

MOVING FORWARD

A STORY OF HOPE,
HARD WORK, AND THE
PROMISE OF AMERICA

KARINE JEAN-PIERRE

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Moving Forward

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R E S O U R C E S

Here are some of the important journalists I follow on Twitter:

Daniel Dale

@ddale8

Former Washington, DC, correspondent for the Canadian newspaper the *Toronto Star* and reporter for CNN. He has “made it [his] mission to fact-check every word Donald Trump utters as president.” Dale is smart and relentless.

Mike DeBonis

@mikedebonis

Covers Congress for the *Washington Post*.

Eric Bradner

@ericbradner

National political reporter for CNN.

Heidi Przybyla

@HeidiNBC

NBC national political reporter.

Yashar Ali

@yashar

Contributor to *New York Magazine* and HuffPo.

Pete Williams

@PeteWilliamsNBC

NBC justice correspondent.

Ashley Parker

@AshleyRParker

White House reporter for the *Washington Post*.

Jonathan Lemire

@JonLemire

White House reporter for the Associated Press (AP). (Based in more than one hundred countries, the AP provides news coverage to newspapers, websites, outlets, and TV stations around the world.)

Judd Legum

@JuddLegum

Writes the newsletter *Popular Information*.

Josh Dawsey

@jdawsey1

White House reporter for the *Washington Post*.

Jonathan Swan

@jonathanvswan

Reporter for Axios. Known for having deep sources within the Trump administration.

Jim Acosta

@Acosta

CNN's chief White House correspondent.

Eli Stokols

@EliStokols

White House correspondent for the *Los Angeles Times* and an MSNBC political analyst.

Kyle Griffin

@kylegriffin1

Producer for Lawrence O'Donnell's *The Last Word* on MSNBC.

Manu Raju

@mkraju

CNN senior congressional correspondent.

Yamiche Alcindor

@Yamiche

PBS NewsHour White House correspondent. (Born in Miami, Florida, she is a Haitian American like me.)

Katy Tur

@KatyTurNBC

MSNBC anchor. Tur's book, *Unbelievable*, about her time covering the 2016 Donald Trump presidential campaign, is an amazing read and offers an extraordinary view of Trump and his base.

Jennifer Epstein

@jeneps

White House reporter for Bloomberg.

Jesse Rodriguez

@JesseRodriguez

Director of Booking for MSNBC.

Jennifer Bendery

@jbendery

Senior politics reporter for HuffPo.

Robert Costa

@costareports

National political reporter for the *Washington Post*. Moderator of *Washington Week*. Political analyst for NBC and MSNBC.

Zeke Miller

@ZekeJMiller

White House reporter for the Associated Press.

Kasie Hunt

@Kasie

NBC Capitol Hill correspondent; host of *Kasie DC*.

Jake Sherman

@JakeSherman

Coauthor of online newsletter *Politico Playbook*. Coauthor of *The Hill to Die On: The Battle for Congress and the Future of Trump's America*.

Maggie Haberman

@maggieNYT

White House correspondent for the *New York Times*; CNN analyst.

Philip Rucker

@PhilipRucker

White House bureau chief at the *Washington Post*; political analyst for NBC and MSNBC.

Dave Weigel

@daveweigel

Covers politics for the *Washington Post*.

Jeff Zeleny

@jeffzeleny

CNN senior White House correspondent.

Brian Stelter

@brianstelter

Anchor of *Reliable Sources* and CNN's chief media correspondent.

Sam Stein

@samstein

The Daily Beast and MSNBC contributor.

Jonathan Martin

@jmartNYT

National political correspondent for the *New York Times*.

Jake Tapper

@jaketapper

CNN anchor of *The Lead with Jake Tapper* and *State of the Union*.
Author of several books and a novel.

Jamil Smith

@JamilSmith

Senior writer at *Rolling Stone*.

Dave Wasserman

@Redistrict

US house editor of the nonpartisan *Cook Political Report*; NBC News contributor. (*Nonpartisan* means that the publication favors neither Democrats nor Republicans.)

Joy Reid

@JoyAnnReid

Host of MSNBC's *AM Joy* and author of *Fracture: Barack Obama, the Clintons, and the Racial Divide* and *We Are the Change We Seek: The Speeches of Barack Obama*. She is also a dear friend.

David Axelrod

@davidaxelrod

Director of the University of Chicago Institute of Politics; senior political commentator, CNN; and the political strategist who helped guide Obama to victory. His book, *Believer*, about his forty years in politics, is invaluable.

