

[American Liberty League](#)



The American Liberty League: A Bastion of Conservative Resistance During the New Deal

The American Liberty League. The name itself conjures images of fervent debates, political maneuvering, and a clash of ideologies that shaped the American landscape during the tumultuous era of the New Deal. This post delves deep into the history, philosophies, and ultimate impact of this influential, yet often misunderstood, organization. We'll examine its core beliefs, its key members, its strategies, and its lasting legacy, providing a comprehensive overview of the American Liberty League and its place in American history. Prepare to explore a pivotal chapter in American political history, one that continues to resonate even today.

The Genesis of the American Liberty League: A Response to the New Deal

The American Liberty League, formed in 1934, wasn't born out of thin air. Its emergence was a

direct reaction to President Franklin D. Roosevelt's ambitious New Deal programs. While Roosevelt aimed to alleviate the Great Depression through massive government intervention, a significant segment of the population, primarily wealthy industrialists and conservatives, viewed these programs as a dangerous expansion of federal power, a threat to individual liberty, and an infringement upon free enterprise.

Key Players and Their Motivations:

The League attracted a powerful roster of prominent figures. Among them were:

Al Smith: The former Governor of New York and a prominent Democrat, Smith's opposition to Roosevelt's policies stemmed from his belief in limited government and balanced budgets.

John J. Raskob: A prominent DuPont executive, Raskob provided significant financial backing to the League, reflecting the deep concerns of corporate America about the New Deal's regulatory impact.

Pierre S. du Pont: Another powerful industrialist, du Pont shared Raskob's anxieties about the growing power of the federal government.

These individuals, along with many others, believed that Roosevelt's policies were socialist and ultimately detrimental to the nation's economic health and individual freedoms. Their motivations were a complex blend of genuine ideological conviction and self-preservation in the face of regulatory changes affecting their substantial wealth and influence.

The League's Core Beliefs and Strategies:

The American Liberty League vehemently opposed the core tenets of the New Deal. They argued against:

Increased Government Spending: The League viewed the massive government spending under the New Deal as fiscally irresponsible and inflationary.

Government Regulation: The expansion of government regulation into various sectors of the economy was seen as stifling free enterprise and individual initiative.

"Soak the Rich" Policies: The League strongly resisted tax increases aimed at higher income brackets, arguing that such policies discouraged investment and economic growth.

To counteract the New Deal, the League employed several strategies:

Propaganda and Public Relations: The League launched a massive public relations campaign through pamphlets, speeches, and advertisements to sway public opinion against the New Deal.

Lobbying: The League actively lobbied Congress to oppose specific New Deal legislation.

Litigation: The League pursued legal challenges to some New Deal programs, arguing their unconstitutionality.

Despite their considerable resources and influence, the League's propaganda efforts faced an uphill

battle. Roosevelt's popularity remained high throughout much of the 1930s, and the League's anti-New Deal rhetoric often portrayed it as out of touch with the needs of ordinary Americans.

The Decline and Legacy of the American Liberty League:

Despite its initial vigor and considerable resources, the American Liberty League ultimately failed to achieve its primary goal of halting the New Deal. The League's image as an organization representing the interests of the wealthy elite hurt its ability to garner widespread public support. Furthermore, the escalating global tensions leading to World War II shifted public attention away from domestic policy debates. By the end of the 1930s, the League's influence had significantly waned, and it eventually disbanded.

However, the American Liberty League's legacy extends beyond its immediate political failures. It represents a significant chapter in the ongoing American debate about the proper role of government in the economy and society. The League's opposition to the New Deal foreshadowed later conservative movements and continues to inform contemporary political discourse on issues such as government regulation, taxation, and the balance between individual liberty and collective responsibility.

Conclusion:

The American Liberty League stands as a compelling case study in the dynamics of political opposition and the enduring tension between individual liberty and government intervention. While its attempts to derail the New Deal ultimately proved unsuccessful, its impact on the political landscape and the ongoing debate about the role of government remains undeniable. Its story serves as a reminder of the powerful forces at play during a pivotal moment in American history and the enduring relevance of the ideological battles fought during that era.

FAQs:

1. What was the primary funding source for the American Liberty League? The League's primary funding came from wealthy industrialists and corporations, particularly those associated with the DuPont empire.
2. Did the American Liberty League have any lasting political impact? While it failed to stop the New Deal, the League's opposition helped shape the political landscape, influencing later conservative movements and the ongoing debate over government regulation and the role of the wealthy.

