



Liberal Media Outlets + Personalities

REACHING THE NEW LEFT

SIGNALDC.ORG

ABOUT

Signal Group

Signal Group is an independent strategic communication and digital firm that navigates complex challenges to deliver impact and influence.

We are influencers, creators, and problem solvers. We are advisors to iconic brands, associations, and organizations. We build personalized strategies and tailored campaigns to influence key business, government, and media decision makers through meaningful engagement.

LIBERAL MEDIA MAP

The New Liberal Media Landscape

Investment in independent media continues to grow, while the influence of conservative media on mainstream Republican political movements remains evident. This raises an important question: what does the liberal independent media landscape look like? Signal Group developed this media map as a starting point for understanding - and potentially engaging with - that ecosystem.

This document maps key publications, podcasts, and influencers shaping the media ecosystem that informs left-of-center American political thought. For each outlet, it identifies leading voices and provides high-level analysis of their content and influence. In addition to publications, this document identifies key podcasts and social media influencers relevant to liberal politics. The individuals highlighted across these publications, podcasts, and social platforms frequently overlap and interact across multiple channels.

American liberal and independent media represents a diverse and continually evolving ecosystem dating back to 1958. This map is not intended to be comprehensive; rather, it offers a snapshot of prominent leaders, voices, and podcasts shaping American politics and culture.

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The Leftists

This circle represents a rebellion from the traditional political and media institutions. They are motivated by anti-capitalist and anti-institutional narratives, with some embracing socialism, and even marxism, over incremental progressive reform.. Another strand influencing these outlets is anti-imperialism; a trend that dates to the Cold War and opposition to American foreign policy during the conflict with the Soviet Union. That strain of thinking has continued today in vociferous opposition to Israel with outlets existing specifically to provide a pro-Palestinian voice in American media and criticize Israel's conduct in the war in Gaza following October 7th. Domestically, the Leftists are critical of more traditional progressive voices and have expressed opposition to the nascent "Abundance" movement as rehashed neoliberalism that would trample the interests of working-class people and sacrifice environmental defense for corporate development. Leaders in this space are savvy with social media and new media platforms and enjoy strong influence within young leftist movements. Just as the campus movements of the sixties shaped the Democratic fringe in the following decades, the new online far-left seeks to dominate progressive policy discussions and pull the Democratic party with it. Within the leftist space there are academically and politically relevant figureheads, and a separate group of digitally immersed social media creators who mirror their far-right conspiratorial counterparts.

Publications

Jacobin
The Intercept
Mondoweiss
The Lever
Current Affairs
In These Times
The Majority Report
Zeteo
Truthout
The Grayzone
MintPress News
ZNetwork

Monthly Review

The Daily Beast

Podcasts:

Economic Update
The Humanist Report
Bad Faith
Useful Idiots
The Young Turks
Citations Needed
The Kyle Kulinski Show
Rev Left Radio
Best of the Left

True Anon Truth Feed

Chapo Trap House

Trillbilly Worker's Party

This Is Hell!

The Death Panel

Influencers:

Mehdi Hasan
Hasan Piker
Jessica Burbank
Adam Friedland
Ryan Grim

Francesca Fiorentini

Walter Masterson

Allie O'Brien

Natalie Wynn

Eddie Liger Smith

Publications

JACOBIN

Jacobin: Jacobin is a quarterly socialist print magazine and influential website that offers Marxist and democratic socialist analyses of politics, economics, and culture. Founded in 2010, the print publication and website is known for its sharp analysis offering radical critiques of capitalism and the social order. Jacobin Radio, its multimedia sub-brand features an array of podcasts and shows on politics and society.

Key Voices:

Bhaskar Sunkara, Editorial Director: President of The Nation magazine and former vice-chair of the Democratic Socialists of America, Sunkara is also the author of *The Socialist Manifesto: The Case for Radical Politics in an Era of Extreme Inequality*. He founded Jacobin in 2010 in his junior year at George Washington University.