Lawrence O'Donnell

@Lawrence

Host of MSNBC's *The Last Word*.

Chris Hayes

@chrislhayes

Host of MSNBC's *All In with Chris Hayes*.

Rachel Maddow

@maddow

Host of MSNBC's *The Rachel Maddow Show*.

Nicolle Wallace

@NicolleDWallace

Host of MSNBC's *Deadline: White House*. A former staffer for President George W. Bush and Senator John McCain, Wallace is a former Republican who brings a fresh, bracing perspective and enormous insight to the Trump administration. She is also a lovely human being!

Alex Burns

@alexburnsNYT

New York Times national political correspondent.

Eugene Scott

@Eugene_Scott

Washington Post political reporter.

Jason Johnson

@DrJasonJohnson

Politics editor for *The Root*.

Darren Sands

@darrensands

Politics reporter for BuzzFeed News.

Errin Whack

@emaravelous

Associated Press national reporter.

Maria Hinojosa

@Maria_Hinojosa

Anchor for *Latino USA*.

Michael Schmidt

@nytmike

New York Times reporter.

Shawna Thomas

@Shawna

Vice News DC bureau chief.

Alexi McCammond

@alexi

Axios reporter.

Geoff Bennett

@GeoffRBennett

NBC News White House correspondent.

Stephanie Ruhle

@SRuhle

MSNBC Live anchor.

Ali Velshi

@AliVelshi

MSNBC Live anchor.

Mariana Atencio

@marianatencio

MSNBC correspondent.

Jacob Soboroff

@jacobsoboroff

MSNBC correspondent.

Nia-Malika Henderson

@niaCNN

CNN senior political reporter.

Juana Summers

@jmsummers

AP national political reporter.

Suzanne Malveaux

@SuzanneMalveaux

CNN national political correspondent and anchor.

April Ryan

@AprilDRyan

White House correspondent and Washington bureau chief,
American Urban Radio Networks.

G E N E R A L U P D A T E S

Here are the sites and online newsletters I check constantly:

- Politico.com: *Politico* also has a magazine and a newspaper.
- Axios.com: The name means *worthy* in Greek. Crisp, short, well-reported news items.
- *The Daily 202*: This is a must-read from the *Washington Post*.
- The Beat DC: This website focuses on “the intersection of politics, policy, and people of color.”
- Yahoo News: This provides a general news roundup as well as Michael Isikoff’s investigative reporting.
- The *New York Times*: One of the most storied newspapers in the world.
- The *Washington Post*: For my money, the one indispensable publication you must read if you are interested in American politics. It is often written in a more lively and accessible manner than the *New York Times*.
- The *Wall Street Journal*: Owned by the Australian media billionaire Rupert Murdoch, the man who gave us Fox

News. Ugh. His newspaper is the must-read for the financial crowd. Its opinion page skews very hard to the right. Read it so you know what the enemy is up to. When the *WSJ* criticizes Donald Trump, take notice.

- CNN.com: Founded in 1980 by Ted Turner, CNN was the first television channel to offer twenty-four-hour news coverage. I'm not sure there is a hotel room in the world where some edition of CNN isn't playing.

I recommend any and all of the following programs on MSNBC:

The Rachel Maddow Show: Maddow has a devoted and huge following. For many viewers, her ability to break down an issue or a news event in her opening is jaw-droppingly amazing. She also puts the day's news into historical context. Highly recommended. (Also of interest: Maddow's podcast about Spiro Agnew, called *Bag Man*. Turns out, corruption didn't start with Donald Trump. Forty-five years ago, envelopes of cash were being dropped off in the White House for Vice President Spiro Agnew, the former governor of Maryland who was Richard Nixon's running mate.)

The Last Word with Lawrence O'Donnell: Airs every night after Rachel. I love the first ten minutes of his monologues. I always learn something new.

Deadline: White House: With her effervescent laugh, keen questions, and experience working for President George W. Bush and Senator John McCain, former Republican Nicolle Wallace brings a fresh perspective on the Trump White House and just how abnormally it behaves.

AM Joy: My weekends *always* include *AM Joy*. Joy Reid is whip smart and her feisty commentary provides some of the best political insights around.

All In with Chris Hayes: Chris Hayes is a lively rising star in political coverage. Hayes is also an author. His books include *A Colony in a Nation*, about our unequal criminal justice system.

