



Pinheads and Patriots

Bill O'Reilly

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When Bill O'Reilly interviewed then-Senator Barack Obama during the 2008 Presidential elections, the two had a lively debate about the nation's future.

Since that time America has changed rapidly--some would even say seismically--and many believe these shifts are doing more than just rocking the political and social climate: they're rocking the American core.

In his latest spirited book, O'Reilly prompts further debate with the President and the American people on the current state of the union. While the changes that took place in America during President Obama's first 18 months in office are dizzying to just think about, their real-life impact on the average American is a helluva lot stronger than that. Tempers have reached the boiling point over the shifts in healthcare, immigration, national security, energy and the environment. And then there's the economy. O'Reilly sorts it all out with his trademark mix of humor and bluster in his most impassioned book to date. And this is just the book to guide you through the most important issues of the midterm elections and beyond.

Pinheads and Patriots Details

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From Reader Review Pinheads and Patriots for online ebook

Dj says

Okay so in general I despise these kinds of books. Some pompous ass on one side or the other of to political aisle telling me what is best for me. O'Reilly lays a great deal of emphasis trying to assert that he is an independent. After reading this I have to say I am almost more likely to believe that the Pope is a Protestant first. Don't get me wrong, there is nothing wrong with being a Republican, or a Democrat or whatever political persuasion you choose, but when you hide it in a book like this the question has to be why? For the most part after reading the book, I think it is more he is fooling himself.

He is kind of funny in a way. He stresses how fair he is going to be and then turns around and proves that mostly he will be, but he does have an anti-left slant. Again not all that unexpected. However he does some pretty confusing things when he starts talking about what makes someone a Patriot or a Pinhead. I think he might need a new copy of Webster's.

His definition of a Patriot is someone who puts others ahead of themselves. ... Ah what? Did I miss something growing up? What part of severing your Nation is involved in that definition? By that definition the Pope is a Patriot, the current one that is. And while he may be the King of the Vatican City, I don't think that his washing the feet of Prisoners on Easter makes him a Patriot. A nice guy, a good Catholic, sure, Patriot no.

For a clear example of how unbalanced his view on this he decides that G. HW Bush is a Patriot for what he did as President, but since he only has a small and unclear presentation of what that was it is kind of odd. He completely ignores the fact that Papa Bush served in WWII and was shot down. I am surprised that the VFW hasn't written a massive protest on that definition. Of course I just might have missed it.

His use of Pinhead can be fun sometimes as well. He rags on Madonna for moving to England and adopting a faux British Accent. And not giving enough of her money to non-trendy charities. This from someone that says things like how much money is too much, they earned it they can do with it what they want.

The one that really got me was the rant on an individual where he listed the reasons why he was a Pinhead and number one was the fact that he was an Atheist. I have to say that even suggesting that someone's religion, or lack thereof, has anything to do with whether or not someone is Pinhead, actually makes you one. Religious fanatics are always a pain in the kester, since they are always arguing about whose God is the right one. Hell just accept the fact that there are a bucket load of people out there that don't believe like you do and you will be much happier in life.

He also makes a big deal about wanting the government to be non-intrusive and spend less money. Then has the gall to suggest that the way to deal with illegal immigrants is for the Government to call up the National Guards of the various states involved. Something that is both intrusive and spendy as hell. Ignore how well it would or wouldn't do in regards to stopping illegals from coming into the country, calling up the National Guard of any state with affect the economy in two ways. First most of those individuals have jobs, jobs that their employers have to hold for them for a certain amount of time. Yep no economic impact there. Top that off with the fact that now they are on the National Military salary, that means that the National Government has to spend the money to keep them in the field. Something that states have wisely declined to do on their own. And he points to this as his well thought out plan. Makes me glad he is just a mouth piece for Fox News and not a government official.

All in all the book was more balanced than any other in the genre I have read. Which is faint praise indeed, but when you are running with the likes of Michael Moore and Ann Coulter it is to be expected. I would suggest if you are going to read a political viewpoint book, this one is a good one, just make sure that when you are done, before praising him and walking the line he puts forward, do the research and fact check him.

After all if he thinks that BP is actually a British Company some fact checking is in order.