3. How effective were the League's propaganda efforts? While the League launched a significant propaganda campaign, its image as representing the interests of the wealthy elite hampered its effectiveness in swaying public opinion.
4. Were there any legal successes for the American Liberty League? While the League pursued legal challenges to certain New Deal programs, they largely failed to overturn significant aspects of Roosevelt's policies.
5. What ultimately led to the decline and dissolution of the American Liberty League? A combination of factors, including the waning popularity of its anti-New Deal message, the rising tide of World War II, and the perception that the League represented the interests of the wealthy elite, contributed to its demise.

american liberty league: The Revolt of the Conservatives; A History of the American Liberty League, 1934-1940 George Wolfskill, 1962

american liberty league: Leaflet No.1-24 American Liberty League, 1935

american liberty league: Real Americans Jared A. Goldstein, 2022-02-05 On January 6, 2021, white supremacists, Christian nationalists, and other supporters of President Donald Trump stormed the US Capitol in an attempt to overturn the results of the 2020 presidential election. The insurrection was widely denounced as an attack on the Constitution, and the subsequent impeachment trial was framed as a defense of constitutional government. What received little attention is that the January 6 insurrectionists themselves justified the violence they perpetrated as a defense of the Constitution; after battling the Capitol police and breaking doors and windows, the mob marched inside, chanting "Defend your liberty, defend the Constitution." In *Real Americans: National Identity, Violence, and the Constitution* Jared A. Goldstein boldly challenges the conventional wisdom that a shared devotion to the Constitution is the essence of what it means to be American. In his careful analysis of US history, Goldstein demonstrates the well-established pattern of movements devoted to defending the power of dominant racial, ethnic, and religious groups that deploy the rhetoric of constitutional devotion to express their national visions and justify their violence. Goldstein describes this as constitutional nationalism, an ideology that defines being an American as standing with, and by, the Constitution. This history includes the Ku Klux Klan's self-declared mission to "protect and defend the Constitution of the United States," which served to justify its campaign of violence in the 1860s and 1870s to prevent Black people from exercising the right to vote; Protestant Americans who felt threatened by the growing population of Catholics and Jews and organized mass movements to defend their status and power by declaring that the Constitution was made for a Protestant nation; native-born Americans who resisted the rising population of immigrants and who mobilized to exclude the newcomers and their alien ideas; corporate leaders arguing that regulation is unconstitutional and un-American; and Timothy McVeigh, who believed he was defending the Constitution by killing 168 people with a truck bomb. *Real Americans: National Identity, Violence, and the Constitution* reveals how the Constitution as the central embodiment and common ground of American identity has long been used to promote conflicting versions of American identity and to justify hatred, violence, and exclusion.

american liberty league: Digest of Data from the Files of a Special Committee to Investigate Lobbying Activities, United States Senate, Seventy-fourth Congress, Second Session, Pursuant to S. Res. 165 and S. Res. 184 United States. Congress. Senate. Special committee to investigate lobbying activities, 1936

american liberty league: Why Religion Is Good for American Democracy Robert Wuthnow, 2021-09-07 This book addresses the question of whether, and if so how, religion benefits American democracy. Scholarly views about the answer are divided, as is public opinion. Some hold that religion is beneficial where democracy is concerned; others view it as detrimental; and still others

take the middle view that there is good religion and bad religion, and that it all depends on kind is winning. As Robert Wuthnow argues in this new book, these ways of thinking about this topic paint with too broad a brush. Religion as we know it in the United States is vastly diverse, and it is this diversity that has mattered, and still matters. It has mattered not in the abstract, but concretely in the give and take that has mobilized faith communities to engage energetically in the pressing issues of the day -- an engagement that has often involved contesting the influence of other faith communities. Wuthnow's argument is that the deep diversity of religion in American has had, by & large, salutary political consequences. People of faith care about what happens in the country and are keen to mobilize to express their convictions and advocate for policy outcomes in line with their views. The diversity of religious groups in the U.S. contributes to democracy by reducing the chances of any one view becoming preeminent and by bringing innovative ideas to bear on public debate. The book shows empirically what diverse religious groups have done over the past century in advocating for particular democratic values. Individual chapters are case studies that explore important instances in which religious groups advocated against tyranny and on behalf of freedom of conscience; for freedom of assembly; in favor of human dignity; for citizenship rights in the case of immigrants; and for an amelioration of the wealth gap. Plenty of books have been written over the last few decades on religion and politics in the U.S. that have been salvos in the long-running American culture wars. Such books have often decried the involvement of religion in American politics, called for a firmer separation of church and state on the grounds that democracy is better when religion retreats, and criticized the Religious Right in particular. This book, by contrast, offers a more nuanced account of what diverse religious groups have done in the U.S. over the past century in advocating for particular democratic values--