Micah Uetracht, Editor: In addition to contributing as an associate editor at *In These Times*, Uetracht hosts the *New Labor Forum* podcast, *Reinventing Solidarity*, and is a frequent guest host of *The Dig*.

The Intercept

The Intercept: The Intercept is a nonprofit news organization focused on investigative journalism, targeting powerful individuals and institutions to expose corruption, injustice, secrecy, and abuses of civil

liberties. Founded in 2014 with the Edward Snowden disclosures, the site is firmly situated in the left-wing ecosystem including a leftist suspicion of government and corporate surveillance. The Intercept produces a weekly podcast, *The Intercept Briefing*, hosted by Jessica Washington, Akela Lacy, and Jordan Uhl.

Key Voices:

Ben Muessig, Editor-in-Chief: Before joining The Intercept in 2024, Muessig worked as the assistant managing editor for storytelling at the Los Angeles Times. He served as environment and business editor at the Times and led the business department at the San Francisco Chronicle.

Maia Hibbett, Managing Editor: Prior to joining the Intercept in 2025, Hibbett was the editor for *Gothamist* and WNYC. She also held roles editing for New York Focus and The Intercept's D.C. Bureau, and she was a fact-checker at New York magazine.

Sumi Aggarwal, Chief Strategy Officer: An award-winning journalist who joined the Intercept in 2023, Aggarwal was previously the editor-in-chief at *Reveal* from the Center for Investigative Reporting.

Mondoweiss

News & Opinion About Palestine, Israel & the United States

Mondoweiss: Mondoweiss is an independent online news organization, founded in 2006, that focuses on developments in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and U.S. foreign-policy issues. Its coverage focuses on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the influence of nationalism on Jewish-American identity. The publication represents the leftist voice on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, delivering unapologetic critiques of Israel.

Key Voices:

Mohammed El-Kurd, Editor-at-Large: An award-winning poet, writer, journalist, and organizer known in part for his on-the-ground reporting from Jerusalem, El-Kurd is also the first Palestine correspondent for *The Nation*.

Philip Weiss, Founder and Senior Editor: Weiss founded *Mondoweiss* as a personal blog in 2006 and grew it from its foundations in the progressive Jewish community to the publication it is today.

Yumna Patel, Editor-in-Chief: Patel is a Palestinian activist and journalist, popular on social media for her on-the-ground multimedia reporting while living in the West Bank. After years of reporting from Palestine, Patel moved to Houston, Texas in 2024 to assume her role as editor-in-chief of *Mondoweiss*.



The Lever: Founded in 2020, The Lever is a U.S.-based, reader-supported investigative news outlet that describes itself as nonpartisan but its coverage is characterized by distrust of institutions. Its reporting covers politics, business, and corruption. The Lever uses deep-dive investigative pieces, podcasts, and long-form analysis that emphasizes sourcing, factchecking and showing the mechanisms behind power rather than general news reporting. Its weekly podcast *Lever Time* is hosted by the founder, David Sirota.

Key Voices:

David Sirota, Founder: Sirota is an award-winning journalist, Oscar-nominated screenwriter, bestselling author, founder and editor-in-chief of *The Lever*. He previously worked as Senator Bernie Sanders' presidential campaign speechwriter.

Joel Warner, Managing Editor: Warner is an award-winning journalist, author, who formerly worked at the International Business Times covering marijuana and enterprise beats.



Current Affairs: Current Affairs is a U.S.-based, bi-monthly magazine founded in 2015 that covers politics and culture from a left-wing, socialist-progressive viewpoint. The magazine is design-heavy and full of satire. They have expanded to include a podcast, newsletter, and video series. Launched by Oren Nimni and Nathan J. Robinson through a Kickstarter campaign, the goal was to build “a new print magazine of political analysis, satire, and entertainment” that would “bring wit, color, and verve back to print media”.

