

for all but our legendary lemmings.

“So, I have chosen to ‘kick against the pricks,’ to tell the unpopular truths about the way in which the majority of public opinion, as more or less than lack of truly competent leaders, has led our nation into the present catastrophe. Unless the majority of our people are

willing to change their political behavior on that account, there is little chance for a happy future for this nation. A nation in which so many people would tolerate the ideas of a Newt Gingrich for as long as ours did, could not be considered either moral, or entirely sane.

“The following pages, which some

should read again, and many for the first time, point the way to understanding what must be understood if we as a nation are to pull back from the brink toward which we are lurching, in time to save not only ourselves, but generations yet to come.”

—Michele Steinberg

## Our Mentally Challenged President

President George W. Bush is fond of telling anyone and everyone that he is not a big fan of the psychiatric profession. “I’m not into psychobabble,” he is famously quoted as saying.

And for good reason. If Dr. Justin Frank’s compelling diagnosis of the mind of the 43rd President is even remotely accurate, as it certainly is, George W. Bush is suffering from a wide array of severe psychological disorders, which disqualify him from being able to serve in his current post. Furthermore, Bush has, over his adult life, avoided facing his demons. And so, even the psychological disorders that could be treated, remain aggravated features of the President’s personality—because he is so damned stubbornly in denial.

I wish that Dr. Frank’s book were a partisan screed, full of poignant insights and humor about the President’s mental shortcomings. But it is not.

*Bush on the Couch* is a serious, in-depth and thoroughly documented profile of George W. Bush, as seen through the eyes of a professional psychoanalyst, with decades of clinical experience and a stellar reputation. Its author is on the faculty of the George Washington University Medical Center and is a practicing psychoanalyst in the Greater Washington, D.C. area.

### Applied Psychoanalysis

As he explains in the introductory chapter of his book, Dr. Frank prepared a case study in applied psychoanalysis. Applied psychoanalysis is a relatively new field of inquiry, which has been adopted by the Central Intelligence Agency—and similar intelligence services around the globe—to profile world

leaders, on the basis of massive amounts of raw documentation. The CIA now has an entire unit, made up of psychiatrists, who pore over data on most world leaders, and develop in-depth psychological profiles. These profiles now form an important part of the data base on which the intelligence community provides evaluations to the President and his National Security Council.

As Dr. Frank notes, while George W. Bush has never been a patient, Dr. Frank had access to more in-depth information about the President than he has available to him about most of his patients. The President’s every move is videotaped; he has written autobiographical material, as have most members of his family and his inner circle; his medical records are made available on an annual basis.

### Childhood Trauma

Based on this plethora of data, Dr. Frank conducted a dispassionate probe into how the President’s mind works, and what shaping traumatic incidents, particularly during his childhood, helped form those neurotic patterns. Dr. Frank makes no secret of the fact that he is a subscriber to the views of Dr. Melanie Klein, that early childhood experiences can have a lasting impact on an individual.

In the case of George W. Bush, Dr. Frank zeroes in on one particularly traumatic experience, which, he concludes, did severe psychological damage to the young boy, in particular because of the failure of his parents, George H.W. and Barbara Bush, to handle the crisis well.

Dr. Frank writes: “George W. was



### Bush on the Couch— Inside the Mind of the President

by Justin A. Frank, M.D.  
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six years old at the beginning of the tragic episode that he has said yielded his first vivid childhood memories—the illness and death of his sister. In the spring of 1953, young Robin was diagnosed with leukemia, which set into motion a series of extended East Coast trips by parents and child in the ultimately fruitless pursuit of treatment. Critically, however, young George W. was never informed of the reason for the sudden absences; unaware that his sister was ill, he was simply told not to play with the girl, to whom he had grown quite close, on her occasional visits home. Robin died in New York in October 1953; her parents spent the next day golfing in Rye, attending a small memorial service the following day before flying back to Texas. George learned of his sister’s illness only after her death, when his parents returned to Texas, where the family remained while the child’s body was buried in a Connecticut family plot. There was no funeral.”

Dr. Frank presents compelling evidence that the trauma and guilt surrounding the death of his sister did serious psychological damage to young George. In one chapter, he documents that Bush developed an undiagnosed case of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) in his childhood, which has manifested itself in different ways up through to the present.