Hardball: Hosted by the voluble veteran Chris Matthews. He knows his stuff and gets terrific guests.

Velshi & Ruhle: Hosted by Ali Velshi and Stephanie Ruhle—they make a great team. Worth watching for an in-depth understanding of the economy and how that ties into politics.

Live with Katy Tur: For an astute take on the mind-set of Donald Trump and his supporters. Tur followed his 2016 campaign for more than a year and was a constant target of Trump's.

Morning Joe: A must-watch morning show that virtually everyone in politics, government, and the media starts their days with. Host Joe Scarborough is a former Republican congressman from Florida who is married to cohost Mika Brzezinski, a TV journalist who is the daughter of President Jimmy Carter's national security advisor, Zbigniew Brzezinski.

MTP Daily: Hosted by Chuck Todd, who is my favorite person to watch during election season. MTP stands for *Meet the Press*, which is a long-running Sunday morning show that Chuck also hosts.

Shows to watch on other networks:

The Lead with Jake Tapper, CNN: Anchor Jake Tapper provides a deep dive into national politics and the big issues of the day. Tapper also hosts the Sunday show *State of the Union*.

Washington Week, PBS: Hosted by the *Washington Post*'s Robert Costa. On the air since 1967, this roundtable show featuring journalists presenting a roundup of the news out of Washington, DC, is a refreshing change from the partisan wrangling you see on some of the other political shows.

PBS NewsHour, PBS: Straight news with no bells and whistles. Broadcast seven nights a week, this daily evening news program is known for its in-depth reporting. Hosted by Judy Woodruff, the program grew out of its coverage of the United States Senate Watergate hearing in 1973.

(The Watergate scandal would lead to President Richard Nixon announcing on August 8, 1974, that he would resign as president of the United States. His vice president Gerald Ford succeeded him.)

Die-hard political junkies have long tuned in Sunday mornings for their most satisfying fix. That's when a few of the best political talk shows air, including:

State of the Union, CNN: Hosted by CNN's chief Washington correspondent, Jake Tapper.

This Week, ABC: Hosted by former Clinton White House staffer George Stephanopoulos.

Face the Nation, CBS: Hosted by Margaret Brennan, former White House correspondent.

Meet the Press, NBC: Hosted by the tireless Chuck Todd.

For commentary, especially around the Trump presidency, I pay special attention to these people who appear regularly on the major news networks:

Norm Eisen: Senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, a Washington, DC, think tank and research center, who served as Obama’s “Ethics Czar” from 2009–2011 and US ambassador to the Czech Republic 2011–2014.

Joyce Vance: A former Obama-appointed US attorney for the Northern District of Alabama from 2009 to 2017 who gives terrific commentary about the legal system.

Shaun King: A civil rights activist and writer who covers the Black Lives Matter movement. In 2018 he relaunched the *North Star*, the publication that the famous abolitionist Frederick Douglass founded in 1847.

Timothy O’Brien: Executive editor of *Bloomberg Opinion* and the author of *TrumpNation: The Art of Being the Donald*.

Natasha Bertrand: National security correspondent for *Politico*.

Jamil Smith: A journalist who covers just about everything involving politics and culture. He’s currently a senior writer at *Rolling Stone* magazine, but has also worked in TV journalism for years, including as a producer on *The Rachel Maddow Show*.

Ari Berman: Journalist who wrote *Give Us the Ballot: The Modern Struggle for Voting Rights in America* (2015)—a must-read for anyone interested in defending their right to vote.

Michael D’Antonio: Pulitzer Prize–winning journalist and CNN commentator who wrote a biography of Donald Trump in 2015 titled *Never Enough* and a book about the Obama presidency in 2017.

Shannon Watts: Founder of Moms Demand Action, a group of American mothers fighting for gun regulations and public safety.

Sherrilyn Ifill: A law professor and president of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. She is the cousin of one of my heroes, the late Gwen Ifill, who hosted *PBS NewsHour*.

Malcolm Nance: A former navy officer who comments on US intelligence and terrorism. Published two excellent books: *Defeating ISIS: Who They Are, How They Fight, What They Believe* and *The Plot to Hack America*.

Maya Wiley: A civil rights lawyer and activist who formerly served as board chair of the NYC Civilian Complaint Review Board that oversees policing in New York.

