

What We Are Reading and Who We Are Listening To...

Below is a growing list of journalists, political figures, and other resources that inspire us to stay aware, engaged, and active. We invite you to submit your go-to resources [here](#).

Journalists, public intellectuals, influencers, writers, political figures

- **Heather Cox Richardson** is a historian, writer, and public intellectual who publishes a regular newsletter and hosts a website full of daily updates: [Letters from an American | Heather Cox Richardson | Substack](#)
- **Timothy Snyder** author and scholar on authoritarianism; well-known book *On Tyranny* [Timothy Snyder](#). He is a Yale professor of political philosophy with a strong historical focus on authoritarianism.
- **Rebecca Solnit** has a great new site: [Meditations in an Emergency](#). She is also posting regularly on Facebook. [Hope in the dark](#) is a masterpiece of encouragement in dark times.
- **Michael Moore** is a long-time activist with many books, articles and films to his credit; he has his own site and podcast: [Michael Moore | Substack](#).
- **Amy Siskind** is a public spokesperson for a women's advocacy group, [The New Agenda](#), and she curates a Weekly List that covers the events of the previous week; easy to read and grouped into themes: [The Weekly List – This Is How Democracy Ends](#).
- **Robert Reich | Substack** Former Secy of Labor, author and public intellectual, Reich runs a very accessible website to teach about inequality: [Inequality Media with Robert Reich](#). A great place to start to understand economics and inequality.
- **Asha Rangappa** is the creator of **The Freedom Academy**. She is a Yale professor with an interest in democracy education and global human rights and writes a weekly column, updates a "Democracy Syllabus" every two weeks and hosts chats and book groups: <https://asharangappa.substack.com/>.
- **Dahlia Lithwick** is a reporter, attorney, and author. She hosts the podcast "Amicus" on Slate. Her focus is the U.S. Supreme court and their decisions.
- **Sherrilyn Ifill**: American civil rights attorney, former president of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund and scholar: [Sherrilyn's Newsletter | Substack](#).
- **Jay Kuo**: [The Status Kuo | Jay Kuo | Substack](#) Politics and analysis with a sprinkle of humor.
- **Yascha Mounk | About** writer, academic, podcaster and scholar in defense of democracy. His recent books include *The Great Experiment: Why Diverse Democracies Fall Apart and How They Can Endure*, and *The Identity Trap*. His podcast is **The Good Fight** and you can find him in the Atlantic Monthly as well.
- **Tressie McMillan Cottom** is a black feminist sociologist and blogger, writing and presenting on the intersections of class, race, gender etc. under Trump 2.0. *Hear to Slay* is her collaboration with also amazing black feminist author, [Roxane Gay](#).

Organizations with information on how to get involved:

- **The American Civil Liberties Union** is the premier organization fighting to protect freedom, rule of law, human rights with chapters in most states and a website that is current and very accessible.
- **Indivisible**: [Homepage | Indivisible](#) is a network of over a thousand local groups working to promote democracy and local involvement in the democratic process.

