

Book Review: 100 People Who Are Screwing Up America (And Al Franken Is #37)

Contributed by Kelly Schumacher

When first finding this book on the shelf, I admit, I laughed. Assuming that since this book was written by Bernard Goldberg (Author of best seller's Bias and Arrogance) it would follow suit and be full of things the Liberal folk have done or are doing wrong. However, 100 People Who Are Screwing Up America is just a little different than the rest.

Goldberg is a well known senior correspondent on CBS who has earned eight Emmy's in total and made a name for himself questioning the Liberal media. Here he offers humor and insight as he counts down, what he believes, are the top 100 people in entertainment, television, politics, big wig corporations… the "cultural elites" as he puts it, who are the culprits screwing up America.

Now before any of you get all riled up and try to argue, "this book only includes three Republicans… why is that?" or "don't you think the President who led us into a war for oil should be on this list?", remember one thing: this is his list.

Goldberg states in his introduction, "First, I didn't take a poll. Forgive me for stating the obvious, but this is my list. There won't be two people in the whole country who agree with every name in the book… And it won't take you long to notice that there are a lot of liberals on the list, which, of course, is just how it ought to be. If I were compiling this list years ago, say, when I was college, there'd be a lot of conservatives on it. But this isn't years ago, and besides, I'm smarter now than I was back then."

With that said, it's important to remember the following point when reading this book: If you take it for what it's worth, Goldberg actually offers thought provoking points. Although you won't agree with everyone on the list, read through each name and realize that Goldberg may be justified when listing, let's say, Al Franken or Barbara Walters.

If you walk away from this book with nothing else, hopefully it is an understanding of why at least one of the people is in this book.

Goldberg explains that the ones who made the cut are those that he feels are adding to our problems in America; the people who don't intend to make us laugh- but do by making issues out of the most irrelevant things, the well-dressed "crooks" at major corporations who cause many employees their jobs because a personal profit of millions a year just isn't good enough, the Hollywood stars who think they're intellectual just because they're famous or those who are just good old hypocrites. To sum it all up, Goldberg says, "It's about a country where as long as anything goes, as a friend of mine puts it, soon or later everything will go."

100 People Who Are Screwing Up America has achieved its goal: it's thought provoking. If this book doesn't inspire you to sit down and make your own list, maybe you should read again! From the obvious, well known, suspects on the list (the Eminems, Michael Moores or Howard Sterns) to the not so well known (the Laurie Davids, Dennis Kozlowskis or Barbara Kingsolvers) they all have done something so shockingly stupid that we can't even believe what we read. The worst part about it: a good portion of our society condones it! Anything from lyrics about "bitches and hoes," to "environmentalists" who yell at others for driving SUV's while she flies around in a private jet; it's all ridiculous. Every person on this list has earned his or her place.

Sure, maybe you'll read through and think of someone who could have been included on the list, but in general, Goldberg makes a good case.

It would be hard to make any suggestions on how to fix America; where would someone even start? Under the "America Bashers" heading of the book, Goldberg makes a powerful statement about our country, "How, I wonder, could so many of them who should know better- including the ones who have had so many opportunities in America- not understand what the lowliest peasants in the poorest countries in the world grasp with absolute clarity: that for all our problems, America is still the freest country on earth, that it is the most generous, and yes, that it is also the greatest hope for humankind, which is precisely why so many people from everywhere in the world want to live in the United States."

Bernard Goldberg's 100 People Who Are Screwing Up America (and Al Franken is #37) is a compilation of the people who, over the years, have made us scream, "What the HELL were they thinking?" With its humor it's able to take a serious look at what is wrong with our society today and who has added to our problems over the years.