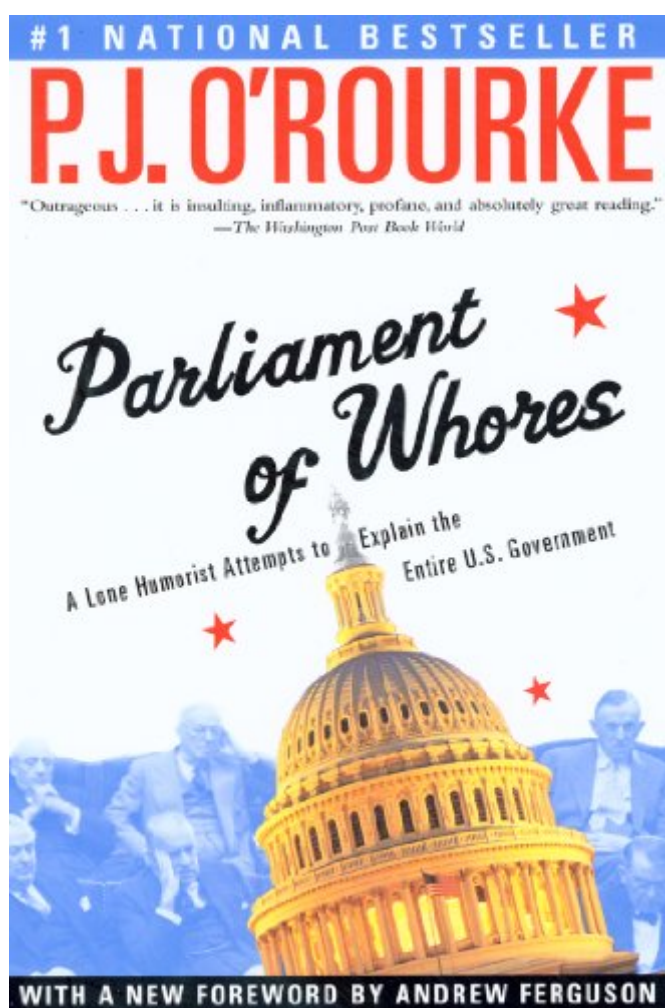


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Parliament Of Whores: A Lone Humorist Attempts To Explain The Entire U.S. Government (O'Rourke, P. J.)



Synopsis

Called "an everyman's guide to Washington" (The New York Times), P. J. O'Rourke's savagely funny and national best-seller *Parliament of Whores* has become a classic in understanding the workings of the American political system. Originally written at the end of the Reagan era, this new edition includes an extensive foreword by the renowned political writer Andrew Ferguson -- showing us that although the names and the players have changed, the game is still the same. *Parliament of Whores* is an exuberant, broken-field run through the ethical foibles, pork-barrel flimflam, and bureaucratic bullrifle inside the Beltway that leaves no sacred cow unskewered and no politically correct sensitivities unscorched. "Highly pungent and wickedly accurate observations ... [from a] boisterous, pedal-to-the-floor humorist." -- The New York Times Book Review "Outrageous ... It is insulting, inflammatory, profane, and absolutely great reading." -- The Washington Post Book World "A gonzo civics book ... O'Rourke is like a trophy hunter let loose in an unguarded zoo." -- Chicago Tribune

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Customer Reviews

O'Rourke tries to be Dave Barry funny and he is not. Politics can be funny at times but he tries to lighten each and every chapter with humor and he sort of fails here. He does take some solid positions and it is worth the read, but try to ignore the humor and sometimes you get lost as to where he is going. He is more savvy than most when it comes to politics but this book just falls a little short.

If everything he says of the programs of the federal government of the USA. Is true. The only reason he might falsify is for a laugh. Then it is appalling. I had to keep reminding myself that this was 1991, NOT TODAY! Especially that last paragraph. Can you say. HR Clinton?

Read this years ago and loved it. Still love it. O'Rourke is irreverent and interesting to read.

No other cultural or political humorist can make a serious and penetrating point as hilariously as P.J. O'Rourke. He comes across to me like a lapsed altar boy who dips into the sauce a bit too much and would rather admit it with a smile than repent. In Parliament of Whores, his opening essay about the differences between God and Santa Claus is worth twice the price of this book.

For a progressive/independent, this was tough going -- but I laughed my head off at several points. P.J. O'Rourke's reputation for curmudgeonly writing has only grown since this was written in the 70s, revised 1991. His segment on why we should throw out farm subsidies -- indeed most social payments, which he classifies entirely as subsidies -- is hilarious and I agree entirely. He's pessimistic about reforming Washington, since each and every one of us form "the biggest interest group of all," and we love paying ourselves, one way or another, with taxpayers' money. I read this because Christopher Buckley, one of the funniest writers about Washington, said it's his favorite Washington pillorying.

Thoroughly enjoyable read, apart from a few expletives here and there. The book gives an insightful view of the operations of the United States government, full of humor.

O'Rourke proves that government is like bad news- when faced with it, you can either laugh or cry. From his eye-catching titles (I'm also a fan of *Don't Vote It Just Encourages the Bastards*) to his corrections and commentary of the federal budget, O'Rourke does his damndest to make his

audience laugh. Although *Parliament of Whores: A Lone Humorist Attempts to Explain the Entire U.S. Government* was written in 2003, five (almost six) presidential election cycles ago, it is still relevant. Parliament is the distilled essence of O'Rourke's bitter, bitter animosity of an overbearing nanny state and us, the dupes who participate in our democracy, and that never goes out of style. *Parliament of Whores* is superlative in every way and a satirical hate ballad of the highest order.

I bought this book on the referral of my brother. This reads easy as the writer uses appropriate humor. The author doesn't like the beltway mentality and people but kind of shows you how stuff gets done anyway, despite many obstacles from people guarding their own little fiefdom. I liked that it was cheap.

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