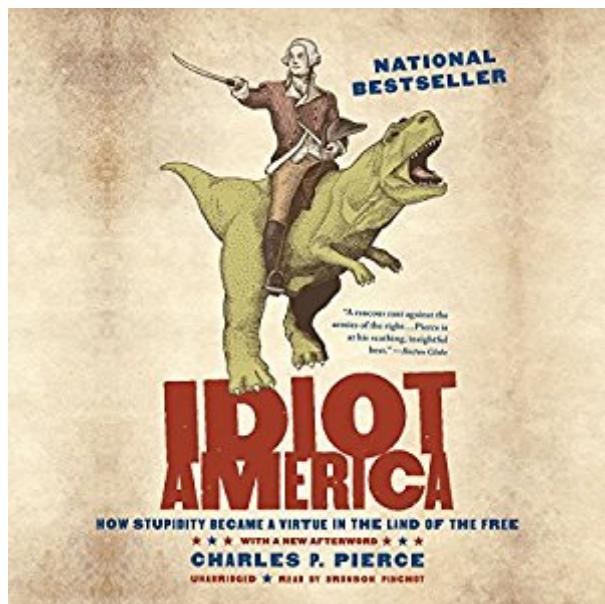


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Idiot America: How Stupidity Became A Virtue In The Land Of The Free



Synopsis

The culture wars are over and the idiots have won. This is a veteran journalist's caustically funny, righteously angry lament about the glorification of ignorance in the United States. The three Great Premises of Idiot America: *Any theory is valid if it sells books, soaks up ratings, or otherwise moves units; anything can be true if someone says it loudly enough; "fact" is that which enough people believe.* And "truth" is determined by how fervently they believe it. Charles Pierce has led a career-long quest to separate the smart from the pap, and now it's time to try and salvage the Land of the Enlightened, buried somewhere in this new Home of the Uninformed. With his razor-sharp wit and erudite reasoning, Pierce delivers a gut-wrenching, side-splitting lament about the glorification of ignorance in the United States and how a country founded on intellectual curiosity has deteriorated into a nation of simpletons more apt to vote for an American Idol contestant than a presidential candidate. With Idiot America, Pierce's thunderous denunciation is also a secret call to action, as he hopes that, somehow, being intelligent will stop being a stigma and that pinheads will once again be pitied, not celebrated.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Smart author, speaks the truth about the dumbing down of America. Charlie Pierce has a way with his words that keeps the content moving along in a conversational way ties together his points seamlessly. If you read Pierce's columns or hear him regularly on The Stephanie Miller Show, some of this content will seem familiar and that is just fine by this reader. His points about the

ridiculousness that is the American media and its promotion of the public acceptance of non-science, non-fact based "conservative" values are important to emphasize. I appreciate the author's perspective and refreshing honesty.

And, to be honest, it may be more useful in this election cycle where one of the political candidates is one of the character types that the author describes. The book is written about the hucksters who trick the gullible American public into accepting ridiculous ideas. In the book, the author is making clear he is not talking about your uncle with the crackpot theories we deal with every Thanksgiving, but of people who have taken that to the extreme. The book is based on the main "rules" which can be stated thusly:1) Any theory is valid if it moves units (ie. ratings or raking in cash)2) Anything can be made true if it is said loudly enough3) Fact becomes what you can convince enough people to believe. Examples are Fox News, which has been applying all of these principles for years and a candidate for President this year that is little more than a snake oil salesman who is getting people to believe the simply unbelievable. The book is well written and is important today to wake people up to what is really happening before it is too late.

I really liked this book--and laughed out loud a few times too. I would happily recommend it to anybody who likes to read politics/satire/humor. A few things: Yes, this is a collection of loosely-connected essay-type writings. I rather liked that, though I see others don't. I like nonfiction, read a lot of it, and this isn't the only book 'organized' in that way...doesn't bother me at all. Also, since I am an Old Person, I ended up having to look up some of his references! How embarrassing is that? G. Gordon Liddy I get, right? Stuff like the word meep....not so much. I did, however, appreciate the mental and verbal nimbleness of a writer who can interweave references to Constitutional framers and to some (to me) obscure character from The Simpsons. That's the kind of thing I read for. Writing, that is. And then there is the humor factor. How can you not laugh at the description of Larry King asking, "...even if evolution is true, why are there still monkeys?" Or, at the statement of a pastor (in favor of teaching creationism in his local school) that, "We've been attacked...by the intelligent, educated segment of our culture." The humor is, clearly, based on the effects of absurdity, as most good stand-up is. Lastly, yes, this is all written from a liberal point of view. Whatever floats your boat, but I'm not sure personal political leanings should keep any of us from reading anything--even the stuff from the Other Evil Side, whatever that may be for you.

This book helped me see how destructive America is becoming. Shaming experts and only listening

to comforting simplistic statements that support your inner narrative may be the end of America as we know it.

As a result of reading this book, it's no longer a mystery to me how "Idiot America" primed itself to eventually sweep unmistakably idiotic powers into high office. Traces, amongst other things, the crucial breakdown in our separation between church and state. Book is well-written, interesting, and historically grounded.

I would recommend this book because it has a lot of good facts in it and it is interesting reading.

Excellent book, could you a chapter just on Kansas, but very good. I liked it.

A well written and interesting description of how we got to here as a nation. Having lived in both of the two Americas-urban and rural-I can understand and generally agree with his narrative, The question is, how do we reconcile two very disparate worldviews?

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