- Conceptualized back in 2016 by two congressional aides, Leah Greenberg and Ezra Levin, Indivisible has gone on to be a major promoter of local, state and national organizing. The emphasis is on electoral and protest oriented community-based empowerment. It's easy to connect and to get involved.
- **Indivisible Mass. Fostering collaboration of Indivisible and allied groups across Massachusetts.** Here is an example of their local work at the state level. Each state and many towns have their own Indivisible working groups.
- **The Democracy Labs** (grassroots organizing support for local, state and national advocacy and elections).
- **Common Cause** is a national and state organization advocating for voting rights, money out of politics, anticorruption.
- **The Lincoln Project** another prodemocracy org that focuses on use of videos to teach about what's going on.
- **FrameLab** is a brainchild website by long term activist George Lakoff and others helping people understand how to frame their understandings of this moment and to mobilize wisely for democracy.
- **SPLC | Apathy Is Not An Option** Southern Poverty Law Center is an outstanding resource for up to date information on white supremacy, racial justice and civil rights. Their famous "Hate Map" (part of HateWatch) tracks extremist hate groups throughout the US.
- **Mobilize US** is a national organization that offers suggestions on how to get local and granular to promote voting and reproductive rights, LGBTQ+ advocacy, and more; you can plug in for daily opportunities:
- **NAACP Legal Defense Fund** is the premier organization fighting for racial justice. Website is packed with solid information and tips.
- **Waging Nonviolence** is a "people power" promoting site with multifaceted offerings including a podcast, newsletters, international content, and a broad emphasis on "waging peace."
- **GLAAD** (Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation) is a comprehensive website, offering legal updates, contemporary critiques, and media literacy on LGBTQ+ people and populations.
- **Dean Bakre and the Center for Economic and Policy Research: Data Bytes – CEPR** provides same day analysis of economic trends.
- **The Center for American Progress** is an independent, nonprofit policy institute focused on broad social issues affecting well-being, equity and justice. Doing up to the minute tracking.
- **HRC | Human Rights Campaign** LGBTQ+ advocacy at its best; currently doing a 100,000 actions in a hundred days effort.
- **Sister District Action Network** is a national organization focused on civic participation and voter empowerment, with special emphasis on local and state efforts.
- **Vote Forward** focuses on enhancing voter participation through voter letter writing, texting and other forms of voter-to-voter encouragement.
- **Movement Voter Project** is a one stop shop for investing in grassroots efforts to shift culture, elect progressives and those with democratic values, and transform policy. Focused on fundraising for grassroots.

- **AltNationalParks** is an alternative protest organization set up by former National Park Service employees. Check them out on Facebook and Blue Sky for specific actions you can take and updates on the mess that is going on...
- **Five Calls** enables you to call your representatives. It provides phone numbers, emails and suggested talking points, making five calls each day easier.
- **League of Women Voters** is a national organization focused on voting rights. It is an oldie but goodie. Some states and local chapters are very active. Sign up for local notices.
- **The Frameworks Institute** applies social science to social issues with the goal of improving communications.
- **United for a Fair Economy** is dedicated to mass movement building and focused on addressing concentration of wealth and power that corrupts democracy, deepens the racial divide and tears communities apart. Lots of organizing tools, trainings, and resources.
- **50501** is an organizing effort that has grown up organically in 2025 focused on grassroots activism to pushback against authoritarianism, cuts to programs, etc. Working closely with other groups to coordinate mass demonstrations and local efforts.
- **Poor People's Campaign** under the direction of Rev William J Barber and other clergy, the PPC and Repairers of the Breach are an activist based movement based on "radical centrism," using a framework that "uplifts deep moral and constitutional values to redeem the heart and soul of our country." Anchored in the South, PPC focuses on racial and gender justice, economic equity, voting rights, environmental justice and workers rights etc.
- **Not in Our Town** is an anti-hate organization that follows community efforts to pushback on hate, and crafts videos, news stories and movement building materials for use by towns and cities. Awesome library of materials.
- **The National Immigration Law Center: Home** has a national focus on immigration rights and issues.
- **Stand Up for Science** is a pro-science recent organization set up to foster support and public defense of science in the US; provides [Protest Safety Guide](#).
- **Build The Resistance** provides real time up to date organizing for people who want to "resist, build, and win."
- **We the People Dissent | K. Starling | Substack** is an amazing nationwide list of pro-democracy activities updated weekly.
- **Women's March** is an action hub for feminist action.
- **Goods Unite Us**: Site dedicated to using your dollars to support your values.

Journals, newspapers, blogs (OBG=Oldie but goodie)

- **The Guardian** (they are free!).
- **Mother Jones – Smart, fearless journalism** (OBG doing investigative journalism).
- **ProPublica — Investigative Journalism and News in the Public Interest** (democracy and investigative with strong justice orientation).
- **STAT | Reporting from the frontiers of health and medicine** (this is subscription for the most part but you can get newsletters free).
- **The Healthiest Goldfish** is Sandro Galea's blog on Substack (free sandrogalea.org)
- **The Atlantic** (unparalleled reporting on this challenging time!).