Stephen says

1.5 to 2.0 stars. Let me begin by saying that I like Bill O'Reilly and agree with a number (though not all) of the positions he takes in this book. That said, this book was a BIG disappointment. Despite "preaching to the choir" on those matters on which I agree with his conclusion, I thought Bill's arguments were overly simplistic and did not provide the level of detail necessary to be persuasive. I was reading it going "come on Bill, you are on the right track now dig in a little and provide some helpful analysis." The analysis never came.

I did like the chapter in which Bill opines on people as being either pinheads or patriots as well as the transcript of the interview with then Senator Obama, which I thought was interesting). Both of those saved the book from getting the dreaded 1 star rating.

Joseph Bruno says

This book is a #1 New York Times Best Seller for a reason.

I've read several of the previous books by Bill O'Reilly including: The No Spin Zone, Who's Looking Out For You, The O'Reilly Factor For Kids (I'm still a kid at heart), Culture Warrior and A Bold Fresh Piece Of Humanity. I even read O'Reilly's only novel -- Those Who Trespass: A Novel of Television and Murder. And I watch the O'Reilly Factor almost every weekday night, either at 8pm, or the repeat showing at 11pm.

So you could say I like the guy a little bit. O'Reilly is a lot like me; a right of middle person, not influenced by the pinheads who populate the far left, or the far right ends of the political spectrum. Certainly he's not as far right as the man whose show follows his, Sean Hannity, who never gives the Democrats, or liberals even one tiny accolade, no matter how exemplary their actions may be.

In his No Spin Zone, O'Reilly tells it like it is, and woe to his guest who doesn't answer the question he asks and goes off on a tangent, or inane talking point. I had drill sergeants in boot camp less intimidating than O'Reilly when he's hot. Just ask Barney Frank, who O'Reilly filleted from throat to sternum, then down his flabby back.

Every evening, O'Reilly ends his show with a segment called Pinheads and Patriots. Some nights a person who had been a Pinhead in the past, now does something that elevates them to Patriot status. And vice versa.

O'Reilly begins "Pinheads and Patriots" with the definition of a pinhead by A Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English. "Pinhead – a simple fellow, a fool. So small a head contain but few brains."

Then he follows with the Urban Dictionary's version. "One who lacks the intelligence of the 'normal' sector of the human population; one who cannot handle the most mundane tasks due to lack of common sense and intelligence."

Then he names names.

Patriot -- The late Tony Snow, who was a Fox News anchor, then later chief spokesman for the Bush White House. Snow died after a two-year battle with cancer. O'Reilly wrote, "Tony Snow is the bravest man I ever met." He explains why.

Pinhead -- Democratic Congressman Barney Frank, who O'Reilly lambastes under the heading "The Cowardly Lion." Frank, the chairman of the House Financial Services committee, more than anyone else was responsible for the present mortgage crisis. Frank oversaw the disaster of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, and even said months before the collapse that things were fine and dandy with those two mortgage giants. Yet when he appeared on the O'Reilly Factor, Frank refused to accept even one iota of blame. He said he was a "victim of economic chaos." Pinhead for sure.

Since President Obama is on the cover facing O'Reilly, you'd think O'Reilly had him lined up for Pinhead-dom. Not true. O'Reilly points out several instances where Obama was a true Patriot. He cites the time at a Town Hall meeting on Father's Day, when Obama said to men who father children and leave them: "Just because your father wasn't there for you, that's not an excuse for you to be absent, also – it is all the more reason for you to be present. You have an obligation to break the cycle and learn from those mistakes, and to rise up where your own fathers fell short and to do better than they did with your own children."

Truly the words of a Patriot.

Before the Presidential election, Obama shunned any interview with Fox News, except with one person --- Bill O'Reilly. In "Pinheads and Patriots," O'Reilly gives us the complete transcript of his interview with Obama, which lasted about 30 minutes. Then at intervals, he explains how things Obama said in the interview either panned out, or didn't pan out for the President. He also takes Obama to task for not admitting he was wrong about the surge in Iraq. Obama admits in the interview that the surge worked, but stops short of giving then President Bush any credit at all.

The back and forth went like this:

Obama: What I have said is – I have already said it's (the surge) has succeeded beyond our wildest dreams.

