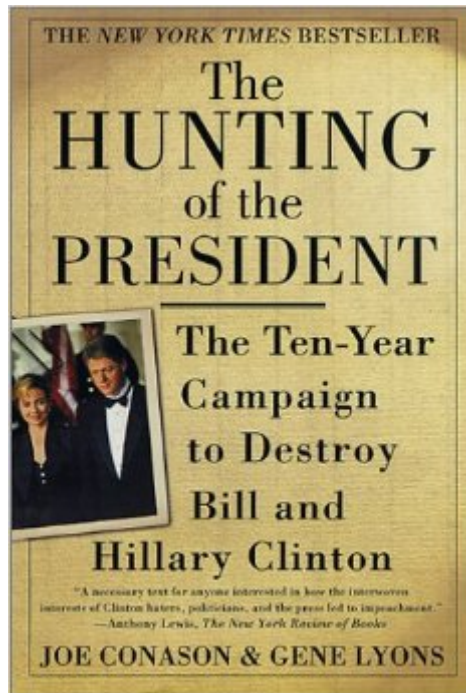


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The Hunting Of The President: The Ten-Year Campaign To Destroy Bill And Hillary Clinton



Synopsis

When Hillary Clinton spoke of "a vast right-wing conspiracy" determined to bring down the president, many people dismissed the idea. Yet if the first lady's accusation was exaggerated, the facts that have since emerged point toward a covert and often concerted effort by Bill Clinton's enemies--abetted by his own reckless behavior--which led inexorably to impeachment. Clinton's foes launched a cascade of well-financed attacks that undermined American democracy and nearly destroyed the Clinton presidency. In vivid prose, Joe Conason and Gene Lyons, two award-winning veteran journalists, identify the antagonists, reveal their tactics, trace the millions of dollars that subsidized them, and examine how and why mainstream news organizations aided those who were determined to bring down Bill Clinton. *The Hunting of the President* may very well be the *All the President's Men* of this political regime.

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Customer Reviews

THE HUNTING OF THE PRESIDENT documents a sickness at the very center of this nation's soul. A few people, convinced of their exclusive ownership of the truth, proved willing to tell any lie, despoil our nation's institutions and traditions, and break laws in order to displace from power a man they hated. The assault on the president is a challenge as serious as Watergate to our nation's ability to self-government, but in this case, the cancer is on the judicial system, metastasized to the press and the Congress. THE HUNTING OF THE PRESIDENT shows that the anti-democratic activity originated at very high levels, probably including the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court,

members of the DC Circuit Court of Appeals, and other officers of the court. These sworn guardians of justice perverted the principles of equity to turn the court system into their instrumentality to grasp political power. For example, the book exposes serious lies in Paula Jones' case, lies at which Judge Susan Wright winked as she judged the president solely guilty of contempt. Also, in the process of using the courts for political purposes, very basic rights guaranteed in our Constitution, including the protections of the Fourth and Fifth Amendments, have been damaged. Grand jury secrecy has been turned into a mockery, and reporters turned into informants for the prosecution. The power of money may have been used to buy testimony. The press itself is used not to report news but to influence opinion. These developments are frighteningly similar to what occurred in the Soviet Union as it slid into dictatorship. THE HUNTING OF THE PRESIDENT shows that elected officials are not exempt from blame, either.

Beginning in late 1993, I began to read news reports in my local newspaper, the San Jose Mercury News, which contained serious but unsubstantiated allegations about an Arkansas land deal known as Whitewater and the possible criminality of the President and his wife. There seemed to be quite a few of these "news articles" and I began to wonder if all of that smoke did not have a substantial fire at its center. Four years later, I start "pulling" the articles on Whitewater and by now, the numerous "Gates" being investigated and reported on in the daily newspapers, from the archives of the Mercury News and about twenty other Knight-Ridder newspapers across the country. One of the things I learned that a large proportion of these stories were by four reporters -- Jeff Gerth and Stephen Labaton of the New York Times, Michael Isikoff and Susan Schmidt of the Washington Post. This was an interesting experience, and can be duplicated by anyone reading these words. This is what I discovered: In the San Jose Mercury News alone from October 31 1993 to March 31, 1994, there were a total of 163 stories. Of these, 158 had been published in a 106-day span of time from December 16, 1993 to the end of March, about 1.5 stories a day or two stories every three days. It became even more interesting when I "pulled" the "Whitewater" and "Madison Guaranty" stories from twenty Knight-Ridder newspapers in the 62 days from October 31, 1993 to December 31, 1993. There were no less than 83 unique items, about 1.3 items a day, and of course many of the newspapers were publishing identical stories during this time. When you look at the coverage in this way, it looks more like indoctrination rather than reporting.

About two years ago at this time, I was cheering on Ken Starr's investigation. A major reason for this was because of The New York Times. Since high school (15 years ago), the Times had served as

my major source of news. So when it came to the investigation of the Clintons, I had no reason to distrust the paper's portrayal of them as devious criminals who needed to be prosecuted to the fullest extent at every opportunity and destroyed. Even the Washington Post was saying the same thing. How could they both be wrong? Then, the Starr report was released. Something seemed so horribly wrong with it that I felt I should search out new voices to help me understand the Clinton "Scandals." I soon found the writings of Gene Lyons and Joe Conason (and others) at Salon and The Nation (and other places). Needless to say, I was shocked. There was another side to the Clinton "scandals" that had been 100% completely ignored by the Times (and others.) Worse, some of this reporting had been done over a several year period. I felt a tremendous amount of anger at a newspaper I trusted and began to doubt nearly all of its reporting on the Clintons. I felt that same feeling of anger while reading this book. While I had become familiar with the work of Conason and Lyons in varied sources, this book does a remarkable job of compiling in one place, "the other side of the story," a full recounting of the craven partnership between the press and right-wing to bring down the Clintons. After reading this book, what truly stands out about the Clinton "scandals" and the conventional wisdom attached to them is a body of "mainstream" journalistic reporting whose words, messages and slant have been shaped by a band of Southerners steeped in a dark, reactionary and racist sub-culture.

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