As a teenager, G.W. became a heavy drinker of alcohol, a problem that persisted until he was in his early 40's. Alcoholism can be cured with a combination of medical and psychological care, but G.W. never went through any of those healing processes. He did stop drinking, but never did anything to cure the underlying alcoholism. This phenomenon is widely referred to today as

“dry drunk.” The individual suffering from this syndrome is always one crisis, one shock away from going off the wagon and plunging back into alcoholism.

#### Thoughtful Assessment

If Dr. Frank were preparing a clinical evaluation for his peers in the psychiatric profession, the document would probably take up 20 or so pages, at the most. But Dr. Frank had a more formidable task: To provide a lay audience with enough background on the tools of the psychiatric profession (complete with a useful bibliography of major authors and major works), to enable a thoughtful assessment of the case he presents, that George W. Bush is unfit for the Presidency, and is an individual

in need of psychiatric care.

To his credit, Dr. Frank took on a second, equally formidable task in writing *Bush on the Couch*. He took up the question of why so many Americans were fooled by George W. Bush, and still, in some cases, to this day, consider him to be a legitimate leader of the world's leading power. This led Dr. Frank to delve into the question of the popular culture in America today, which leads people to gravitate to leaders who don't lead, but who mirror the prejudices of the day.

Considering that this year's Presidential election is going to be one of the most important elections in all of our lives, it is imperative that any thinking voter read this book before November.

—Jeffrey Steinberg

## A Big '#-@@!—You' to America

My immigrant father could deeply appreciate America, and its universal mission. Coming from Latvia, knowing German as one of his native languages, he once told me that ignorant Adolf Hitler did not understand German culture: that the Jews Mendelssohn and Einstein were Germans.

Hitlerian ignorance not yet having gone out of style, we now have Samuel Huntington's new book, *Who Are We?*

Huntington offers his false construct of an “Anglo-Protestant culture” as the U.S.A.'s historic identity, and a bigotted depiction of Hispanic culture. Here are intrinsic enemies, he warns, and Hispanic immigration will destroy America.

The author thanks the Smith Richardson Foundation and other far-right financiers' agencies for paying to produce this book, as they also directly fund his Harvard University position. *Who Are We?* is the latest sequel in a series, in which Huntington's job for them is the dirty work which few have the stomach for, as the provocateur, the literary bomb-thrower.

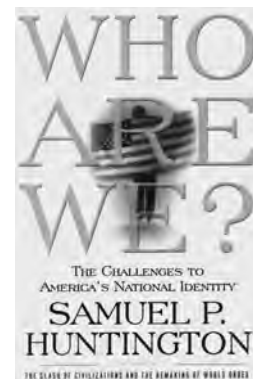
His 1957 book, *The Soldier and the State*, argued that America's World War II aim of victory over fascism detracted from the anti-Russian Balance of Power,

and that a professional, imperial, killer-military ought to replace the “liberal” citizen-soldier concept of George Washington and Douglas MacArthur. His 1970's Trilateral Commission study, *The Crisis of Democracy*, demanded Schachtian austerity instead of the Constitutional republic (“A government . . . committed to substantial domestic programs will have little ability to impose on its people the sacrifices which may be necessary . . . [T]here are potentially desirable limits to economic growth . . . [and] to the indefinite extension of political democracy.”)

#### Making Americans Stupid

Huntington's 1996 *The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order* promoted as inevitable a war between the West and Islam. In *Who Are We?* the latest enemy image, serving the Cheney/neo-conservative drive for permanent planetary war, is Catholic Hispanics, especially Mexicans.

One naturally first reacts against the new book's incitement to race war and religious war. Americans are to be made stupid enough to submit to the strategy of Huntington's sponsors; he writes, “The large and continuing influx of Hispanics



**Who Are We?**  
**The Challenges to America's National Identity**  
 by Samuel P. Huntington  
 New York, Simon & Schuster,  
 2004  
 428 pages, hardbound, \$27.00

threatens the pre-eminence of white Anglo-Saxon Protestant culture and the place of English as the only national language. White nativist movements are a possible and plausible response to these trends, and in situations of serious economic downturn and hardship they could be highly probable. . . .”

Both his anti-Islam *Clash of Civilizations*, and his *Who Are We?*, make Huntington the big hero and spokesman for that new anti-immigrant movement funded by Richard Mellon Scaife and