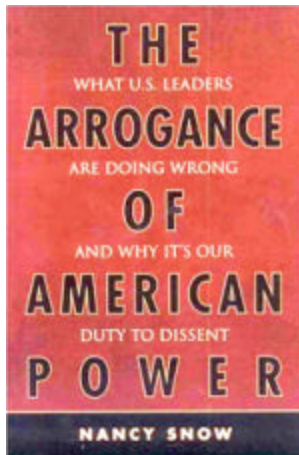


BOOK THE ARROGANCE OF AMERICAN POWER: What U.S. Leaders are Doing Wrong and Why It's Our Duty to Dissent by Nancy Snow 2007 paperback 248 pages Rowman & Littlefield Publishers



Why do they hate us? We tell our fellow citizens that it is “they” who are mistaken. “We” are a good and righteous people. “They” are misinformed, while “we” are well intentioned. Our mainstream American media do a very poor job overall of attempting to overcome our own national myopia. For the most part, they manage to point out that hating

America is on the rise, but offer little salvo in what we can do about it. Further, official U.S. government propaganda and public diplomacy campaigns in the new century have a direct relationship to the rise of anti-Americanism in the world – and we doing nothing and hoping the problem will go away on its own is no answer either.

The typical anti-American is fictionalized in the book *UGLY AMERICAN* in 1958 by William Lederer and Eugene Burdick. “A mysterious change seems to come over Americans when they go to a foreign land. They isolate themselves socially. They live pretentiously. They’re loud and ostentatious. Perhaps they are frightened and defensive; or maybe they’re not properly trained and make mistakes out of ignorance.

There are two common criticisms leveled at the United States. One is the ignorance about and lack of conscious awareness of how U.S.- directed actions in the world affect others. [We are the greatest.] The second criticism, related to the first, is that the average American citizen believes that anyone, if given the opportunity, would want to become an American citizen, a position unique to the American character and not shared by our industrial democratic counterparts. [Everyone should become like us.] These perceptions of the American people and American power lead to commonly-held outside perceptions that the United States is both arrogant in its ignorance and thinks of itself as exceptional in its political economy and cultural traits.

George W. Bush has done his part for foreigners to hate America by his unilateral decisions and imperialistic outlook. He has

scrapped the nuclear treaty limiting nuclear weapons, he has opposed the Kyoto environmental agreement, he has preemptively started the Iraq War – and turned Muslims into enemies by labeling them all as terrorists - and through it all he has asked “why do they hate us?”. The Iraq War has caused the death of hundreds of thousands of Iraqis (in addition the death of close to 4,000 U.S. soldiers and tens of thousands U.S. casualties). A Civil War now rages in Iraq among the different Muslim sects and ethnicities – a condition that we knew would result when a strong government (Hussein’s debilitating dictatorship) was overthrown. George W. Bush is more widely and deeply disliked in Europe than any U.S. president in history. Bush doesn’t listen to the world and the world is offended by the self-satisfied manner in which the American president manages his country

All governments promote themselves. All news of accomplishments and problems are presented for maximum positive effect. Much of the pronouncements are biased and are exaggerated. Sometimes, outright lies are told. This is called propaganda. The U.S. media has printed articles authored by the administration and has presented them as straight news – where they have been propaganda.

According *The Economist*: “America and American business was viewed as arrogant and indifferent toward others’ cultures; exploitative, in that it extracted more than it provided; corrupting, in how it valued materialism above all else; and willing to sacrifice almost anything in an effort to generate profits”

It is our duty to question our government - to dissent. to ask for the source of the news. It may be an unpopular thing to do but it is not unpatriotic. We should not be a mouthpiece for government propaganda. On the other hand, depending upon the muscle, money and power the propagandizing organization has, their response may be overpowering to the dissenter.

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