american liberty league: The Oxford Encyclopedia of American Political and Legal History Donald T. Critchlow, Philip R. VanderMeer, 2012-06-07 The Oxford Encyclopedia of American Political and Legal History brings together an unparalleled wealth of information about the laws, institutions, and actors that have governed America throughout its history. Entries key political figures, important legislation and governmental institutions, broad political trends relating to elections, voting behavior, and party development, as well as key court cases, legal theories, constitutional interpretations, Supreme Court justices, and other major legal figures. Emphasizing the interconnectedness of politics and law, the more than 430 expertly written entries in the Encyclopedia provide an invaluable and in-depth overview of the development of America's political and legal frameworks.

american liberty league: Hearings United States. Congress Senate, 1935

american liberty league: Investigation of Lobbying Activities ... United States. Congress. Senate. Special committee to investigate lobbying activities, 1935

american liberty league: The Rise of Political Action Committees Emily J. Charnock, 2020 This book explores the origins of Political Action Committees (PACs) in the mid-20th Century and their impact on the American party system. It argues that PACs were envisaged, from the outset, as tools for effecting ideological change in the two main parties, thus helping to foster the partisan polarization we see today. It shows how the very first PAC, created by the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO) in 1943, explicitly set out to liberalize the Democratic Party, by channeling campaign resources to liberal Democrats while trying to defeat conservative Southern Democrats. This organizational model and strategy of dynamic partisanship subsequently diffused through the interest group world - imitated first by other labor and liberal allies in the 1940s and '50s, only to be adopted and inverted by business and conservative groups in the late 1950s and early '60s. Previously committed to the conservative coalition of Southern Democrats and Northern Republicans, they came to embrace a more partisan approach, and created new PACs to help refashion the Republican Party into a conservative counterweight. The Rise of Political Action locates this PAC mobilization in the larger story of interest group electioneering, which went from a rare and highly controversial practice at the beginning of the 20th Century to a ubiquitous phenomenon today. It also offers a fuller picture of PACs as far more than financial vehicles, but

electoral innovators who pioneered strategies and tactics that have come to pervade modern US campaigns, as well as transform the American party system--

american liberty league: Invisible Hands: The Businessmen's Crusade Against the New Deal Kim Phillips-Fein, 2010-07-12 "A compelling and readable story of resistance to the new economic order." —Boston Globe In the wake of the profound economic crisis known as the Great Depression, a group of high-powered individuals joined forces to campaign against the New Deal—not just its practical policies but the foundations of its economic philosophy. The titans of the National Association of Manufacturers and the chemicals giant DuPont, together with little-known men like W. C. Mullendore, Leonard Read, and Jasper Crane, championed European thinkers Friedrich von Hayek and Ludwig von Mises and their fears of the "nanny state." Through fervent activism, fundraising, and institution-building, these men sought to educate and organize their peers as a political force to preserve their profit margins and the "American way" of doing business. In the public relations department of General Electric, they would find the perfect spokesman: Ronald Reagan. Some images in the ebook are not displayed owing to permissions issues.

american liberty league: Congressional Record United States. Congress, 1950 The Congressional Record is the official record of the proceedings and debates of the United States Congress. It is published daily when Congress is in session. The Congressional Record began publication in 1873. Debates for sessions prior to 1873 are recorded in The Debates and Proceedings in the Congress of the United States (1789-1824), the Register of Debates in Congress (1824-1837), and the Congressional Globe (1833-1873)

american liberty league: North American Border Conflicts Laurence Armand French, Magdaleno Manzanarez, 2017-01-06 North American Border Conflicts: Race, Politics, and Ethics adds to the current discussion on class, race, ethnic, and sectarian divides, not only within the United States but throughout the Americas in general. The book explores the phenomenon of border challenges throughout the world, particularly the current increase in population migration in the America, Europe, Asia, the Middle East, and Africa, which has been linked to human trafficking and many other causes of human suffering. North American Border Conflicts takes students through the rich, sad history of border conflict on this continent.

