fiorina debunks the assumption that Americans are deeply split over national issues.Ã Â He presents quite a contrary picture Ã¢â ¬â • that most Americans stand in the middle of the political landscape and are in general agreement even on those issues thought to be most divisive. Poking holes in the concept of a Ã¢â ¬Å“culture war,Ã¢â ¬Â• Fiorina explains that the majority of Americans are both moderate and tolerant, and that their greatest concerns are leadership and security, not moral values.Ã Â Supporting his position with election data and a variety of public surveys, Fiorina concludes that the view of a divided America is simply false and

that by recognizing our common ground, we have a basis for creating a more unified and moderate approach to government and politics in the near future. A new epilogue relates the 2008 campaign and election to the general argument of the book, looking at the people and issues affecting the road to the White House in 2008, and speculating on what lies ahead for (un)polarized America. Ã Â Ã Â Morris P. Fiorina is a senior fellow at the Hoover Institute and the Wendt Family Professor of Political Science at Stanford University.Ã Â His work has appeared in the New York Times and the Wall Street Journal, and he is the author of several books, including Divided Government and The New American Democracy.

Morris P. Fiorina is a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution and the Wendt Family Professor of Political Science at Stanford University. His work has appeared in the New York Times and the Wall Street Journal. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This is a political science book with a heavy emphasis on science. There are so many graphs and surveys it will make your head spin and a few of them are difficult to follow or interpret. But all of that is necessary in providing supporting proof for the very bold claim: Americans are not polarized. The data, graphs and poli-sci jargon can muck up the reading a little bit by making it a chore but I understand the need for it all.If I took anything away from this book I took away two things: 1.) Americans aren't polarized as the media would have you believe and 2.) surveys and the data gathered from surveys are immensely dependent upon the questions.A quote that summarizes the book can be found on page 9:"A polarized political class makes the citizenry appear polarized, but it is largely that--an appearance."Morris Fiorina sets out to prove that the people aren't polarized on their policy positions, they are polarized in their choices. Meaning, if two Americans aren't in agreement on an issue they usually aren't too far apart, BUT... the candidates that they most closely identify with are usually miles apart from on another. Hence, when the voters go to the polls the results will indicate that the people are polarized when in reality they only had TWO choices. What Fiorina proved is that we're not strictly red or blue but more purple.And I like how Fiorina compared and contrasted different surveys to expose just how vague some surveys can be while others paint a clearer picture. One such survey was on the issue of abortion. People are either pro-choice or pro-life (no one wants to be labelled anti-whatever when talking about abortion). Those are usually the choices and it is one of the most polarizing issues in America. But when a survey was done that had six questions on it it told a different story:"Please tell me whether or not you think it should be possible for a pregnant woman to obtain a legal abortion if1.) the woman's own health is seriously

endangered.2.) she became pregnant as a result of rape.3.) there is a strong chance of serious defect in the baby.4.) the family has very low income and cannot afford anymore children.5.) she is not married and does not want to marry the man.6.) she is married and does not want any more children.The majority of Americans on either side of the debate agreed on at least the first three categories with few saying it should be illegal in all cases and few saying it should be legal in all cases. But the activists on either side that seemingly speak for everyone make it seem as though the issue is black or white.There are many such examples as this throughout the book that do a lot to dispel the myth of this huge chasm between us all. It is a worthwhile read if just to give you a new perspective.

Red states versus blue states. We have all heard of the great divide in the United States for so long that it has become something close to "received wisdom." This thin little book, authored by the well-respected Morris Fiorina (with the assistance of Samuel Abrams and Jeremy Pope), questions this widely held view of a culture war raging in the United States.Fiorina, for those readers who are familiar with his academic research, is a skilled researcher, well schooled in statistics. It is to his credit that he presents evidence in a way that is accessible to lay readers (his technical publications would not be so easily understandable to nonacademic readers).In short, he believes that the idea of a great culture war is dead wrong. As he says in Chapter 1: ". . .the sentiments expressed. . .[by] scholars, journalists, and politicos range from simple exaggeration to sheer nonsense." Chapter 2 suggests strongly that the differences between citizens in red and blue states is not so great as advocates of the culture war say. While there is greater polarization between leaders of the Republicans and Democrats across the country, this same polarization is not nearly so manifest among the bulk of the American people. Indeed, the United States, in his view, remains a centrist, moderate country politically.All in all, a good read and a provocative thesis. Worth reading by those interested in how well "culture war" serves as a metaphor for American politics.

Such a great read!

awesome concise precise tells it the way it is.... they are all crooks Reagan really screwed stuff up with trickle down supply side economics all he did was bust good paying jobs and allow unlimited funding to crook politicians and outsource American jobs.

Notice the cover is both a donkey and an elephant. This book was great for busting myths about

polarization in U.S. Politics. I definitely recommend.

Great book! Enjoyed every minute of it...except for the very aged information inside..

excellent

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