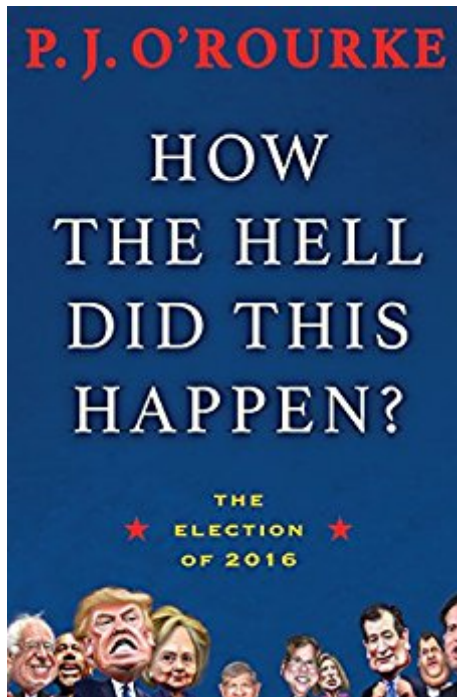




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How The Hell Did This Happen?: The Election Of 2016



Synopsis

This election cycle was so absurd that celebrated political satirist, journalist, and die-hard Republican P. J. O'Rourke endorsed Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton. As P.J. put it, "America is experiencing the most severe outbreak of mass psychosis since the Salem witch trials of 1692. So why not put Hillary on the dunking stool?" In *How the Hell Did This Happen?*, P.J. brings his critical eye and inimitable voice to some seriously risky business. Starting in June 2015, he asks, "Who are these jacklegs, high-binders, wire-pullers, mountebanks, swellheads, buncombe spigots, four-flushers and animated spittoons offering themselves as worthy of America's highest office?" and surveys the full cast of presidential candidates including everyone you've already forgotten and everyone you wish you could forget. P.J. offers a brief history of how our insane process for picking who will run for president evolved, from the very first nominating convention (thanks, Anti-Masonic Party) through the reforms of the Progressive era (because there's nothing that can't be worsened by reform) to the present. He takes us through the debates and key primaries and analyzes everything from the campaign platforms (or lack thereof) to presidential style ("Trump's appearance—indeed, Trump's existence—is a little guy's idea of living large. A private plane! A swell joint in Florida! Gold-plated toilet handles!"). And he rises from the depths of despair to come up with a better way to choose a president. Following his come-to-Satan moment with Hillary and the Beginning of End Times in November, P.J. reckons with a new age: "America is experiencing a change in the nature of leadership. We're getting rid of our leaders. And we're starting at the top."

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Customer Reviews

I have been a fan of P.J. since his earliest book. He is the only conservative with a true laugh out loud sense of humor, funny and educational at the same time. A short quick read -- I read it all in one short evening but I will go through it again to lock in the really good stuff. What I remember right now are the suggested revisions to President What's-His-Name's budget crisis solving ideas. What he said was that the U.S. didn't need a wall on the Mexican border like the one being proposed but one with turnstile style gates so that America Inc. could be privatized into a paid amusement park by charging admission. People wanting to experience America would need active passports from their country of origin plus there would need to be many money changers to convert whatever off-the-wall currency the person had into admission tokens. This is a great idea that could never get made real and that what makes O'Rourke's thorough description of it so entertaining. He remains a great national treasure by proving that conservatives can be funny cool guys,

I have loved and enjoyed PJ's pithy, acerbic, and insightful writing for years. This book is no exception, generating a least a laugh per page with its' honest and biting satire. I could not recommend this book (or any other by O'Rourke) more highly. Not only is the writing excellent, but the metaphors are startlingly insightful and funny as hell. Particularly the glossary of "Punditese" at the end. Read it and smile!

A very gut splitting satire of the 2016 election cycle. Highly recommend it for both winners and losers. After reading this it put a whole new perspective on the election fiasco and who lied more and who lied a little and well, sounds like government hasn't changed yet But will give it time to pan out. Need a laugh, get the book and enjoy the insights.

P.J. is like many Americans -- those boobs known as politicians have him so hot and bothered that he wants to cry. Instead, he deals with the frustration and disgust by throwing a big slice of sarcasm mixed with ridicule at them. Will the politicians turn it into humble pie? Not likely, but P.J. makes a great case.

An uneven effort. Best chapters are beginning and end chapters. The "fashion chapter" almost made me put book down-----my advice, just skip it. He is a pretty equal opportunity skewer of political pretense, and, at his best, hilarious.

Most of O'Rourke's ramblings are funny and made me chuckle. The book is entertaining. Something's not funny when people have lost their lives. Terrorism is never funny and has no place in a book including thinking about sending a candidate's schedule to terrorist group.

I like P.J. O'Rourke because his sensibilities are libertarian but he pokes fun at people all across the political spectrum. This book is not like so many others which are loosely disguised screens against Donald Trump but a much more balanced humorous take-down of the entire political scene leading up to the election of 2016. He holds no punches, but nothing is gratuitous or just mean. That makes the book even more funny.

Mr. O'Rourke writes his opinion of all the candidates who ran in 2016. He deplores every one of them. After trashing them all with withering wit, he endorses Hillary Clinton, although he refers to her as a lying crone . He especially despises Trump and heaps abuse on him and his corrupt campaign. The author identifies himself as a Republican, though he confesses that he is more a libertarian. The wit is razor-sharp but becomes tiresome after awhile.

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