american liberty league: Roosevelt Sweeps Nation David Pietrusza, 2022-09-13 Winner of the 2023 Independent Publisher Book Awards Gold Medal for US History From the acclaimed author of 1920: The Year of the Six Presidents and 1960: LJB vs JFK vs Nixon—The Epic Campaign that Forged Three Presidencies comes a dazzling panorama of presidential and political personalities, ambitions, plots, and counterplots; racism, anti-Semitism, anti-socialism, and anti-communism, and the landslide referendum on FDR's New Deal policies in the 1936 presidential election. Award-winning historian David Pietrusza boldly steers clear of the pat narrative regarding Franklin Roosevelt's unprecedented 1936 re-election landslide, weaving an enormously more intricate, ever more surprising tale of a polarized nation; of America's most complex, calculating, and politically successful president, Franklin D. Roosevelt, at the very top of his Machiavellian game; and the unlocking of the puzzle of how our society, our politics, and our parties fitfully reinvented themselves. With in-depth examinations of rabble-rousing Democratic US Senator Huey Long and his assassination before he was able to challenge FDR in '36; powerful, but widely hated, newspaper baron William Randolph Hearst, who blasted FDR's "Raw Deal"; wildly popular, radical radio commentator Father Coughlin; the steamrolled passage of Social Security and backlash against it; the era's racism and anti-Semitism; American Socialism and Communism; and a Supreme Court seemingly bent on dismantling the New Deal altogether, Roosevelt Sweeps Nation is a vivid portrait of a dynamic Depression-Era America. Crafting his account from an impressive and unprecedented collection of primary and secondary sources, Pietrusza has produced an engrossing, original, and authoritative account of an election, a president, and a nation at the crossroads. The nation's stakes were high . . . and the parallels hauntingly akin to today's dangerously strife-ridden political and culture wars.

american liberty league: The Republican Party in the Age of Roosevelt Elliot A. Rosen,

2014-02-21 Elliot Rosen's Hoover, Roosevelt, and the Brains Trust focused on the transition from the Hoover administration to that of Roosevelt and the formulation of the early New Deal program. Roosevelt, the Great Depression, and the Economics of Recovery emphasized long-term and structural recovery programs as well as the 1937-38 recession. Rosen's final book in the trilogy, *The Republican Party in the Age of Roosevelt*, situates distrust of the federal government and the consequent transformation of the party. Domestic and foreign policies introduced by the Roosevelt administration created division between the parties. The Hoover doctrine, which sought to restrict the reach of independent agencies at the federal level in order to restore business confidence and investment, intended to reverse the New Deal and to curb the growth of federal functions. In his new book, Elliot Rosen holds that economic thought regarding appropriate functions of the federal government has not changed since the Great Depression. The political debate is still being waged between advocates for direct intervention at the federal level and those for the Hoover ethic with its stress on individual responsibility. The question remains whether preservation of an unfettered marketplace and our liberties remain inseparable or whether enlarged governmental functions are required in an increasingly complex national and global environment. By offering a well-researched account of the antistatist and nationalist origins not only of the debate over legitimate federal functions but also of the modern Republican Party, this book affords insight into such contemporary political movements as the Tea Party.

american liberty league: The Rise and Fall of Modern American Conservatism David Farber, 2012-08-26 The story of modern conservatism through the lives of six leading figures *The Rise and Fall of Modern American Conservatism* tells the gripping story of perhaps the most significant political force of our time through the lives and careers of six leading figures at the heart of the movement. David Farber traces the history of modern conservatism from its revolt against New Deal liberalism, to its breathtaking resurgence under Ronald Reagan, to its spectacular defeat with the election of Barack Obama. Farber paints vivid portraits of Robert Taft, William F. Buckley Jr., Barry Goldwater, Phyllis Schlafly, Ronald Reagan, and George W. Bush. He shows how these outspoken, charismatic, and frequently controversial conservative leaders were united by a shared insistence on the primacy of social order, national security, and economic liberty. Farber demonstrates how they built a versatile movement capable of gaining and holding power, from Taft's opposition to the New Deal to Buckley's founding of the *National Review* as the intellectual standard-bearer of modern conservatism; from Goldwater's crusade against leftist politics and his failed 1964 bid for the presidency to Schlafly's rejection of feminism in favor of traditional gender roles and family values; and from Reagan's city upon a hill to conservatism's downfall with Bush's ambitious presidency. *The Rise and Fall of Modern American Conservatism* provides rare insight into how conservatives captured the American political imagination by claiming moral superiority, downplaying economic inequality, relishing bellicosity, and embracing nationalism. This concise and accessible history reveals how these conservative leaders discovered a winning formula that enabled them to forge a powerful and formidable political majority. Some images inside the book are unavailable due to digital copyright restrictions.