- **Reuters | Breaking International News & Views** is a substantive thoughtful coverage of US and worldwide politics; free online. Center-center left orientation.
- **BBC Home - Breaking News, World News, US News, Sports, Business, Innovation, Climate, Culture, Travel, Video & Audio** Oldie but goody UK based reporting with strong coverage of US News and international issues. Includes video and links. Considered centrist.
- **Associated Press News** another strong mainstream and historic paper; free but worthy of donations.
- **Al Jazeera** many younger students recommend Al Jazeera as a place they get serious coverage of Muslim and Arab world news, with a perspective that is crucially different from what's available stateside. It is considered center left.
- **The Nation** originally an abolitionist journal, the Nation allows you to harvest three free articles a month. Considered a solid left journal.
- **Democracy Now!** Democracy Now produces independent journalism and video, concentrating on US and world news, hosted by Amy Goodman and Juan Gonzales. It is considered Center Left.
- **The New York Times** so many good reporters and journalists; so much criticism to be levied at NYT! However, good people to read: Jamelle Bouie, Charles Blow (although he is leaving in 2025), Nicholas Kristof, Michelle Goldberg.
- **The New Yorker** excellent reporting on culture, politics, and so much more. One of the truly great OBGs.
- **The American Prospect** is a left of center focused on the current environment; lots of good free newsletters. OBG!
- **Harper's Magazine** is the oldest general magazine in the US, Harper's assembles a crack team of reporters. Left/liberal orientation. They have a weekly newsletter summary that is free.
- **Talking Points Memo:** Independent news organization publishing on politics, culture and policy for 25 years.
- **The Bulwark | Substack** is a critical analysis by centrists and an ever-expanding group of Never Trumpers.
- **The Week** If you can't handle reading the news everyday, the Week does a good job of summarizing. Varied viewpoints. Center/center left.
- **Yes Magazine** Solutions oriented journalism and reporting covering the intersection of environment, racial justice, structural change etc. Positive and constructive discourse on varied issues.
- **Wired Magazine** provides good reporting on security, technology, politics and related issues.

Podcasts, YouTubes, TED Talks, Substacks, etc.

- **Jessica Craven | Substack:** Chop Wood/Carry Water (Mom, activist, environmentalist focuses on practical actions you can take every day!).
- **On the Media: Listen | WNYC Studios | Podcasts:** This is a national program on media literacy and critique which you can tune into regularly on NPR or via podcast.

- **Pod Save America | Crooked Media**: Billed as a NO-BS podcast on US politics, PSA has been around for a while and has, as its byline “A political podcast for people who aren’t ready to give up or go insane.”
- **The Contrarian** is Jen Rubin’s daily and weekly publication on Substack. Formerly of the Washington Post, and historically a center or center right thinker, Rubin has joined forces with Norm Eisen (former White House ethics czar) to push against authoritarianism. She now tracks center/center left.
- **The Ezra Klein Show Podcast - Apple Podcasts** also a NYT reporter.
- **Strict Scrutiny** is a podcast hosted by three constitutional law professors: constitutional law professors – Leah Litman, Kate Shaw, and Melissa Murray-updated weekly.
- **SmartNews - Discover your world every day**: Award winning app that gives you “bite sized” news.
- **Notes from the Middleground by Damon Linker**: Long time critic of the rise of the right, now looking right, left and center to try to understand the moment.
- **Gaslit Nation**: Extraordinary collaboration between [Andrea Chalupa](#) and (up til recently) Sarah Kenzior, two scholar/activists focused on **deep dive journalism**, sharp analysis, and moral force, focused on fascism and corruption. Podcasts, reading lists, activism tools...
- **Civics 101: A Podcast** focuses on the basics of how things work in US democracy including bite sized episodes for making sense of all things governmental such as “What are executive orders?” and “What is a constitutional crisis?” They also have a newsletter.

