

Online Library The Impulse Society
America In Age Of Instant Gratification Paul
Roberts

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The Impulse Society America In

But this liberationist impulse, whatever we choose to make of it in the early 21st century, is an abiding part of American culture, history and society, woven deep into our mores and traditions.

Considering the Meaning of the American Revolution and the Promise of Liberation

The conservative majority's opinion has declared that voter fraud, not racial discrimination, is a threat to the American system of representation.

America's Best Strategy for Protecting Voting Rights Is Dead
a super TVA to modernize America's infrastructure, and abolition of police and prisons, among other utopian schemes. Not all will pan out—nor do they need to. The utopian impulse exists to ...

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Utopia and Dystopia Are Twins—Both Are Born Out of Criticism

We shouldn't allow the titanic revolution of the Civil War and Reconstruction to obscure a crucial fact: In the antebellum North, an interracial movement fought for, lost, and then kept fighting for

...

How African Americans Fought for Freedom in the Antebellum North

Tarrytown resident, Drew Bordeaux, recently released a new CD titled "Impulse/Instinct," and, of course, he's got the songs cued up on Spotify. However, the Fox Lane High School graduate is pretty

...

Tarrytown Musician Lets His Impulse/Instinct Lead the Way

But underlying that there was a consensus about what the economy needed and what society needed. And Democrats of Clinton's generation moved way over toward the Free America side ... This is a really ...

The Collapse of American Identity

"I know too well that once the corrosive thread of perceived inferiority is stitched into your DNA, you can spend a lifetime repairing the damage." Julia Indichova reflects on the dangers of a binary ...

Racists Anonymous: The false divide between 'good' and 'evil'

In late-pandemic America, Britney Spears' conservatorship has become the lens through which we can see so many of our society's failings ... of sovereignty; that impulse is endemic to ...

Britney Spears' testimony not only revealed what she's gone through, but our complicity in it

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in fact it is not self-evident why an antebellum American physician would invest time and money in what was termed “professional improvement” either at home or abroad. Antebellum society required ...

Against the Spirit of System: The French Impulse in Nineteenth-Century American Medicine

Populist autocrats appeal to a society’s desire for order by empathizing with people ... late 1960s that social science took account of these essential differences. The American anthropologist Pertti ...

The Threat Reflex

Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art announces the 2022 temporary exhibition schedule which includes the museum’s first fashion exhibition, Fashioning America: Grit to Glamour, its first ...

Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art Announces the 2022 Exhibition Lineup

Debra Prinzing is the founder and leader of The Slow Flowers Society. As a Seattle-based writer, speaker and leading advocate for American Grown Flowers, Debra's many Slow Flowers-branded projects ...

Cultivating Place: Conversations on Natural History and the Human Impulse to Garden

These men (and they are pretty much all men) were born out of the very real American impulse to believe that ... How much better off would society be if other billionaires followed suit?

The Problem With the Genius Billionaire Philanthropist Superhero

Here he is in 2019: “I understand the impulse ... most of them Asian or Asian American women — and the ambient anti-Asian prejudice

Online Library The Impulse Society America In Age Of Instant Gratification Paul that has hovered over US society during the coronavirus ...

Why Andrew Yang did an abrupt U-turn on identity politics

Starters might have the impulse to buy the first cheapest or good looking thing ... An article on nonprofit Green America's site reads, "Two of the most toxic phthalates, DBP and DEHP, have been ...

Opinion: Let's 'make-up' society — The harmful effects of the beauty industry

the Royal Geographical Society Pavilion, London; and Cahoon Museum of American Art, Massachusetts, amongst many others. "Moving to the U.S. at a young age, the transition demanded my ...

The author of *The End of Food* argues that today's technologically driven, high-speed consumer economy is preventing the advancement of society and recovery from the recession, tracing three decades of economic decline while identifying possible resolutions.