american liberty league: Managing Legal Uncertainty Ronen Shamir, 1995 With the New Deal came a dramatic expansion of the American regulatory state. Threatening to undermine many of the traditional roles of the legal system and its actors by establishing a system of administrative law, the new emphasis on federal legislation as a form of social and economic planning ushered in an era of legal uncertainty. In this study Ronen Shamir explores how elite corporate lawyers and the American Bar Association clashed with academic legal realists over the constitutionality of the New Deal's legislative program. Applying the insights of Weber and Bourdieu to the sociology of the legal profession, Shamir shows that elite members of the bar had a keen self-interest in blocking the expansion of administrative law. He dismisses as oversimplified the view that elite lawyers were hired guns who argued that New Deal legislation was unconstitutional solely because of their duty to represent their capitalist clients. Instead, Shamir suggests, their alignment with the capitalist class was an incidental result of their attempt to articulate their vision of the law as scientific, apolitical,

and judicially oriented--and thereby to defend their own position within the law profession. The academic legal realists on the other side of the constitutional debates criticized the rigidity of the traditional judicial process and insisted that flexibility of interpretation and the uncertainty of legal outcomes was at the heart of the legal system. The author argues that many legal realists, encouraged by the experimental nature of the New Deal, seized an opportunity to improve on their marginal status within the legal profession by moving their discussions from academic circles to the national policy agenda.

american liberty league: Encyclopedia of Politics Rodney P. Carlisle, 2005-03-17 With the Left and Right amusingly placed into left-hand (v.1) and right-hand (v.2) volumes respectively, this encyclopedia contains articles on the people, ideas, events, laws, and issues associated with left and right politics in language that will be accessible to the high school and undergraduate student as well as the general reader. Each entry includes cross-references and a bibliography. Among the topics for politics of the left are Susan B. Anthony, Jean- Jacques Rousseau, abolitionism, desegregation, ACLU, the New Deal, Solidarity, and the Workingmen's Party. Entries are included in each volume for 40 countries and regions, giving the history and current affairs for politics in each. Among the topics for the right are capitalism, Darwinism, censorship, martial law, and the Christian Coalition. The contributors teach at universities worldwide; some are independent scholars. Carlisle is at Rutgers U. Annotation : 2004 Book News, Inc., Portland, OR (booknews.com).

american liberty league: The Nazi Hydra in America Glen Yeadon, 2008 This book exposes how US plutocrats launched Hitler, then recouped Nazi assets to lay the post-war foundations of a modern police state. Fascists won WWII because they ran both sides. Lays bare the tenacious roots of US fascism from robber baron days to Reichstag fire to the WTC atrocity and Homeland Security, with a blow-by-blow account of the fascist take-over of America's media.

american liberty league: Subject Catalog of the Institute of Governmental Studies Library, University of California, Berkeley University of California, Berkeley. Institute of Governmental Studies. Library, 1970

american liberty league: The Revolt of the Conservatives George Wolfskill, 1962

american liberty league: Poison Tea Jeff Nesbit, 2016-04-05 "Poison Tea shines a spotlight on the shadowy Koch brother network and reveals hidden connections between the tobacco industry, the reclusive billionaire brothers, and the Tea Party movement. It's a major story that for too long has been underreported and poorly understood."—REP. HENRY WAXMAN, a former chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee How did today's Tea Party movement really come to be? Did it suddenly appear in 2009 as a spontaneous response to Barack Obama and health-care reform? Or was its true purpose and history something far different. Was it in fact a careful, strategic effort by two of the planet's wealthiest individuals, the tobacco industry, and other corporate interests to remake the government and seize control of one of our two national parties, ultimately gaining both the White House and Congress? Jeff Nesbit was in the room at the beginning of the unholy alliance between representatives of the world's largest private oil company and the planet's largest public tobacco company. There, they planned for a grassroots national political movement—one that would later be known as the Tea Party—that would promote their own corporate interests and political goals. Drawing from his own experience as well as from troves of recently released internal tobacco industry documents, Nesbit reveals the long game that these corporate giants have played to become a dominant force in American politics.

american liberty league: The Hughes Court: Volume 11 Mark V. Tushnet, 2022-02-03 A comprehensive study of the US Supreme Court that explores the transformation of constitutional law from 1930 to 1941.

