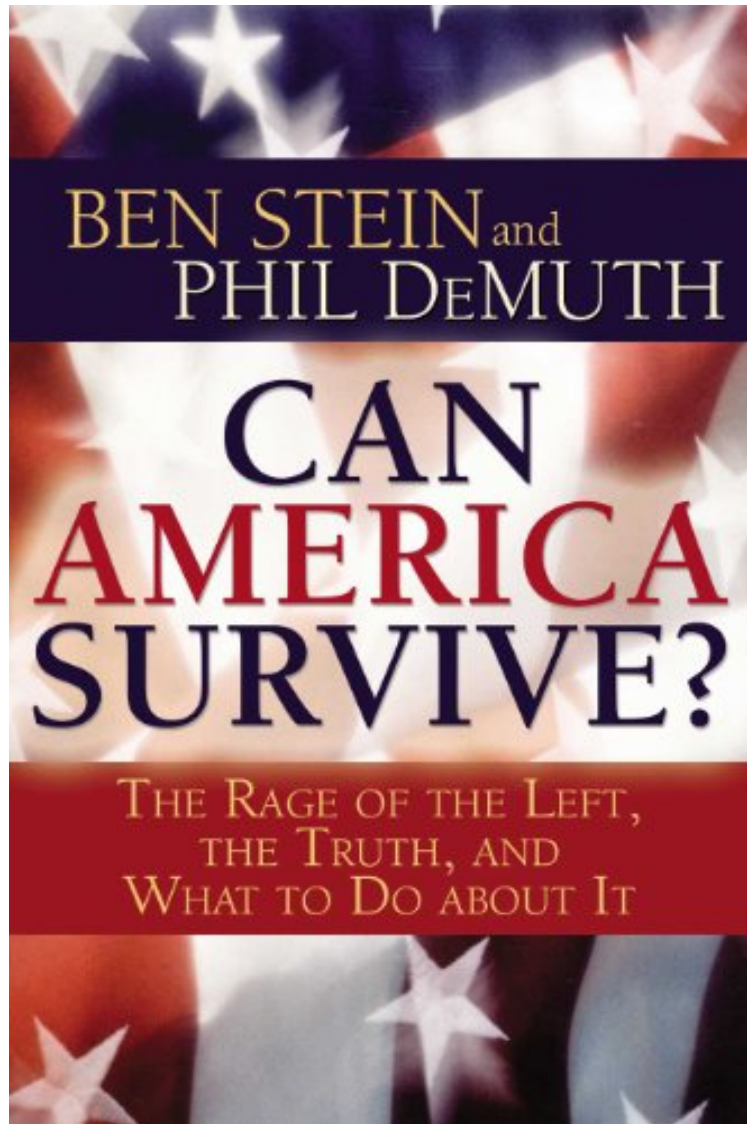


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## Can America Survive?: The Rage of the Left, the Truth, and What to Do About It

*Ben Stein*

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**Ben Stein : Can America Survive?: The Rage of the Left, the Truth, and What to Do About It** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Can America Survive?: The Rage of the Left, the Truth, and What to Do About It:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Dust cover in great shape intactBy MelzieThe book appears to be brand new. Dust cover in great shape intact. Arrived in a timely manner.Very pleased with my purchase.12 of 20 people found the following review helpful. A manual for cocktail parties.By P. BraunIt was bound to happen; the

style of cable punditry has transmuted. As anyone who watches the omnipresent cable news talk shows fully understands, there is a style necessary to participate in the give-and-take of these presentations. When you are given your opportunity to speak, you have roughly 20-30 seconds to make your point before being interrupted by the host (McLaughlin, Matthews, et al.) or "shouted over" by your ideological opponent. Thus it is necessary to pick one distinct (talking) point, support it with some esoteric anecdote or statistic, and talk as fast as possible. *Can America Be Saved* adapts this style to the print medium. In each chapter, the authors highlight several "soundbites" from the liberal opposition and then follow with their equally brief and generally unsubstantiated responses. If anyone is seeking a depth of analysis, they will be sadly disappointed. The book does provide a bibliography of referenced materials, but could have been more authoritative by simply adding footnotes. Yet, this very weakness of the book may be its strength. This book is ideal for those conservatives and Republicans preparing for a cocktail party where they expect to have to defend their ideological positions. I expect that anyone who masters the content of this book will be quite successful in "shouting-down" all of their liberal acquaintances. With this book and three single malts, I'd expect to set out on a search-and-destroy mission in which I'd dominate the shallow liberals that rely on their (weak) fairness arguments. For example, a liberal's arguments over outsourcing of jobs can easily be summed up in their lament that the Bush administration's policies have resulted in the loss of "good-paying American jobs." This type of visceral comment needs no further embellishment to the fairness-minded liberal. But to adequately counter this pronouncement, one would need several hours and a discussion of the works of Adam Smith, David Ricardo and Frederick Hayek. Not something that can be easily accomplished while looking for the shrimp tray. But Stein and Demuth provide a string of verbal jabs that can render an opponent defenseless and asking "how 'bout them Cowboys"? Bottom line, this book is more cotton candy than steak. But hey, I like cotton candy every once in a while. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Keeping up with the truth facts By E. Yost I found the topic very interesting and enlightening on the facets of what really happens in the government and the media.