Books:

- **The Parable of the Sower** by Octavia Butler (fiction).
- **Begin Again, and We are the Leaders We Have Been Looking For** by Eddie Glaude (Professor of African American Studies at Princeton).
- **Autocracy Inc** and **Twilight of Democracy** by Anne Applebaum (situates Trump 2.0 in the context of world oppression and oligarchy).
- **Tyranny of the Minority: Why American Democracy Reached the Breaking Point and How Democracies Die** by Stephen Livitsky and Daniel Ziblatt (Harvard University political scientists).
- **Surviving Autocracy** by Masha Gessen.
- **Stolen Pride: Loss, Shame, and the Rise of the Right** and **Strangers in Their Own Land** by Arlie Hochschild.
- **Strongmen: Mussolini to the Present** by Ruth Ben-Ghiat.
- **Erasing History: How Fascists Rewrite the Past to Control the Future** by Jason Stanley (Harvard professor and fascism scholar).
- **Poverty by America** by Matthew Desmond.
- **All About Love** by bell hooks.
- **On Tyranny, and On Freedom and The Road to Unfreedom.**
- **How to Stand Up to a Dictator** by Maria Ressa (Nobel Peace Prize winner and activist)
- **The Left Adrift** by Timothy Shenk (US historian analyzing how traditional alignments have broken down and why).
- **Democracy Awakening: Notes on the State of America** by Heather Cox Richardson.

- **Spin Dictators: The Changing Face of Tyranny in the 21st Century** by Daniel Treisman and Sergei Guriev write on the new forms of tyranny facilitated by technology, “spin,” faux democracy and how to fight it.
- **Dark Money** by Jane Mayer. The most important reporting on how the right funded the current crisis through a vast, but largely unseen network.
- **The Point of No Return: American Democracy at the Crossroads** by Thomas Byrne Edsall. Long time writer for NYT and scholar focused on race relations and inequality, Byrne’s writing continues to inform the moment.
- **Attack from Within: How Disinformation Is Sabotaging America** by Barbara McQuade. Legal scholar and analyst, she takes on disinformation as the major source of internal breakdown in the US.
- **They Knew, Hiding in Plain Sight, and The View from Flyover Country**, by Sarah Kenzior. A student of conspiracy theories, and former reporter for Al Jazeera, she helped coproduce podcast Gaslit Nation and has her own list of recommended reading here: [Reading Guide — Gaslit Nation](#).
- **The Persuaders: At the Front Lines of the Fight for Hearts, Minds, and Democracy** by [Anand Giridharadas](#) .
- **Calling In: How to Start Making Change with Those You'd Rather Cancel** by Loretta Ross. Reproductive rights scholar, author, black feminist on how to create common ground.
- **Roots to Power** by Lee Staples. Long-time organizer breaks down organizing step by step.
- **Equality and Why it Matters** by Thomas Piketty and Michael Sandel. Sandel’s also the author of Justice, Democracy and its Discontents, and Tyranny and Merit: Can We Find the Common Good?
- **Q-Anon: The Quiet Destruction of the American Family** by Jesselyn Cook.
- **American Psychosis: A Historical Investigation of How the Republican Party Went Crazy** by David Corn.
- **Good and Mad: The Revolutionary Power of Women’s Anger** by Rebecca Traister.
- **Bone of the Bone: Essays on America by a Daughter of the Working Class and Heartland: A Memoir of Working Hard and Being Broke in the Richest Country on Earth (A Memoir of Working Hard and Being Broke in the Richest County on Earth)** by Sarah Smarsh.

Social Work Specific Resources

- [Health and Social Care Integration: Five Years of Progress on a National Academies Report - Grantmakers In Health](#)
- [Integrating Social Care into the Delivery of Health Care: Moving Upstream to Improve the Nation’s Health | The National Academies Press](#) (original report from NASEM that BUSSW helped fund...)
- [Social Work Today Magazine](#) (free, popular, as opposed to academic journal. Worth it to peruse to stay abreast of what SW is thinking about right now).
- [The New Social Worker Online — the professional social work careers magazine - SocialWorker.com](#) (another free, popular professionally oriented journal for practitioners)



Public Health Resources

- Spirit of 1848: The Spirit of 1848 – A Network Linking Politics, Passion, & Public Health
This is a caucus affiliated with the American Public Health Association presenting regularly in inequities and structural determinants of health.
- **Home - Public Health Post** (by BU School of Public Health, population health-oriented news)
- **Your Local Epidemiologist**: Katelyn Jedelina hosts a regular column, which began informally during COVID and which has morphed into a sophisticated public education effort on all topics public health.
- **Kaiser Foundation** Independent and timely source for news on health, policy, polls and other resources.
- **Public Health Newswire** and **The Nation's Health** by the American Public Health Association.