american liberty league: Encyclopedia of U.S. Political History Andrew Whitmore Robertson, 2010 Annotation st1\; · {behavior:url(£ieooui) } Unparalleled coverage of U.S. political development through a unique chronological framework Encyclopedia of U.S. Political History explores the events, policies, activities, institutions, groups, people, and movements that have created and shaped political life in the United States. With contributions from scholars in the fields

of history and political science, this seven-volume set provides students, researchers, and scholars the opportunity to examine the political evolution of the United States from the 1500s to the present day. With greater coverage than any other resource, the Encyclopedia of U.S. Political History identifies and illuminates patterns and interrelations that will expand the reader's understanding of American political institutions, culture, behavior, and change. Focusing on both government and history, the Encyclopedia brings exceptional breadth and depth to the topic with more than 100 essays for each of the critical time periods covered. With each volume covering one of seven time periods that correspond to key eras in American history, the essays and articles in this authoritative encyclopedia focus on the following themes of political history: The three branches of government Elections and political parties Legal and constitutional histories Political movements and philosophies, and key political figures Economics Military politics International relations, treaties, and alliances Regional histories Key Features Organized chronologically by political eras Reader's guide for easy-topic searching across volumes Maps, photographs, and tables enhance the text Signed entries by a stellar group of contributors

VOLUME 1 Colonial Beginnings through Revolution 1500 – 1783 Volume Editor: Andrew Robertson, Herbert H. Lehman College The colonial period witnessed the transformation of thirteen distinct colonies into an independent federated republic. This volume discusses the diversity of the colonial political experience – a diversity that modern scholars have found defies easy synthesis – as well as the long-term conflicts, policies, and events that led to revolution, and the ideas underlying independence.

VOLUME 2 The Early Republic 1784 – 1840 Volume Editor: Michael A. Morrison, Purdue University No period in the history of the United States was more critical to the foundation and shaping of American politics than the early American republic. This volume discusses the era of Confederation, the shaping of the U.S. Constitution, and the development of the party system.

american liberty league: Historical Dictionary of the Great Depression, 1929-1940 James S. Olson, 2001-09-30 Today when most Americans think of the Great Depression, they imagine desperate hoboes riding the rails in search of work, unemployed men selling pencils to indifferent crowds, bootleggers hustling illegal booze to secrecy-shrouded speakeasies, FDR smiling, or Judy Garland skipping along the yellow brick road. Hard times have become an abstraction. But there was a time when economic suffering was real, when hunger stalked the land, and Americans tried to forget their troubles in movie theaters or in front of a radio. From the stock market crash of October 1929 to Germany's invasion of Norway, France, and the Low Countries in 1940, the Great Depression blanketed the world economy. Its impact was particularly deep and direct in the United States. This was the era when the federal government became a major player in the national economy and Americans bestowed the responsibility for maintaining full employment and stable prices on Congress and the White House, making the Depression years a major watershed in U.S. history. In more than 500 essays, this book provides a ready reference to those hard times, covering the diplomacy, popular culture, intellectual life, economic problems, public policy issues, and prominent individuals of the era.

american liberty league: Hitler's U.S. Allies Norman Ridley, 2024-08-30 In many countries around the world, the end of the First World War, far from leading to a new world order of stability, ushered in an era of uncertainty and economic decline. To solve the problems of unemployment, high inflation, low wages and poor working conditions, many turned to the political right for a solution – to leaders such as Mussolini and Hitler. But it was not only in countries such as Italy and Germany that people saw fascism as an alternative to democracy. It is sometimes said fascism in America first manifested itself as a reaction by a native-born population to the surge in the numbers of European immigrants in 1830. It went on to find a voice at least another four times up to the outbreak of the Second World War, most obviously in the formation of the German American Bund. American politicians and commentators have traditionally avoided applying the label of 'fascist' to any movement, preferring instead to describe extreme right-wing groups as 'nativist', money-making rackets exploiting gullible followers, or simply the 'lunatic fringe'. For many years this denied them

the opportunity to examine the possibility that American fascist ideologies or social structures were rooted in patterns of the American past, as opposed to being a foreign import. The Ku Klux Klan has been described as the world's first fascist organization and this book looks at the arguments for and against that assertion. It also examines how the philosophy behind that movement remained as a potent undercurrent in American politics up to the start of the Second World War. There is also an examination of how American racial policies were used by the Nazis when drawing up their own. While argument persists over whether movements such as the Silver Shirts and the Friends of New Germany were truly fascist, it is undoubtedly the case that personalities behind them, individuals such as William Dudley Pelley and Father Charles Coughlin, exhibited all the classic characteristics of fascism. And they were by no means unpopular. A proponent of many of Hitler's policies, during the 1930s, when the US population was about 120 million, an estimated 30 million listeners, for example, tuned in to Coughlin's weekly radio program. This book compares the ways that both the United States and fascist regimes, especially that in Germany, tackled the immense social and economic problems resulting from the Great Depression. It also explores the way that European fascist regimes, especially that in Nazi Germany, tried to influence the American political process both legally and illegally and analyses the level of success they achieved in both.