It's something most of us have sensed for years—the rise of a world defined only by “mine” and “now.” A world where business shamelessly seeks the fastest reward, regardless of the long-term social consequences; where political leaders reflexively choose short-term fixes over broad, sustainable social progress; where individuals feel increasingly exploited by a marketplace obsessed with our private cravings yet oblivious to our spiritual well-being or the larger needs of our families and communities. At the heart of *The Impulse Society* is an urgent, powerful story: how the pursuit of short-term self-gratification, once scorned as a sign of personal weakness, became the default principle not only for individuals, but for all sectors of our society. Drawing on the latest research in economics, psychology, political philosophy, and business management, Paul Roberts shows how a potent combination of

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rapidly advancing technologies, corrupted ideologies, and bottom-line business ethics has pushed us across a threshold to an unprecedented state: a virtual merging of the market and the self. The result is a socioeconomic system ruled by impulse, by the reflexive, id-like drive for the largest, quickest, most “efficient” reward, without regard for long-term costs to ourselves or to broader society. More than thirty years ago, Christopher Lasch hinted at this bleak world in his landmark book, *The Culture of Narcissism*. In *The Impulse Society*, Roberts shows how that self-destructive pattern has grown so pervasive that anxiety and emptiness are becoming embedded in our national character. Yet it is in this unease that Roberts finds clear signs of change-and broad revolt as millions of Americans try step off the self-defeating treadmill of gratification and restore a sense of balance. Fresh, vital, and free of ideological, right-wing/left-wing formulations, *The Impulse Society* shows the way back to a world of real and lasting good.

This anthology of original, specially commissioned essays is informed at its core by George Santayana's famous edict that "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." Examining the current surge in nativism in light of past waves of anti-immigrant sentiment, the volume takes an unflinchingly critical look at the realities and rhetoric of the new nativism. How does nativism inform our understanding of the Official English movement today? How has the symbolism of the Statue of Liberty evolved since its dedication, and what can she tell us about the American disposition to immigration? What is the relationship between the races of immigrants and the perception of a national immigration crisis? To what extent does today's political discourse resemble past discourse we comfortably identify as nativist?

A New York Times Book Review Editors' Choice "[George Packer's] account of America's decline into destructive tribalism is

always illuminating and often dazzling." —William Galston, The Washington Post Acclaimed National Book Award-winning author George Packer diagnoses America's descent into a failed state, and envisions a path toward overcoming our injustices, paralyses, and divides In the year 2020, Americans suffered one rude blow after another to their health, livelihoods, and collective self-esteem. A ruthless pandemic, an inept and malign government response, polarizing protests, and an election marred by conspiracy theories left many citizens in despair about their country and its democratic experiment. With pitiless precision, the year exposed the nation's underlying conditions—discredited elites, weakened institutions, blatant inequalities—and how difficult they are to remedy. In *Last Best Hope*, George Packer traces the shocks back to their sources. He explores the four narratives that now dominate American life: Free America, which imagines a nation of separate individuals and serves the interests of corporations and the wealthy; Smart America, the world view of Silicon Valley and the professional elite; Real America, the white Christian nationalism of the heartland; and Just America, which sees citizens as members of identity groups that inflict or suffer oppression. In lively and biting prose, Packer shows that none of these narratives can sustain a democracy. To point a more hopeful way forward, he looks for a common American identity and finds it in the passion for equality—the “hidden code”—that Americans of diverse persuasions have held for centuries. Today, we are challenged again to fight for equality and renew what Alexis de Tocqueville called “the art” of self-government. In its strong voice and trenchant analysis, *Last Best Hope* is an essential contribution to the literature of national renewal.