Jill Wine-Banks: A lawyer who served as one of the prosecutors during the Watergate scandal of the early 1970s that brought down President Nixon. She has a lot to offer in terms of commenting on Special Counsel Robert Mueller’s investigation into the Trump campaign’s ties to Russia.

T V S H O W S

The past couple decades have witnessed some excellent political television—both comedies and dramas. Here are a few of my favorite shows:

***The West Wing* (1999–2006):** Portrays the White House of a fictional Democratic president. I watched this show religiously when I was working for John Edwards.

***Veep* (2012–2019):** Pure political satire with the hilarious Julia Louis-Dreyfus as the vice president and then, in later seasons, president.

***House of Cards* (2013–2018):** Political drama/thriller. Dark and addictive. Gives you a sinister view into Washington politics.

***The Thick of It* (2005–2012):** Brilliant British comedy series that parodies the UK government. It was created by Armando Iannucci, the same writer who later created *Veep*.

***The Simpsons*—“Don’t Blame Me. I Voted for Kodos” episode (1996):** I know, *The Simpsons*? This episode is a clever parody of the 1996 presidential election between then president Bill Clinton and Republican nominee Bob Dole. The title of the episode has served as a perennial metaphor for our divided political system.

M O V I E S

And of course, there are plenty of movies—both classic and contemporary—that depict the behind-the-scenes intrigues of American political life. Here are a few notable ones:

***Mr. Smith Goes to Washington* (1939):** A very old movie that still feels relevant. Jimmy Stewart plays a freshman US senator who attempts to fight corrupt politics in Washington.

***The Manchurian Candidate* (1962):** Truly a must-see Cold War classic about an American Korean War veteran (played by Frank Sinatra) who is brainwashed by the Communists and then gets involved in an international conspiracy to take over the US government. The movie was remade and updated in 2004, starring Denzel Washington.

***The Candidate* (1972):** Another film that feels particularly appropriate these days. Robert Redford plays a decent guy who is dragged into the dirt of politics when he agrees to run as a Senate candidate in California.

The American President (1995): Who doesn't love a political romance? This now-classic film features Michael Douglas as the widowed president who falls in love with an environmental lobbyist played by Annette Bening.

In the Loop (2009): This is the film spin-off of the British TV series *The Thick of It*. Very funny political satire that portrays the British and American political machinations around the 2003 invasion of Iraq. *The Sopranos* star James Gandolfini plays an American general.

Game Change (2012): Dramatizes Republican presidential candidate John McCain's decision to select Alaska governor Sarah Palin to be his running mate in 2008. Palin, who was woefully ignorant of history as well as current events, domestic and foreign, would in turn pave the way for Donald Trump's pugnacious populism. (The HBO movie is based on the book of the same name written by John Heilemann and Mark Halperin.)

The War Room (1993): A go-to political documentary for young politicians. This documentary film gives an inside look at Bill Clinton's 1992 presidential election.

Race (1998): An insightful movie about interracial campaigns in mid-1990s in Los Angeles. The film examines two candidates (played by a talented multiracial cast) running for an open city council seat that becomes enveloped in violence and mudslinging.

Street Fight (2005): Another must-see political documentary. A thrilling film that chronicles the 2002 mayoral race in Newark, New Jersey. The film introduces a young attorney and challenger (now US senator and Democratic presidential candidate Cory Booker) who takes on the powerful political machine of the sixteen-year incumbent, James Sharpe.

Election (1999): A Reese Witherspoon movie that is really good for political science. A comedy that follows a high school election and the dark side of politics.

The Special Relationship (2010): A really good movie about President Bill Clinton's over-twenty-year relationship with British Prime Minister Tony Blair. The film primarily focuses on elections and internal relationships.

Mitt (2014): It's difficult to find documentaries on candidates that lost. This Netflix documentary shows the impact of campaigns on people at the presidential level by chronicling Mitt Romney's presidential bid from Christmas 2006 to his 2012 concession speech to President Barack Obama.

B O O K S

Just as the Trump administration has reinvigorated print and TV journalism, so has it fueled an incredible explosion in terms of book publishing. Here are just a few of the insightful books about politics and Trump that have appeared in the last few years.

Fear: Trump in the White House by Bob Woodward. Boy, this one left me shaken. Written by the famous *Washington Post* journalist who, along with Carl Bernstein, broke open the Watergate scandal, Bob Woodward really fleshes out how inept and unprepared the Trump administration is, particularly in terms of handling any sort of crisis. Woodward has covered eight presidents—from Nixon through Obama.