american liberty league: Explicit and Authentic Acts David E. Kyvig, 2016-03-14 In time for the 225th anniversary of the Bill of Rights, David Kyvig completed an Afterword to his landmark study of the process of amending the US Constitution. The Afterword discusses the many amendments, such those requiring a balanced federal budget or limiting the terms of members of Congress, that have been proposed since the book was originally published and why they failed of passage. At a time when prominent scholars and other public figures have called for a constitutional convention to write a new constitution, arguing that our current system of governance is unsustainable Kyvig reminds us of the high hurdles the founders created to amending the constitution and how they have served the country well, preventing the amendment process from being used by one faction to serve the passions of the moment. In his farewell address, President Washington reminded his audience that the Constitution, till changed by an explicit and authentic act of the whole people, is sacredly obligatory upon all. He regarded the Constitution as a binding document worthy of devout allegiance, but also believed that it contains a clear and appropriate procedure for its own reform. David Kyvig's illuminating study provides the most complete and insightful history of that amendment process and its fundamental importance for American political life. Over the course of the past two centuries, more than 10,000 amendments have been proposed by the method stipulated in Article V of the Constitution. Amazingly, only 33 have garnered the required two-thirds approval from both houses of Congress, and only 27 were ultimately ratified into law by the states. Despite their small number, those amendments have revolutionized American government while simultaneously legitimizing and preserving its continued existence. Indeed, they have dramatically altered the relationship between state and federal authority, as well as between government and private citizens. Kyvig reexamines the creation and operation of Article V, illuminating the process and substance of each major successful and failed effort to change the formal structure, duties, and limits of the federal government. He analyzes in detail the Founders' intentions; the periods of great amendment activity during the 1790s, 1860s, 1910s, and 1960s; and the considerable consequences of amendment failure involving slavery, alcohol prohibition, child labor, New Deal programs, school prayer, equal rights for women, abortion, balanced budgets, term limits, and flag desecration.

american liberty league: Encyclopedia of U.S. Political History Andrew Robertson, Michael A. Morrison, William G. Shade, Robert Johnston, Robert Zieger, Thomas Langston, Richard Valelly, 2010-04-01 Unparalleled coverage of U.S. political development through a unique chronological framework Encyclopedia of U.S. Political History explores the events, policies, activities, institutions, groups, people, and movements that have created and shaped political life in the United States. With contributions from scholars in the fields of history and political science, this seven-volume set provides students, researchers, and scholars the opportunity to examine the political evolution of the

United States from the 1500s to the present day. With greater coverage than any other resource, the Encyclopedia of U.S. Political History identifies and illuminates patterns and interrelations that will expand the reader's understanding of American political institutions, culture, behavior, and change. Focusing on both government and history, the Encyclopedia brings exceptional breadth and depth to the topic with more than 100 essays for each of the critical time periods covered. With each volume covering one of seven time periods that correspond to key eras in American history, the essays and articles in this authoritative encyclopedia focus on the following themes of political history: The three branches of government Elections and political parties Legal and constitutional histories Political movements and philosophies, and key political figures Economics Military politics International relations, treaties, and alliances Regional histories Key Features Organized chronologically by political eras Reader's guide for easy-topic searching across volumes Maps, photographs, and tables enhance the text Signed entries by a stellar group of contributors

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VOLUME 3 ?Expansion, Division, and Reconstruction ?1841–1877 ?Volume Editor: William Shade, Lehigh University (emeritus) ?This volume examines three decades in the middle of the nineteenth century, which witnessed: the emergence of the debate over slavery in the territories, which eventually led to the Civil War; the military conflict itself from 1861 until 1865; and the process of Reconstruction, which ended with the readmission of all of the former Confederate States to the Union and the withdrawal of the last occupying federal troops from those states in 1877.

VOLUME 4 ?From the Gilded Age through the Age of Reform ?1878–1920 ?Volume Editor: Robert Johnston, University of Illinois at Chicago With the withdrawal of federal soldiers from Southern states the previous year, 1878 marked a new focus in American politics, and it became recognizably modern within the next 40 years. This volume focuses on race and politics; economics, labor, and capitalism; agrarian politics and populism; national politics; progressivism; foreign affairs; World War I; and the end of the progressive era.