Key Voices:

Nathan J. Robinson, Editor-In-Chief: A former political columnist at The Guardian, Robinson’s commentary has appeared across major publications including The New York Times, The Washington Post, The New Republic, The Nation, and Al Jazeera America, Salon. He has also appeared on NPR and BBC Radio.

Yasmin Nair, Editor-at-Large: Nair is a writer, activist, cultural critic, academic and a co-founder of the radical queer editorial collective Against Equality. Her writing is featured in The Baffler, In These Times, Vox, and Electronic Intifada as well as in several anthologies.

Briahna Joy Gray, Contributing Editor: A former National Press Secretary for Bernie Sanders 2020 campaign, Gray is a well-known journalist and former attorney. She co-hosts the podcast Bad Faith and was the senior politics editor for The Intercept before coming to Current Affairs. Gray writes on Substack and has a significant YouTube and social media following.



In These Times: In These Times is a long standing politically progressive monthly magazine of news and opinion pieces. Historian James Weinstein founded the publication in 1976, to track movements in the American left. Early sponsors included Julian Bond, Noam Chomsky, Barbara Ehrenreich, Daniel Ellsberg and Michael Harrington. The magazine has a long history of amplifying emerging grassroots organizations and labor efforts around the country and publishing work that builds leverage for progressive ideas.

Key Voices:

Alex Han, Executive Director: Han is a union and community organizer who has been active in progressive politics for two decades. He was the Midwest political director for Bernie 2020, vice president at SEIU for over a decade, and helped to found United Working Families. Han was also the former executive editor of Convergence Magazine.

Ari Bloomekatz, Executive Editor: Bloomekatz previously served as Managing Editor of Tikkun and Rethinking Schools. Earlier in his career, he was a staff writer at the Los Angeles Times and covered politics for Voice of San Diego. His writing has appeared in outlets including The Washington Post, The Boston Globe, Cincinnati Enquirer, and The Seattle Times.



The Majority Report: The Majority Report with Sam Seder is a daily progressive-political talk show and podcast that offers commentary, news discussion and long-form interviews on politics and world affairs. The show centers on current events and political issues, occasionally using humor, skits, and satire to present their news reporting. The program is a revamp of Seder’s earlier talk show produced by Air America, a progressive talk radio network that launched in 2004 as a left-leaning counterweight to conservative talk radio. Air America shut down in 2010. Sam Seder has not publicly claimed to be a leftist; however, his content is highly critical of establishment Democrats and was affiliated with The Young Turks.

Key Voices:

Sam Seder, Host: Early in his career, Seder worked as a director, actor, and writer before leaning into political commentary. He started the show in 2010 and partnered with The Young Turks network to produce The Majority Report until 2020, when he branched off to become fully viewer funded.

Emma Vigeland, Co-Host: Vigeland is a former producer on Rebel HQ for The Young Turks, working there until 2020. She has covered grassroots progressive movements, corruption, labor rights, social issues, and interviewed high profile candidates including then-candidate Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez in 2018.

zeteo

Zeteo: Founded in 2024, Zeteo is a popular Substack based publication founded and ran by influential journalist and public figure Mehdi Hasan. Content ranges from written pieces, video programming, and columns, and more. The word “Zeteo” stems from a Greek word meaning “seeking out” and “striving.”. The content is leftist and blunt in tone, reflecting Hasan’s personal media style.

Key Voices:

Mehdi Hasan, Founder/CEO/Editor-in-Chief: Starting in 2012, Hasan gained notoriety as a presenter for Al Jazeera English and moved to DC in 2015 to host the show UpFront. He also hosted the Deconstructed podcast, produced by The Intercept, from 2018 to 2020. He hosted The Mehdi Hasan Show on MSNBC until its cancellation in 2023. Following that, Hasan joined The Guardian as a columnist and founded Zeteo.

Asawin Suebsaeng, Senior Political Correspondent:

After serving as senior political reporter at Rolling Stone and White House reporter at The Daily Beast, Suebsaeng joined Zeteo in September 2025. He previously worked for Mother Jones, covering the intersection of politics and pop culture.