Everything Trump Touches Dies by Rick Wilson. Hard to believe in these perilous times, but this book had me screaming with laughter. Rick Wilson is a scorched-earth conservative and Republican operative. He is also a die-hard Never Trumper who believes that Trump is destroying the Republican Party Wilson

has loved and served for decades. Wickedly funny and observant, Wilson is worth reading.

Hacks: The Inside Story of the Break-Ins and Breakdowns That Put Donald Trump in the White House by Donna Brazile. Bighearted, opinionated, colorful, Donna Brazile is a national treasure. Long a leader in Democratic politics, the New Orleans-reared Brazile headed up Al Gore's unsuccessful 2000 campaign for the presidency, making history as the first woman to take on that role. Brazile also served as chairperson of the Democratic National Committee. You've probably seen Brazile on TV—she's the dazzling black politico with the colorful hair. This book reveals the terrifying run-up to the 2016 election when the DNC computer systems were hacked by the Russians. Riveting about how presidential campaigns really work.

The Politician: An Insider's Account of John Edwards's Pursuit of the Presidency and the Scandal that Brought Him Down by Andrew Young. There's an undeniable dark side to politics. I'm not just talking about "dialing for dollars," which every pol has to do—i.e., cold-call friends, family, and yeah, strangers, to ask for money. No, this tell-all by a close aide to former North Carolina senator and vice presidential candidate John Edwards is more Shakespearean tragedy.

Seriously.

Young ends up selling his credibility and his self-respect in service to electing a politician he increasingly realizes has massive flaws. But the chance to advance—sheer ambition—is irresistible until it all ends in disaster, shame, and a *National Enquirer* front-page scandal.

Believer: My Forty Years in Politics by David Axelrod. This is a much more inspiring book about politics, believe me! Obama's strategist shares his life story, starting with the moment his fam-

ily's housekeeper popped Axelrod—age five—on top of a mailbox in New York City in 1960 so the child could see John F. Kennedy campaigning for president. Axelrod fell in love with the political life right there. He would go on to work as a political reporter in Chicago, then switch to being a political consultant. He has worked with luminaries such as Illinois senator Paul Simon—famous for his liberal values and bow ties—and Massachusetts's first African American governor, Deval Patrick. Most famously, Axelrod helped guide the career of his fellow Chicagoan Barack Obama, culminating in Obama's two terms as president of the United States.

Believer is excellent in the way it explains how important telling a coherent story to voters has become as well as the significant role government plays in helping people. It is also a portrait of the deep friendship between Obama and Axelrod.

Of particular note: Axelrod captures the deep toll his political career took on his wife and his children, one of whom has severe epilepsy.

The Shadow President: The Truth about Mike Pence by Michael D'Antonio and Peter Eisner. This well-researched and detailed book probes the man behind the genial political face of the vice president. Pence is ruthlessly ambitious.

Finding My Voice: My Journey to the West Wing and the Path Forward by Valerie Jarrett. In *Finding My Voice* Valerie Jarrett tells a story that is unique to her fascinating life and, in some ways, a universal American tale. As she overcame racism and sexism she leveraged her advantages on behalf of others. Set in places as varied as Chicago, Tehran, and the White House, this book will take you on a journey that you'll never forget.

Lead from the Outside: How to Build Your Future and Make Real Change by Stacey Abrams. A national political leader, author, serial

entrepreneur and nonprofit CEO, Abrams served in the Georgia House of Representatives for eleven years and as minority leader for seven years. In 2018 Abrams was the nominee for governor of Georgia, becoming the first black woman to become the gubernatorial nominee for a major party in the United States. This book serves as a guide for women, people of color, millennials, members of the working class, and members of the LGBTQ+ community on how to garner power to make real change. Abrams leans in on her impressive career, sharing with readers how to use their skills and experience to lead from the outside.

And finally, I urge everyone to reacquaint themselves with the famous English author George Orwell, who has in these strange times made quite a comeback in classrooms and book groups. Orwell wrote *Animal Farm* (1945)—a political fable about how the brutal ruler of the USSR, Joseph Stalin, betrayed the 1917 Russian Revolution. He also wrote *1984* (1949). Set in a totalitarian future, the novel introduced famous phrases such as *Big Brother is watching you*, *newspeak*, and *doublethink*. Even now—*especially* now—Orwell gives us insight into what is at stake when our democracy is under attack.