O'Reilly: Right, so why can't you just say, "I was wrong about the surge?"

Obama hems and haws, but never once did he say "I was wrong." And as we have found out in the 21 months of his Presidency, he may be incapable of saying he was wrong about anything, except maybe about the White Sox winning the World Series.

One of the best chapters in the book is entitled, "My All-Time Favorite P&Ps." Without me giving away who's-who and what's-what, O'Reilly gives his opinion on, amongst others, Abraham Lincoln, Teddy Roosevelt, Andrew Jackson, U.S. Grant, Jimmy Carter, Gerald Ford, Robert Kennedy, both Bush's, Cesar Chavez. John Edwards, Madonna, Janis Joplin, Jim Morrison and George Soros. Some of his conclusions may surprise you.

On O'Reilly's website, the book sells for \$27.95, but he throws in a nifty "Pinheads and Patriots" tote bag. I got mine at Amazon.com for less than 16 bucks, and because I have Amazon Prime, I got free shipping (but no tote bag).

"Pinheads and Patriots" is must reading for any O'Reilly fan. And even people who are not too crazy about O'Reilly, should enjoy reading this even-handed book too.

Unless you're a Pinhead. Then there's nothing I can do for you anyway.

Mike (the Paladin) says

I "like" Bill O'Reilly, on the whole, but I don't always agree with him. Some of you who have read other reviews and comments by me will know that I am of a "somewhat" conservative mind set. :) If you are under the impression the O'Reilly is a (so called) "died in the wool" conservative, then you don't know him. He is abrasive, confrontational, very self assured and does his best to be fair. Personally I believe he's incorrect in some of his beliefs and assumptions, and correct in others.

That's what this book and others like it are...opinion and defense of opinion. After all, if you don't believe you're right (correct)...why do you hold a given opinion?

This is an interesting book dealing largely with President Obama but also discussing Mr. O'Reilly's "take" on other people both historical and contemporary. It's a fairly cogent take on things and even if I don't agree with the author I find his opinions somewhat... understandable.

I have one "nibble"... I found a couple of (possibly minor) factual errors (for example he says Audie Murphy was drafted. Murphy tried repeatedly to enlist and finally with his sisters help managed to enlist at 17. He also stated that General Eisenhower didn't "sack" General Patton. Actually he did sack Patton but later gave him another command under his old second in command General Bradley...just a couple). These are not big and do not take away from his overall take on these people (or others) but I think fact checking would have increased the books credibility.

But (to use the same word again) overall I like the book and can recommend it. Even if you think you will disagree, consider trying it. The transcript of the interview with the president and his actions since the interview alone make worth the time.

Also if you haven't watched, listened to or read Mr. O'Reilly before, but think you know about him from third party sources... read it for yourself. He might surprise you. He's not my favorite commentator, but as I said I believe he does his best to be open minded and evenhanded.

4 stars.

Carl Alves says

I listened to the audiobook version of Patriot or Pinhead, narrated by Bill O'Reilly. Because the author was narrating, it sounded much like his television show. I really enjoyed the concept of the novel, where he analyzed the first eighteen months of the Obama administration as well as looking at contemporary people as

well as people throughout history to analyze whether they qualify into the category of patriot or pinhead. What I most enjoyed about the book is the level of research that O'Reilly put into his opinions. These weren't knee-jerk reactions. He put a good deal of analysis, and used a fair-handed approach. For the individuals and situations he commented on, he usually gave positive and negatives, with the exception of Jane Fonda, who made his pinhead hall of fame.

I thoroughly enjoyed the way he broke down such people as Lassie, Marilyn Monroe, Robert Kennedy, and some of our past presidents. When he analyzed JFK, he gave some strong positives and some negatives, showing that there are generally two sides to a coin, and things aren't always black and white. The book was both entertaining and informative, and regardless of your political affiliation, worth reading.

Carl Alves - author of Blood Street

Cactuskid says

If you watch his show you already know a lot of this, but his word for word 2 interviews with Obama were interesting. The first one was when he was a candidate and the other was Super Bowl Sunday. Too bad the mainstream media didn't pick up on some of Bill's first questions, our country might be in better shape today as people might have figured out he is not what we needed as a president.

