

Recommended Reading / Resource List

Polarization Workshop

Books

- *The Righteous Mind – Why Good People Are Divided by Politics* by Jonathan Haidt
Jonathan shows how moral judgments arise not from reason but from gut feelings. He shows why liberals, conservatives, and libertarians have such different intuitions about right and wrong, and he shows why each side is actually right about many of its central concerns. Haidt gives you the key to understanding the miracle of human cooperation, as well as the curse of our eternal divisions and conflicts. If you're ready to trade in anger for understanding, this book helps.

- *High Conflict: How We Get Trapped and How We Get Out* by Amanda Ripley
When we are baffled by the insanity of the “other side”—in our politics, at work, or at home—it's because we aren't seeing how the conflict itself has taken over. That's what “high conflict” does. It's invisible and it's different from the useful friction of healthy conflict. *Healthy* conflict is a necessary force that pushes us to be better people. High conflict is what happens when discord distills into a good-versus-evil kind of feud - *us* and *them*. In this state, the brain behaves differently. We feel increasingly certain of our own superiority, and everything we do to try to end the conflict, usually makes it worse.

- *Why We're Polarized* by Ezra Klein
America is polarized, first and foremost, by identity. Everyone engaged in American politics is engaged, at some level, in identity politics. Over the past fifty years in America, our partisan identities have merged with our racial, religious, geographic, ideological, and cultural identities. These merged identities have attained a weight that is breaking much in our politics and tearing at the bonds that hold this country together. Klein shows how and why American politics is polarized around identity in the 20th century, and what that polarization did to the way we see the world and one another. He traces the polarized political identities and polarized political institutions that are driving our system toward crisis.

- *Broken News: Why the Media Rage Machine Divides America and How to Fight Back* by Chris Stirewalt
A former Fox News political editor reveals how news organizations have succumbed to the temptation of “rage revenue” through slanted coverage that drives political division and rewards outrageous conduct. Readers receive an inside look at the of bad journalism because media likes it because it is easy and profitable. This book is a deeply researched, conversation-provoking study of how




Braver Angels

the news is made and how it must be repaired, with surprising takeaways about who's to blame. He goes deep inside the history of the industry to explain how today's media divides America for profit. And he offers practical advice for how everyday readers, listeners and viewers can (and should) become better news consumers for the sake of the republic.

- *Asymmetric Politics: Ideological Republicans and Group Interest Democrats* by Matt Grossmann and David A. Hopkins
The comprehensive investigation offers a complete explanation: The Republican Party is an ideological movement while the Democratic Party is a coalition of social groups. Republican leaders prize conservatism and attract support by pledging loyalty to broad values. Democratic leaders seek concrete government action, appealing to voters' group identities and interests by endorsing specific policies. This book provides a rigorous new understanding of contemporary polarization and governing dysfunction while demonstrating how American politics and public policy reflect our asymmetric party system.

Articles / Viewing:

- ***Difficult Conversations – Managing a Polarized Workforce*** by Julia Minson & Francesco Gino March 2022, Harvard Business Review. Link is: <https://hbr.org/2022/03/managing-a-polarized-workforce>
- **Jonathan Haidt** has authored numerous books including *The Righteous Mind* and articles. For an interesting overview of the moral roots of conservatives and liberals view this link; https://www.ted.com/talks/jonathan_haidt_the_moral_roots_of_liberals_and_conservatives
- **Political Sectarianism in America** by six authors including Eli J. Finkel. The link is: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1DG7NknvsFO43gRlfgdlrzo3qb5_IHLCR/view?usp=sharing
- **Podcast with Jonathan Haidt.** The renowned author and social psychologist caught up with Mónica Guzmán on the Braver Angels Podcast
 Listen to [What's your 'red line'? | Jonathan Haidt with Mónica Guzmán](#)



PEW Research Center:

PEW is a nonprofit and nonpartisan Center that provides numerous studies which you can search for topics of interest. Website is: <https://www.pewresearch.org>

Here are a few studies that focus on polarization within our nation:

- a. January 2022: Americans at the ends of the ideological spectrum are the most active in national politics
- b. March 2022 The Polarization In Today's Congress Has Roots That Go Decades
- c. November 2021 Beyond Red vs. Blue: The Political Typology

Media:

a. The AllSides Media Bias Chart™

This Chart is based on the more comprehensive methodology than other media bias chart on the Web. Our ratings are based on multi-partisan, scientific analysis. The link is: <https://www.allsides.com/media-bias/media-bias-chart>

b. The Flip Side

A daily email that provides both sides of a current issue. Receive the key points from the left, right, and in-between journalists using over 30+ news sources.

c. 1440 Daily Digest

An email delivered Mon thru Sat providing an objective news source. Why 1440? The printing press was invented in the year 1440, spreading knowledge to the masses and changing the course of history. There are also 1,440 minutes in a day and each is precious. That's why we scour hundreds of sources every day to provide a concise, comprehensive and objective view of what's happening in the world.