Prem Thakker, Political Correspondent & Columnist:

In October 2022, Thakker started as an associate writer at The New Republic, and most recently worked as a politics reporter at The Intercept before coming to Zeteo in July 2024. He also authors Zeteo’s monthly column, Subtext with Prem.

truthout

Truthout: Truthout is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit news organization founded in 2001 that provides reporting and commentary on social justice and political affairs. It operates via a reader-supported model without corporate advertising to maintain editorial independence. Its coverage frequently centers on climate change, labor rights, and systemic inequality.

Key Voices:

Negin Owliaei, Editor-in-Chief: An award-winning journalist, Owliaei previously worked at Al Jazeera’s flagship daily news podcast, The Take.

Alana Yu-lan Price, Managing Editor: Price is also a co-editor of Who Do You Serve? Who Do You Protect? Police Violence and Resistance in the United States.

Ziggy West Jeffery, Executive Editor: Jeffery is a passionate advocate of independent media and social justice.

THE GRAYZONE

The Grayzone: Founded in 2015 by journalist Max Blumenthal, The Grayzone is an independent investigative news outlet. It is best known for its “anti-imperialist” editorial line, frequently challenging the foreign policy narratives of the United States and its allies. The publication has prided itself on its pro-Maduro regime coverage of Venezuela. The site’s content consists of long-form articles, interviews, and video reports.

Key Voices:

Max Blumenthal, Editor-in-Chief: Blumenthal is an American journalist, author, and filmmaker known for his coverage of the Israel-Palestine conflict and American foreign policy.



MintPress News: MintPress News is a far-left news publication founded in 2012, based in Minnesota that covers U.S. politics and international affairs with a focus on civil liberties and the role of corporate interests in shaping policy. It frequently cites and criticizes the “military-industrial complex” and has published cartoons depicting ICE officers in Wehrmacht uniform. Its recent coverage on Gaza accuses Israel of genocide and describes the situation as a “holocaust”.

Key Voices:

Mnar Adley, Founder: Adley is also the co-host of the podcast and short-form video series Behind the Headlines produced by MPN.



ZNetwork: ZNetwork is a nonprofit digital media collective founded in 1987 promoting a distinctly leftist worldview. It both curates and initiates content that fits its worldview, which is self-described as “anti-capitalist, anti-racist, anti-authoritarian, and anti-sexist”. The platform features content related to institutional change, activism, and radical political theory.

Key Voices:

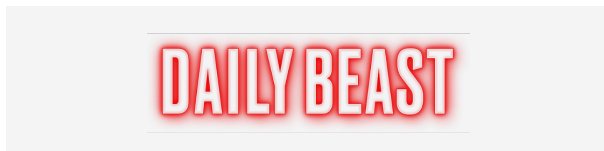
Michael Albert, Co-founder: A long-standing left-wing activist having founded multiple outlets and organizing projects dedicated to left-wing causes, Albert is also the host of the podcast Revolution Z.



Monthly Review: Established in 1949, Monthly Review is an independent socialist magazine published monthly in New York City. It provides scholarly analysis of global economics, history, and sociology through a Marxist lens. It is most famous for publishing Albert Einstein's essay "Why Socialism?" in its inaugural edition.

Key Voices:

John Bellamy Foster, Editor: Foster is a professor of sociology at the University of Oregon.



The Daily Beast: The Daily Beast is an American news and opinion website that covers politics, pop culture, and media. Visually stylized as an online tabloid posting scoops, news, personality-driven coverage, it uses catchy all-red tags on its coverage to provide additional context. Its format is designed for a high-volume, digital-first audience. Owned by IAC, The Daily Beast is editorially independent.

Key Voices:

Hugh Dougherty, Executive Editor: Dougherty has worked as a reporter and editor for over 25 years

including stints with The Telegraph, The New York Post, and the Daily Mail. He has worked at The Daily Beast since June 2024.