Allison Barilone says

This book was not on par with his others. I loved A Bold Fresh Piece of Humanity but was relieved when I finished this one.

Teechbiz says

Before you think this was an anti-Obama screed, it's not. While O'Reilly definitely disagrees with some of Obama's policies he does not classify him as a pinhead.

O'Reilly also had some interesting things to say about technology.

Nathan says

Waste of time. How does one man grind out so many books? By avoiding true insight and substance.

O'Reilly is not a bad guy. He clearly has skills as a marketer and self promoter but of what he says and does is packaging. He appropriates the term patriot to mean someone with whom he agrees and a pinhead not. Alliteration is not substance and the perpetual use of the term patriot is grating.

He relishes his luddism and promotes his experience as a traditional journalist.

O'Reilly employs the same writing style as Obama: Detail the extreme positions of an issue and proclaim yourself in the sensible center. This sort of rhetorical trick soothes the reader who has an aversion to

confrontation without articulating and defending a solid position. The technique amounts to self promotion devoid of argument.

Here are a few quotes to offer a flavor of the book.

"Will this world be taken over by robots? Maybe."

"I don't use twitter. I pay people to do that."

"No computer can beat me in a debate."

Mark Maguire says

When I first started to read this book, I actually contemplated putting it down as I didn't think that I could endure a seemingly endless critique of President Obama! Happily, whilst Obama-bashing forms an underlying thread to the majority of Bill O'Reilly's narrative, there are more light-hearted and genuinely entertaining aspects to the book which allowed me to carry-on.

The point of the book it seems, is to try and identify as to whether you are to left or right of Bill O'Reilly's centrist - thinking, and thus, determine where you fit ideologically within the political economy of President Obama. As a Briton, I am unsure about where I fit within the schema. I am generally opposed to the ideals of the G.O.P and the Tea Party. This may make me a "Communist", (i.e.: to the Left of O'Reilly). I do not consider myself to be "a Liberal" and I oppose the "Occupy" parasites. This means that I am to the Right of the Democrats and more in line with O'Reilly's centrist-thinking. Consequently, this may mean that I am Patriot - only time will tell.

Perhaps the most interesting sections of the book included the deconstruction of political and cultural figures throughout American history into Pinhead; Patriot, and Hybrid categories. Principally, if you work hard; live a virtuous and inspirational life, and dedicate yourself to the betterment of the United States, you are a Patriot. However, if you make a living by being a "Gangster Rapper"; misguided politician, or drug-abusing celebrity, you are a Pinhead. Fair enough so far!

The Hybrids; rare in number, are generally good people, but with a questionable element to their existence which, in mitigation, is overpowered by their general Patriotism. It is a useful schematic to employ in everyday life, and, as O'Reilly suggests, is entirely subjective. Generally, the majority of the Pinheads that O'Reilly puts forward have been correctly labelled, some of the Patriots are questionable though.

Despite my initial reservations, I enjoyed the book. It was a light-hearted read that did make me laugh-out loud in places. It will now live on my "American Bookshelf" somewhere between books by Glenn Beck and Ann Coulter.

Nicholas Piva says

Bill O'Reilly, already an acclaimed best-selling author, yet again writes a book dedicated to Patriots and

Pinheads. O'Reilly is all about sticking up for justice and exploiting evildoers. In his perspective, a patriot is somebody who stands up for their country throughout their life. While, a Pinhead is somebody that is terribly misguided and thinks more less altruistically.

Any person can be classified into one of the previous categories, but this book is mostly about giving light to certain acts, rather than people as a whole. The first person he talked about that sparked my brain was Barney Frank, the Massachusetts House of representative. O'Reilly lost it on him during an interview after Barney denied saying the stock market was going to go up and the future looked promising. Two months later, after many Americans invested in Fannie May and Freddie Mac, the stock market crashed, and now Frank is trying to change his story. This guy is a definite pinhead, no spin.

Next the book goes into a detail about the issue of border control with regards to how Bush junior and Obama handled it. They were both very concerned with their votes that they didn't want to get heavily involved, knowing that Hispanics play a big part in their getting elected. However, Bush did a much better job and had a lot of national guard residing over the border for protection. Obama took off most of the guard with the notion that he would gain approval from the people. This backfired and now he put on roughly 1000 national guard, which is a joke compared to the large border.

