

Neoconservatism – edited with an introduction by Irwin Stelzer.
Atlantic Books 2004.

Since the election of President George W Bush much has been written about Neo-Conservatism and its chief exponents, the ‘neo-cons’ who supposedly control and direct the current US Administration.

Much that has been written has been slanted and alarmist, some of it has been true, but at all times it has been hard to find anywhere a collection of the best writing and thought of the Neoconservative movement. With Irwin Stelzer’s collection of writings, Neoconservatism, the gap has now been filled.

Here in one volume is a collection of writings by advocates of Neo-Conservatism and those whose ideology is sympathetic towards it. The book is divided into five sections: Neoconservatism Defined and Demystified, Neoconservatives and Foreign Policy with some Comments by Friendly Dissenters (including contributions by Margaret Thatcher and Tony Blair), Neoconservatives and Domestic Policy, The Origins of Neoconservatism, and The Future of Neo-Conservatism.

The material is always interesting and frequently illuminating, occasionally the overwhelming relevance to the American situation may diminish the impact of some essays for European readers, and Jewish readers may be surprised – and even disturbed – by the heavy involvement of Jewish thinkers in defining the philosophy in the past and upholding it in the present: but overall this is an essential guide through key areas of a modern political ideology that has far from run its course.

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