Ben Sherwood, Publisher and CEO: A veteran media executive, journalist, and entrepreneur, Sherwood served as co-chairman of Disney Media Networks and president of the Disney ABC Television Group, overseeing the company's global entertainment, news and cable properties.

Joanna Coles, Chief Creative and Content Officer:

Coles is a long-time media executive and producer, with former roles as editor-in-chief at Cosmopolitan and CCO at Hearst Magazines. She writes the Primal Scream Substack.

Podcasts



Economic Update: A progressive lens looking at the top economic news of the week. The podcast focusses on who benefits and who gets squeezed. The show is less about market ups and downs and more about wages, jobs, debt, inequality, corporate power, and why so many people feel the system is stacked against them. It is produced by the nonprofit Democracy at Work.

Host: Richard D. Wolff, a Marxian economist and professor emeritus of economics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.



The Humanist Report: The podcast, originally launched in 2015 to engage millennials in progressive political discussion, walks through political stories, policy fights, and election dynamics, then connects them to bigger themes like power, democracy, inequality, and human rights.

Host: Mike Figueredo, an advocate and author.



Bad Faith: A commentary and debate podcast that focuses on progressive and leftist media narratives, often targeting political fault lines. The show explores issues like healthcare, housing, and labor, but delves deeper into disagreements over political strategy, party direction, and economic reform.

Host: Briahna Joy Gray, a political commentator, lawyer, and former National Press Secretary for Bernie Sanders' Presidential campaign; and Virgil Texas, a journalist, podcaster, and author who was previously the co-host of the podcast Chapo Trap House.



Useful Idiots: A political commentary and media criticism podcast combining investigative analysis, contrarian takes, and satire to critique U.S. politics, corporate media, and institutional power, with a focus on transparency, civil liberties, and press accountability.

Host: Matt Taibbi, an investigative journalist and former Rolling Stone contributing editor; and Katie Halper, a journalist and political commentator.



The Young Turks: A long-form progressive news and commentary show delivering opinionated analysis of politics and social issues, framed as an alternative to corporate media with an emphasis on economic populism and social justice.

Host: Cenk Uygur, TYT co-creator and political activist; and Ana Kasparian, a journalist and former host of a Jacobin YouTube show.



Citations Needed: A media criticism and investigative podcast examining the intersection of media, public relations, and power, focused on exposing propaganda, false narratives, and how elite interests shape public perception.

Host: Adam Johnson, a journalist and media critic; and Nima Shirazi, a public relations and communications professional.



The Kyle Kulinski Show: An independent, left-populist political commentary podcast featuring solo-host, rapid-response analysis of daily political news, policy debates, and electoral developments, with a strong anti-corporate and anti-elite focus.

Host: Kyle Kulinski, a political commentator and co-founder of Justice Democrats.



Rev Left Radio: A political education podcast designed less as commentary and more as an ideological framing of current day political struggles. The show heavily focuses on Marxist ideas and engages with events through a Marxist lens.

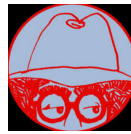
Host: Breht O'Shea, a political educator, activist, and co-host of both Red Menace and Guerilla History; and Alyson Escalante, a Marxist writer.



Best of the Left: A progressive commentary podcast that synthesizes clips from left-leaning media into thematic, issue-focused episodes,

connecting diverse progressive voices into a cohesive narrative. The show focuses on contextualizing current events to highlight patterns and reinforce framing through its ideological lens.

Host: Jay Tomlinson, an expert in politics and media, who launched the podcast in January 2006 having been inspired by The Majority Report and The Young Turks.



True Anon Truth Feed: An investigative, long-form podcast examining current events, elite power structures, secrecy, and political economy through in-depth research, cultural analysis, and open-ended host discussion.

Host: Brace Belden, a union activist and former volunteer fighter with a Kurdish militia during the Syrian Civil War; and Liz Franczak, a writer.



Chapo Trap House: A political comedy podcast that offers leftist commentary. The show features weekly episodes that discuss domestic politics, media trends, and cultural critique from a socialist viewpoint. It is primarily funded through a subscription model on Patreon.