Many people fired at Obama with his handling of the BP oil spill of 2009. This was an outrage to many Americans. He simply did not do anything about it for 13 days and expected BP to do all the work. After realizing Americans were upset, he hopped on the bandwagon and finally got involved, but it was too late and was expanding onto the shores, devastating the natural land. Even his liberals commented negatively on this incident, saying he is "discounted from most Americans". It is ironic because when Obama was campaigning, he bashed Bush about his nonchalance and indecisiveness in dealing with Hurricane Katrina.

Another outrageous facet of Obama was when the White house "waged a war on Fox News". This incident only brought in more ratings, not their intention. Why would the government even attempt to attack on a news station, who adheres by facts? Crazy. Fox News is a nonviolent entity with no army. The government should have been focusing on more important issues.

Major Nadal Hasan massacred thirteen people in Texas, and was openly Islamic. He had connections to many Extremists and was known as a jihadis. When speaking on behalf of the people who died, Obama places political correctness before emotion. Saying Nadal was "misguided", other than he was a Islamist radical jihadist.

Another instance of similar behavior from the president was when a Al-Qaeda operative wanted to have a civil trial in NYC, Khalid Shekh Mohammed. Obama let him have this, outrage. How dare he not have a military tribunal, no Al-Qaeda propaganda, and it saves a lot of money. Obama again should not uphold political correctness for these type of people. He should have seen the emotion of the American people and gave this trial no spotlight.

Another concept O'Reilly expounds on is Obama's socialist healthcare. It is undeniably socialist because it requires everybody to have it or pay a penalty. This is the most socialist act since the New Deal. O'Reilly did however share light on Obama's good doing which I am not going to get into for sake of so few. Although many believe Barry to be a socialist, he is not in my opinion because he hasn't tried to own private property. This is the main concept of socialism. Karl Marx and Obama would not sit on the same shelf. With this being said many Americans feel that Obama is disconnected with the realities and feelings of the working Americas.

This book was a great read for somebody who wants to reevaluate O'Reilly perceptions, along with your own on Patriots and Pinheads in the world. You will without a doubt learn something new and you might even disagree with parts. Bill gives a blunt commentary on different topics of society in a comedic, cocky manner, entertaining for all.

Dachokie says

Milking the Cash Cow Once Too Often ..., October 7, 2010

Love him or hate him, Bill O'Reilly has formulated quite a successful career out of being opinionated. Having a perennially top rated program and a slew of bestsellers, the man commands attention. The "pinheads and patriots" segment on O'Reilly's television program can be amusing, annoying and thought-provoking ... his book, however, falls flat.

The book sounds promising, but it fails to deliver anything new or exciting. The first chapter seemed to hold promise for what was to come ... O'Reilly assigns "pinhead" or "patriot" status to the current President's handling on the "hot issues", including the War in Afghanistan, the BP oil leak, health care etc. To make things fair, even George W. Bush gets the "P and P" treatment from O'Reilly. Unfortunately, as opinionated as O'Reilly is known to be, the "kid gloves" assessment of both Bush and Obama comes across as pandering and predictable. Predictability and pandering are recurring themes throughout the book as O'Reilly rehashes his opinions on the same issues and people that he's been lauding or slamming on his television show for years. Nothing new or exciting is revealed in "Pinheads and Patriots" and, as usual, O'Reilly's strong position in the beginning of an argument is often tempered later in order to appear "fair".

In my opinion, the biggest flaw in the book is that O'Reilly doesn't start rattling off the list of "pinheads" and "patriots" until halfway through his book and once we get there, it bombs. Prior to the "P and P" list the reader is required to devour the author's opinions on the same topics we hear about ... day in and day out. Actually the first half of the book would be better off being part of another book altogether. The actual listing of "pinheads" and "patriots" is extremely disappointing as O'Reilly cherry-picks a handful of Presidents, celebrities and pot-stirrers and glosses over either the highlights or lowlights before assigning the appropriate "P". The list is fairly predictable, as is O'Reilly's assessment of those listed.