"The best view yet of a lost medical culture... Enormously important for anyone seeking to understand either nineteenth-century medical life in America, or how culture and memory come to be embedded in physicians' careers." -- Bulletin of the History of

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This is a fascinating and intellectually honest work about a remarkable family that has played a major role in the history of Providence and Rhode Island. Sylvia Brown has made a tremendous contribution in writing this wonderful book. It is clearly a labor of love, and we should all be grateful to her for it. Vartan Gregorian, President of Carnegie Corporation of New York, former President of Brown University A splendid work of history---an honest, clearly written, and solidly based account of the private and public lives through four centuries of one of Americas most important and fascinating families. Gordon Wood, Pulitzer Prize for History, Alva O. Way University Professor and Professor of History Emeritus at Brown University What fuels a familys compulsion for philanthropy? Self-interest? A feeling of guilt? A sense of genuine altruism? Charitable giving is such an intrinsic part of American culture that its story deserves to be told, not in a dry, academic tome but through the tale of a colorful, multifaceted family. Since 1638, the Browns of Rhode Island have provided community leaders in one of the nations most idiosyncratic states. In the 18th century, they excelled at maritime commerce, were pioneers of the American industrial revolution, and adorned their hometown of Providence with public buildings, churches, and a university. In the 19th century, they pioneered the modern notion that universities can be forces for social good. And, in the 20th century, they sought to transform the human experience through great art and architecture. Over three hundred years, the Browns also wrestled with societys toughest issues slavery, immigration, child labor, the dispossessed and with their own internal family tensions. Author Sylvia Brown tells the story of the ten generations of Browns that came before her with warmth and lucidity. Today, in an era of wealth creation and philanthropic innovation not seen since the Gilded Age, *Grappling with Legacy* provides fascinating insights into a unique aspect of Americas heritage.

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Paul Roberts, the best-selling author of *The End of Oil*, turns his attention to the modern food economy and finds that the system entrusted to meet our most basic need is failing. In this carefully researched, vivid narrative, Roberts lays out the stark economic realities behind modern food and shows how our system of making, marketing, and moving what we eat is growing less and less compatible with the billions of consumers that system was built to serve. At the heart of *The End of Food* is a grim paradox: the rise of large-scale food production, though it generates more food more cheaply than at any time in history, has reached a point of dangerously diminishing returns. Our high-volume factory systems are creating new risks for food-borne illness, from E. coli to avian flu. Our high-yield crops and livestock generate grain, vegetables, and meat of declining nutritional quality. While nearly one billion people worldwide are overweight or obese, the same number of people—one in every seven of us—can't get enough to eat. In some of the hardest-hit regions, such as sub-Saharan Africa, the lack of a single nutrient, vitamin A, has left more than five million children permanently blind. Meanwhile, the shift to heavily mechanized, chemically intensive farming has so compromised soil and water that it's unclear how long such output can be maintained. And just as we've begun to understand the limits of our abundance, the burgeoning economies of Asia, with their rising middle classes, are adopting Western-style, meat-heavy diets, putting new demands on global food supplies. Comprehensive in scope and full of fresh insights, *The End of Food* presents a lucid, stark vision of the future. It is a call for us to make crucial decisions to help us survive the demise of food production as we know it. Paul Roberts is the author of *The End of Oil*, which was a finalist for the New York Public Library's Helen Bernstein Book Award in 2005. He has written about resource economics and politics for numerous publications, including the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Washington Post*, *Harper's Magazine*, and *Rolling Stone*, and lectures

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frequently on business and environmental issues.

Petroleum is now so deeply entrenched in our economy, our politics, and our personal expectations that even modest efforts to phase it out are fought tooth and nail by the most powerful forces in the world: companies and governments that depend on oil revenues; the developing nations that see oil as the only means to industrial success; and a Western middle class that refuses to modify its energy-dependent lifestyle. But within thirty years, by even conservative estimates, we will have burned our way through most of the oil that is easily accessible. And well before then, the side effects of an oil-based society—economic volatility, geopolitical conflict, and the climate-changing impact of hydrocarbon pollution—will render fossil fuels an all but unacceptable solution. How will we break our addiction to oil? And what will we use in its place to maintain a global economy and political system that are entirely reliant on cheap, readily available energy? Brilliantly reported from around the globe, *The End of Oil* brings the world situation into fresh and dramatic focus for business and general readers alike. Roberts talks to both oil optimists and oil pessimists, delves deep into the economics and politics of oil, considers the promises and pitfalls of alternatives, and shows that, although the world energy system has begun its epoch-defining transition, disruption and violent dislocation are almost assured if we do not take a more proactive stance. With the topicality and readability of *Fast Food Nation* and the scope and trenchant analysis of *Guns, Germs, and Steel*, this is a vitally important book for the new century.