Host: Will Menaker; Felix Biederman; Matt Christman; and Amber A'Lee Frost, leaders of the "dirtbag left".



Trillbilly Worker's Party: A podcast based in the Appalachian region of Kentucky that examines rural life through a radical lens. The show focuses on labor struggles, environmental issues in the South, and critiques of how rural communities are portrayed in corporate media.

Host: Tarence Ray and Tom Sexton, natives of Whitesburg, Kentucky.



This Is Hell!: A long-form interview program that describes itself as "bitter radio." The show features in-depth conversations with global academics, journalists, and authors to uncover the systemic issues behind modern political and economic crises. The show is broadcast on WNUR 89.3 FM (Chicago).

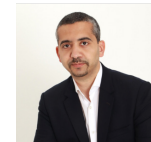
Host: Chuck Mertz, a writer, producer and broadcaster.



Death Panel: A research-oriented podcast dedicated to the "political economy of health." The program analyzes public health policy, disability justice, and the pharmaceutical industry, often critiquing the state's role in managing life and death.

Host: Beatrice Adler-Bolton, a writer, artist and advocate; Artie Vierkant, an artist and author; Jules Gill-Peterson, an historian, writer and professor; Tracy Rosenthal, a writer and organizer; and Phil Rocco, an associate professor of political science at Marquette University.

Influencers

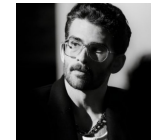


Mehdi Hasan | Substack: Zeteo

Bios: Mehdi Hasan is a British-American journalist, broadcaster, author, and media

founder. He's known for his award-winning political commentary, hosting The Mehdi Hasan Show on Peacock and MSNBC, and founding the media company Zeteo. Hasan has worked with major outlets including Al Jazeera English, The Huffington Post, The Intercept, and is a columnist for The Guardian.

Platforms: X, Instagram, Threads, Bluesky, Substack, YouTube



Hasan Piker

Bio: Hasan Piker is a U.S.-based political commentator, Twitch streamer, and digital media personality best known as

HasanAbi. A former host and contributor at The Young Turks, Piker is now one of the most-watched political streamers on Twitch and runs a widely followed YouTube channel. He has publicly described his politics as left-wing and social-democratic, and he frequently engages

audiences on issues including economic inequality, labor, U.S. foreign policy, and online political discourse.

Platforms: YouTube, X, Instagram, Facebook, TikTok, Twitch



Jessica Burbank | Substack: The Counterprogramming Club

Bio: Jessica Burbank is an American political commentator, social media creator, and journalist known for her work breaking down politics and economics for broad audiences across platforms like TikTok and YouTube targeting a Gen Z audience. She produces news and commentary content under the name Ka Burbank, hosts podcasts including Funny Money, and serves as a correspondent focused on economics with Drop Site news, a progressive Substack.

Platforms: Substack, YouTube, X, Instagram, Bluesky, Facebook, TikTok



Adam Friedland

Bio: Adam Friedland is a comedian, talk-show host, and podcaster known for his distinctive blend of alternative comedy, political satire, and conversational interview style. He launched The Adam Friedland Show in 2022 after co-hosting its predecessor, Cum Town, with Nick Mullen and Stavros Halkias. His show has gained notoriety for its mix of off-beat cultural commentary and engaging interviews; associating with Chapo Trap House's term, "the dirtbag left." In a profile on Friedland, GQ wrote that he has the potential to become the "Millennial Jon Stewart."

Platforms: YouTube, X, Instagram



Ryan Grim | Substack: Drop Site News

Bio: Ryan Grim is a journalist, author, and political commentator known for his reporting on U.S. politics, Congress, and progressive movements. He is a co-founder of Drop Site News, a nonprofit investigative newsroom, and previously served as Washington bureau chief for The Intercept and as a senior reporter at HuffPost. Grim is also a regular on political video and podcast programs, including appearances on Breaking Points and as a co-host on its spin-off Counter Points, where he provides left-leaning analysis of current events.