What's missing? The recipe that makes the television segment so popular, that's what. The television show delivers a little bit of everything ... from a crass Roseanne Barr incident to an average citizen committing a selfless, heroic act. The book needs variety and interesting, exciting subject matter like the segment of O'Reilly's show delivers. With all the "pinheads" and "patriots" he's branded over the years, I would have thought his book would have included more than Carter, Reagan, Madonna and Willie Mays.

While I was disappointed with the core of O'Reilly's book, I would be remiss to ignore what I thought was the book's biggest asset - the final chapter, a transcript of O'Reilly's interview with Obama before the 2008 election. In addition to the transcript (which includes every stutter and "um"), O'Reilly inserts updates on several of the topics discussed to illustrate whether or not the President succeeded or failed to deliver on his promises. This particular chapter, although oddly out-of-place with the book's "pinhead and patriot" theme, is very revealing.

Overall, "Pinheads and Patriots" falls short in that it doesn't come close to being as entertaining as the television segment. This book's contents and its release date appear to be nothing more than a cheap bestseller opportunity for the author to capitalize on the vitriolic political atmosphere accompanying the coming mid-term elections. With the exception of the Obama interview transcript, "Pinheads and Patriots" is a disappointment.

Joseph McBee says

I know a lot of people don't like Bill O'Reilly. I do. Make of that what you will. I think he is fair and balanced and his reports are based on facts rather than conjecture. I appreciate his love for our country and the fact that he is not afraid to call people in positions of power and influence to a certain measure of accountability. He speaks his mind with confidence, and I admire that. I don't always agree with him but I appreciate and respect what he does and how he goes about doing it.

In this book, O'Reilly turns his attention to President Obama and others and asks the question, "Is this person a pinhead or a patriot." It's a great book and I found it informative and enjoyable.

In most cases, his designation is based on the actions on record of the people he is describing. However, there are times when he cuts lose with his own opinion. He always warns you before he does though.

I prefer to listen to O'Reilly's books on CD because the man is, after all, a professional broadcaster and he has a great voice. Hearing him read his own writing is a genuine pleasure. Reading his words in print is fine, but audio takes it to a whole new level.

PINHEADS AND PATRIOTS is not my favorite of his, but I did enjoy it thoroughly.

Marvin says

I read this in an afternoon. It's an easy read not only because O'Reilly has a casual style but there is nothing in here that is very heavy. If you watched his TV show you pretty much know every thing here.

Even though I may be risking my hard-earned liberal credentials, I actually like Mr. O'Reilly. Yes he is arrogant. I've been called that more than once myself. He can also be a bully which is my main complaint concerning his TV presence. Yet, while he is in most ways a traditional conservative he does not descent into the mindless realms of Hannity and Coulter. He will even occasionally admit (GASP!) when the other person has a good point. That makes him the fairest of all Fox News personalities even though I agree with Jon Stewart in his comment that saying Bill is fair is like calling him the thinnest kid at Fat Camp. O'Reilly tries to be fair with Obama in this book, as most of it deals with our current president, and in most cases he is. I even agree with a few of his criticisms. The bottom line is Bill is a conservative and will never see eye to eye with a liberal president. Yet he rarely descends to name calling and hate-mongering.

The most fun part of the book is O'Reilly's takes on who is a pinhead and who is a patriot. Some of the answers may surprise you. Whether you agree or not, this is a fun quick read. I ended up giving it three stars but frankly I expect a political opinion book such as this to make me think a little more.

John says

I get the distinct impression that O'Reilly wrote this book just to fulfill a publishing contract. The book is 33% Bill giving you his subjective opinions of various people, 33% Bill riffing on whatever random topics pop into his head, and 33% filler. Is Lassie the golden retriever a Pinhead or a Patriot? Read this book and find out! Also included is a transcript of an interview O'Reilly once conducted with Obama. It might have been interesting IF the editors had fixed all the grammar and removed all the stuttering and IF O'Reilly hadn't interrupted every few seconds, thereby completely destroying the flow of the conversation. PINHEADS AND PATRIOTS is a lazy effort from someone I know is capable of doing a whole lot better. I especially hate the obnoxious title and goofy cover art, but I do appreciate that O'Reilly tries to find some good in most of the people he talks about, including Obama. Only in extreme cases does he designate people solely in the "Pinhead" camp.
