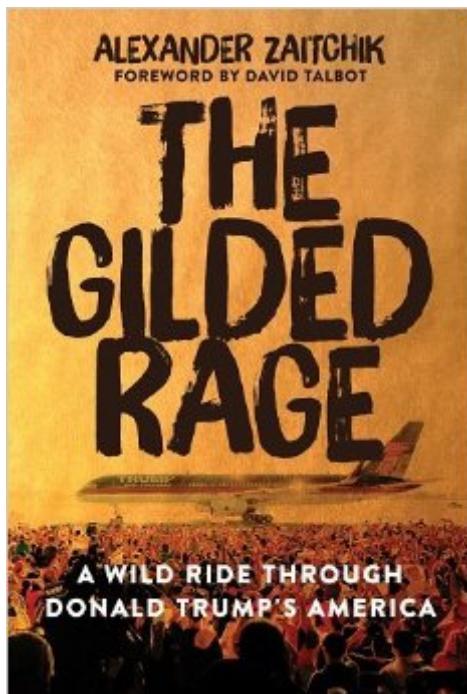


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The Gilded Rage: A Wild Ride Through Donald Trump's America



Synopsis

2016 continues to be the most surreal and unpredictable election year in recent memory and this is due in large part to one Donald J. Trump and the millions of Americans who made him this year's Republican nominee for president. As Trump continues to succeed despite behavior that would cripple any other politician, whether it is questioning the patriotism of the Gold Star Khan family or banishing a baby from one of his press conferences, it is imperative to understand why so many continue to support him. And this is what makes *The Gilded Cage* so important; it provides insight into the forgotten Americans that continue to befuddle pundits and "experts" on CNN and FOX alike. This grippingly intimate and heart-breaking book provides a portrait of the walking wounded who make up the base of the Trump movement. Desperate and angry, these are the Americans of the vanishing industrial heartland, depressed Appalachian coal country, and the no-man's land along the Southwestern border. These are coal miners, out of work construction workers, and small business owners, who have watched their fortunes dwindle with each passing year. They have no illusions about the grandstanding billionaire and his glaring flaws. But these men and women feel forgotten and screwed over by political, corporate and media elites...and they feel that Donald Trump, despite his flamboyant demagoguery, might well be their last chance for salvation.

Reminiscent of Studs Terkel's *Working*, with a dash of Hunter S. Thompson, Alexander Zaitchik in this important book takes us deeper into the ravaged soul of America than any other chronicler of our times. Selected as one of Publishers Weekly's Top Ten picks for Politics & Current Events of Fall 2016. Praise for Alexander Zaitchik's *Common Sense*: Glenn Beck and the Triumph of Ignorance: "A sharp and informative smackdown. For Zaitchik, [Glenn] Beck is just one more American con artist in the P.T. Barnum tradition, a shameless pseudoconservative bottom-feeder who will say anything to keep the spotlight on himself while the money rolls in." —Mark Lilla, *The New York Review of Books*; "A sensational book"; This is a beautifully written and insightful biography; "thoughtful, considered, and very intentional about the need to understand Beck both as a symbol of something larger going on in America and as a person." —Susan Gardner, *Daily Kos*; "A scathing profile that follows the powerful pundit from a single-parent home in rural Washington state to conservative superstardom." —The Boston Globe; "A great political book. Zaitchik tells [Beck's story] well and nobody has told it more soberly." —Slate; "An informative study." —Sean Wilentz, *The New Yorker*; "A gripping and thoroughly researched biography." —Joe Conason, *Salon*

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Customer Reviews

A lot of people have the impression that all Trump supporters are basically crazy, like the Tea Party supporters, the Sarah Palin supporters, the Mormons, the Evangelicals and the lunatic fringe of the Republican Party. The direct reporting from the campaign trail in this book shows something even more bizarre: that Trump's supporters, at least from this sample, are just regular Americans who have had enough. In fact they seem so normal that it is difficult to find any common reason why they should support such an outspoken and outrageous candidate: except of course for the sudden wholesale collapse of public confidence in the system of federal government and its allegedly democratic processes..

Finished it in under 36 hours. Awesome read and fascinating unfiltered glimpse into myriad American subcultures connected by their disillusionment with government, capitalism, etc. Tragic irony included.

Zaitchik takes us on a wild ride indeed! It's easy to disregard Trump supporters and discount them as ignorant, racist, or a combination of both. Whereas this may be true, the book challenges you to look beyond your reflexes and instead dive into the world of those who have lost hope and gained anger through their American lives. No other book has invested in these voices while respecting them. This work brings humanity, humor, and honesty during a time in great need of all of the

above. If you want to have an answer to the question 'who are these people' - read this book.

Zaitchik attempts to answer the question that has plagued both liberals and conservatives this election season: just who is the Trump voter? To do so, he traveled across the country, meeting people in different places and interviewing them for this book. This short tome can easily be devoured over a weekend, and the interview subjects are treated fairly and without condescension. Zaitchik's main finding is that there is no stereotypical Trump voter, and that all over the country, those who took a shine to his rhetoric see something different in the candidate. Zaitchik's book is an important analysis of a vast swath of our nation who feel that mainstream politics have left them behind -- and whoever wins in November, it is important to remember that the Trump voters exist and won't be going away.

Like Erroll Morris or Studs Terkel, Zaitchik lets people talk and explain themselves in a way that sometimes gives them the rope to hang themselves but, more importantly, lets them explain their positions on their own terms and in their own ways. This, punctuated with his own profanity-laced gonzo-journalism prose (which I found amusing, though it seems like some didn't), makes for a fascinating read. If there's a theme running through the rise of right-wing candidates and parties throughout the US and Europe, it's frequently that their supporters are frustrated by economic dispossession brought on by neoliberal economic policies which elites (conservative and liberal alike) support at all costs. It does no one any good to dismiss the realities and experiences of these people by saying they're just racist, homophobic, and so on. They very well may be (though so are a good many liberals), but they also deserve to have their voices heard unfiltered by the likes of Fox News or NPR. Zaitchik's book does that, and in that way reveals that there are as many alliances to be made as there are views to be argued against.

Read this book very fast and hoping the whole country does. In a media environment where everyone talks past each other and our information comes increasingly from sources selected to confirm our own opinions, a book like this is so important to understand another point of view. Along with the New Yorker piece on Trump's ghostwriter, the most informative and original piece of reporting on this wacky election.

A very interesting book chronicling the hurt that appears to be wide spread in the heart of America. The conversations with those supporting Trump sheds a new light on his base and is a fascinating

read.

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