In *Can America Survive?* authors Ben Stein and Phil DeMuth examine this anti-American rage, providing plentiful and outrageous examples from campuses to foundations to Democratic candidate debates to liberal "fund-raisers" that openly tout hate as their message. The authors then attempt to plumb the psychological wellsprings that generate this anger: Is it infantile narcissism? Is it a desperately incomplete maturation process? Is it competition with patriarchal figures? The authors attempt to create a psychological road map that explores what the psychological roots of this national self-loathing might be. This is a unique approach, attempting to explain political beliefs in terms of psychological background, and the authors believe that it's the only approach that works, since a realistic appraisal of America would not allow as much rage as we see in daily political discourse. Finally, the authors offer a plan for how to fight back: They recommend educating your children in such a way as to develop pride in their country, suggest specific reading materials, offer ways to raise your voice to talk back to the major newspapers and TV networks, and even discuss how you can work fearlessly in university settings so that the left doesn't dominate political discourse. *Can America Survive?* is a portrait of what is clearly wrong with the national mood, where that malady comes from, and how those who still believe in America can work in their communities and in the nation to preserve the republic.

From Publishers Weekly America may be waging war against "certain deranged souls in the Moslem world," but the real enemy—lurking alarmingly within—is a Fifth Column of angry, "Anti-American" leftists fomented by Al Gore and John Kerry, contend conservative humorist Stein and journalist-cum-psychologist DeMuth (co-authors of *Yes, You Can Time the Market*). The authors maintain that these enraged liberals, whom they say characterize the Bush administration as imperialistic, overreaching and racist, have essentially joined Islamist fanatics' assault on the United States. Worse, the authors argue, the Left's relentless invective—during wartime, no less—threatens to drag the nation into its most divisive crisis since the Civil War (although they concede that this will not lead to an actual war). Instead, "a more likely and potentially equally bloody sequel to today's anger from the Left would be a failure to adequately wage the war on terror," they warn. Stein and DeMuth blame the usual suspects—the "liberal news machinery," Marxist academics, befuddled environmentalists and Hollywood radicals—with the unoriginal gusto of apparatchiks. When they aren't heaping accusations on their straw adversaries, they're trying to uncover the psychological clues to liberals' "perceptual disorder" and "irrational" anger with the Bush administration. The Left's rant is a manifestation of an infantile personality, they say, while environmentalists "have projected their inner sense of guilt on to the world at large, and are seeking their personal redemption by redeeming the planet instead of redeeming themselves." In other words, this volume will be appreciated primarily by those who already sympathize with the authors' views. Copyright copy; Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From the Publisher Comparison Titles: *The Enemy Within* by Michael Savage ISBN 0785261028; *The Savage Nation* by Michael Savage, ISBN: 0785263535; *Let Freedom Ring* by Shawn Hannity, ISBN: 0060514558; *No Spin Zone* by Bill O'Reilly ISBN 0767908481; *O'Reilly Factor* by Bill O'Reilly ISBN: 0767905288 About the Author Ben Stein, a nationally renowned "Renaissance man," was

host of the long-running quiz show Win Ben Stein's Money and was a judge on Star Search. He is a former White House speechwriter, Wall Street Journal columnist, trial lawyer, law school professor, scriptwriter, and novelist—and author of several self-help books; including How to Ruin Your Life; ISBN: 1561709743, sold 50,000 copies. He has seen the biggest (Richard Nixon) and the most famous (many Hollywood stars) ruin their lives. He has also seen how some seemingly ordinary people made something great of their lives—by doing the opposite of what he sees as ruinous acts and modes of thought. He resides in Los Angeles, California, with his wife and son. Phil DeMuth, is a Psychologist and Investment counselor.