A groundbreaking and endlessly surprising history of how artisans created America, from the nation's origins to the present day. At the center of the United States' economic and social development, according to conventional wisdom, are industry and technology—while craftspeople and handmade objects are relegated to a bygone

past. Renowned historian Glenn Adamson turns that narrative on its head in this innovative account, revealing makers' central role in shaping America's identity. Examine any phase of the nation's struggle to define itself, and artisans are there—from the silversmith Paul Revere and the revolutionary carpenters and blacksmiths who hurled tea into Boston Harbor, to today's “maker movement.” From Mother Jones to Rosie the Riveter. From Betsy Ross to Rosa Parks. From suffrage banners to the AIDS Quilt. Adamson shows that craft has long been implicated in debates around equality, education, and class. Artisanship has often been a site of resistance for oppressed people, such as enslaved African-Americans whose skilled labor might confer hard-won agency under bondage, or the Native American makers who adapted traditional arts into statements of modernity. Theirs are among the array of memorable portraits of Americans both celebrated and unfamiliar in this richly peopled book. As Adamson argues, these artisans' stories speak to our collective striving toward a more perfect union. From the beginning, America had to be—and still remains to be—crafted.

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • Pulitzer Prize–winning author Jon Meacham helps us understand the present moment in American politics and life by looking back at critical times in our history when hope overcame division and fear. ONE OF OPRAH’S “BOOKS THAT HELP ME THROUGH” • NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY NPR • The Christian Science Monitor • Southern Living Our current climate of partisan fury is not new, and in *The Soul of America* Meacham shows us how what Abraham Lincoln called the “better angels of our nature” have repeatedly won the day. Painting surprising portraits of Lincoln and other presidents, including Ulysses S. Grant, Theodore Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Harry S. Truman, Dwight Eisenhower, and Lyndon B. Johnson, and illuminating the courage of such influential citizen activists as Martin Luther King, Jr., early suffragettes Alice Paul and Carrie

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Chapman Catt, civil rights pioneers Rosa Parks and John Lewis, First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, and Army-McCarthy hearings lawyer Joseph N. Welch, Meacham brings vividly to life turning points in American history. He writes about the Civil War, Reconstruction, and the birth of the Lost Cause; the backlash against immigrants in the First World War and the resurgence of the Ku Klux Klan in the 1920s; the fight for women's rights; the demagoguery of Huey Long and Father Coughlin and the isolationist work of America First in the years before World War II; the anti-Communist witch-hunts led by Senator Joseph McCarthy; and Lyndon Johnson's crusade against Jim Crow. Each of these dramatic hours in our national life have been shaped by the contest to lead the country to look forward rather than back, to assert hope over fear—a struggle that continues even now. While the American story has not always—or even often—been heroic, we have been sustained by a belief in progress even in the gloomiest of times. In this inspiring book, Meacham reassures us, “The good news is that we have come through such darkness before”—as, time and again, Lincoln's better angels have found a way to prevail. Praise for *The Soul of America* “Brilliant, fascinating, timely . . . With compelling narratives of past eras of strife and disenchantment, Meacham offers wisdom for our own time.”—Walter Isaacson “Gripping and inspiring, *The Soul of America* is Jon Meacham's declaration of his faith in America.”—Newsday “Meacham gives readers a long-term perspective on American history and a reason to believe the soul of America is ultimately one of kindness and caring, not rancor and paranoia.”—USA Today

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