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government. It also considers the mixed blessing of the change in superpower international competition associated with the end of the Cold War. Stateless terrorism (symbolized by the 9/11 attacks), the continuing American tradition of civil liberties, and the broad change in social diversity wrought by immigration and the impact in this period of the rights revolutions are also covered.

american liberty league: Hitler's Aristocrats Susan Ronald, 2023-03-14 Susan Ronald, acclaimed author of *Hitler's Art Thief* takes readers into the shadowy world of the aristocrats and business leaders on both sides of the Atlantic who secretly aided Hitler and Nazi Germany. Hitler said, "I am convinced that propaganda is an essential means to achieve one's aims." Enlisting Europe's aristocracy, international industrialists, and the political elite in Britain and America, Hitler spun a treacherous tale everyone wanted to believe: he was a man of peace. Central to his deception was an international high society Black Widow, Princess Stephanie Hohenlohe-Waldenburg-Schillingsfürst, whom Hitler called "his dear princess." She, and others, conspired for Hitler at the highest levels of the British aristocracy and spread their web to America's wealthy powerbrokers. Hitler's aristocrats became his eyes, listening posts, and mouthpieces in the drawing rooms, cocktail parties, and weekend retreats of Europe and America. Among these "gentlemen spies" and "ladies of mystery" were the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, Lady Nancy Astor, Charles Lindbergh, and two of the Mitford sisters. They were the trusted voices disseminating his political and cultural propaganda about the "New Germany," brushing aside the Nazis' atrocities. Distrustful of his own Foreign Ministry, Hitler used his aristocrats to open the right doors in Great Britain and the United States, creating a formidable fifth column within government and financial circles. In a tale of drama and intrigue, *Hitler's Aristocrats* uncovers the battle between these influencers and those who heroically opposed them.

american liberty league: Voting Deliberatively Mary E. Stuckey, 2015-06-19 The 1932 election of Franklin Delano Roosevelt seemed to hold the promise of Democratic domination for years to come. However, leading up to the 1936 election, persistent economic problems, a controversial domestic agenda, and the perception of a weak foreign policy were chipping away at public support. The president faced unrelenting criticism from both the Left and the Right, and it seemed unlikely that he would cruise to the same clear victory he enjoyed in 1932. But 1936 was yet another landslide win for FDR, which makes it easy to forget just how contested the campaign was. In *Voting Deliberatively*, Mary Stuckey examines little-discussed components of FDR's 1936 campaign that aided his victory. She reveals four elements of this reelection campaign that have not received adequate attention: the creation of public opinion, the attention paid to local organizations, the focus on specific kinds of interests, and the public rhetoric that tied it all together. Previous studies of the 1936 presidential election discuss elements such as FDR's vulnerability before the campaign and the weakness of Republican candidate Alf Landon. But these histories pay little attention to the quantity and quality of information Roosevelt acquired, the importance of organizations such as the Good Neighbor League and the Committee of One, the mobilization of the vote, and the ways in which these organizational strategies fused with Roosevelt's rhetorical strategies. Stuckey shows how these facets combined in one of the largest victories in Electoral College history and provided a template for future victory.

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in the early twentieth century, quickly became a multinational corporate enterprise. Blanc investigates industry practices from the beginning through two highly profitable world wars, the midcentury export of hazardous manufacturing to developing countries, and the current greenwashing of viscose as an eco-friendly product. Deeply researched and boldly presented, this book brings to light an industrial hazard whose egregious history ranks with those of asbestos, lead, and mercury.

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inaugurated the narrower approach to national security that has dominated ever since. In the 1930s, Roosevelt and his advisors, hoping to save the United States from fascism and communism, argued that national security entailed protection from both physical attack and economic want. Roosevelt's opponents responded by promoting a more limited national security state privileging military defense over domestic economic policy. Conservatives brought numerous concerns to bear through an enormous public relations offensive, asserting not just that Roosevelt's plans threatened individual freedom but also that the government was less competent than the private sector and incapable of delivering economic security. This contest to define the government's national security responsibilities in law and in the public mind, Roady reveals, explains why the United States developed separate and imbalanced national security and welfare states, with far-reaching consequences. By recovering FDR's forgotten vision, Roady restores a more expansive understanding of national security's meanings as Americans today face the great challenges of their times.

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