Platforms: Substack, YouTube, X, Instagram, Bluesky, Facebook



Francesca Fiorentini | Substack: The Bitchuation Room

Bio: Francesca Fiorentini is a journalist, comedian, and political commentator known for her progressive analysis of U.S. and global politics. She is the host of The Bitchuation Room, a podcast and YouTube show that blends political commentary, interviews, and humor, and she previously hosted the AJ+ series Newsbroke. Fiorentini has been a frequent contributor to outlets such as The Young Turks, The Real News Network, and other independent media platforms.

Platforms: Substack, YouTube, X, Instagram, Facebook, TikTok, Twitch, Bluesky



Walter Masterson

Bio: Walter Masterson is a comedian, political satirist, and digital creator best known for his confrontational, character-driven satire at political rallies and public events. He rose to prominence on TikTok and YouTube, where he performs exaggerated personas to expose contradictions in right-wing rhetoric and political extremism. Masterson's work blends comedy with

on-the-ground commentary, often placing him directly inside MAGA rallies and culture-war flashpoints.

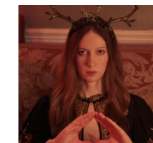
Platforms: YouTube, X, Instagram, Bluesky, TikTok



Allie O'Brien

Bio: Allie O'Brien is a digital creator and political activist known for her issue-focused commentary on social media. She has built a large following on TikTok and Instagram where she shares explanations of current events, human rights issues, and civic engagement campaigns. While she hasn't outwardly claimed to be a leftist, she supports DSP candidates and often criticizes the institutional democratic leadership.

Platforms: YouTube, Instagram, TikTok



Natalie Wynn

Bio: Natalie Wynn is a YouTuber, political commentator, and cultural critic. She is best known for her YouTube channel, ContraPoints, where she creates video essays. Her work often focuses on topics such as trans identity, social justice, and the psychology of belief, helping bring complex philosophical debates to a broad audience.

Platforms: YouTube, X, Instagram, Patreon



Eddie Liger Smith (Midwestern Marx)

Bio: Eddie Liger Smith is a political analyst for the Midwestern Marx Institute, the largest Marxist think tank in the United States. He is a driving force of their social media presence; through podcasts, video essays, and public commentary, he focuses on applying Marxist perspectives to contemporary U.S. politics, labor issues, and international affairs.

Platforms: YouTube, X, Instagram, Facebook, TikTok

The Progressives

This circle of leaders seeks independence to uplift progressive ideas through their reporting and commentary. The progressive media system incorporates voices that have recently left institutional media as well as long term members of the progressive movement. They often cover social justice, social services, immigration, women's and LGBTQIA2s+ rights, AI, and climate change, and are explicitly aligned with progressive liberal values. Leaders in this space split both from traditional news organizations and democratic political institutions to start independent media outlets. Tension within the progressive sphere comes from both centrists, who see their policies as unrealistic, and from leftists who see them as collaborators with more corporate Democrats and lack a desire for far-reaching reforms and radical policy proposals. As the 2028 election rounds into view, the progressives will play a leading role in shaping the communications strategies of Democratic candidates looking to tap into the progressive ecosystem. The tone of reporting in progressive news publications does vary from an academic prose to intentionally accessible content, reflecting the preferences and profiles of the myriad audiences in this space.

Publications

The Argument
The American Prospect
The Real News Network
The Nation
Courier
Common Dreams
Mother Jones
MeidasTouch Network
The New Republic
Crooked Media
Vox
Daily Kos
Slow Boring

Podcasts:

The Rachel Maddow Show
Pantsuit Politics
The AI Franken Podcast
The Daily Beans
Find Out Podcast
The Majority Report
Pitchfork Economics
The Ezra Klein Show
Pivot
On with Kara Swisher
The Prof G Pod
No Lie with Brian Tyler Cohen
I've Had It

The Weekly Show
Higher Learning

Influencers:

Aaron Parnas
Jay Kuo
Judd Legum
Dan Rather
Matthew Yglesias
Joyce Vance
Robert Reich
Paul Krugman

Ed Krassenstein and
Brian Krassenstein

Leigh McGowan

Acyn Torabi

Aaron Rupar

Ken Klippenstein

Jon Favreau

Brian Tyler Cohen

Dean Withers

Joy-Ann Reid

Suzanne Lambert

Amelie Zilber

Elizabeth Booker Houston

Ezra Klein

Rachel Maddow

Publications



The Argument: The Argument was founded in 2025 as a subscription-based digital publication that uplifts liberal viewpoints with opinion pieces that cover politics, economics, technology, gender, and public policy through daily essays and data-driven analysis. In addition to their editorial content, The Argument partners with Split Ticket to provide analysis of US elections.

Key Voices:

Jerusalem Demsas, Founder and Editor-in-Chief:

Previously, Demsas wrote for The Atlantic where she created and hosted the podcast Good On Paper.

Lakshya Jain, Director of Political Data: Jain founded the election analysis firm Split Ticket which has received acclaim for their accurate models and novel ways of presenting election data.

Kelsey Piper, Staff Writer: Piper previously worked as a staff writer at Vox's Future Perfect where she covered events through the perspective of effective altruism, a movement Piper has closely related to since her college years at Stanford University.



The American Prospect: The American Prospect is a nonprofit print and web publication based in Washington, D.C., focused on publishing narrative

journalism and analytical commentary as the "authoritative magazine of liberal ideas". The publication was founded in 1990 by Robert Kuttner, Paul Starr, and Robert Reich, and features long-form analysis and commentary on current events and challenging right-wing narratives.

Key Voices:

David Dayen, Executive Editor: Dayen co-hosts the Organized Money podcast and hosts a weekly live show with The American Prospect called The Weekly Roundup.

Robert Kuttner, Co-Founder and Co-Editor: Kuttner is an author and professor at Brandeis University's Heller School teaching labor policy and labor history. Prior to his work at The American Prospect, Kuttner was an economics journalist who wrote a weekly column for Businessweek and The Boston Globe.

Paul Starr, Co-Founder and Co-Editor: Starr is the author of eight books, winning the General Nonfiction Pulitzer Prize and the Bancroft Prize in American history. He is also a professor of sociology and public affairs at Princeton University and founded the Electronic Policy Network in 1994. Starr has long been a figure in progressive policy.

Robert Reich, Co-Founder: Reich is a widely known lawyer, professor, author, and public figure who served as Secretary of Labor in the Clinton administration from 1993 to 1997. He is a professor emeritus of public policy at UC Berkeley and a prominent voice on economic inequality, labor policy, and democracy.



The Real News Network: Founded in 2023, The Real News Network (TRNN) is a Baltimore-based nonprofit digital news organization dedicated to producing

social advocacy journalism. Their reporting highlights grassroots reporters who are working to uplift progressive values. The platform utilizes digital video journalism.

Key Voices:

Maximillian Alvarez, Editor-in-Chief: In addition to serving as Editor-in-Chief at the Real News Network, Alvarez was the Associate Editor at the Chronicle Review. He also hosts the podcast Working People.

Marc Steiner, Host: The Marc Steiner Show started in 1993, and in 2018 Steiner began hosting the show in collaboration with The Real News Network. It focuses on culture and politics and features an array of guests covering social, political, and cultural issues.



The Nation: The Nation is a longstanding progressive American magazine that covers politics, culture and opinion with a focus on justice and equality since 1865. It aims to provide readers with factual and transparent journalism that empowers readers to challenge power and envision a more just society. The publication was originally founded by abolitionists and continues to be a highly respected institution in progressive media circles.

Key Voices:

Katrina Vanden Heuvel, Editor and Publisher: Vanden Heuvel is an author, editor, progressive commentator, and publisher who, in addition to her role at The Nation, frequently contributes to The Guardian.

Bhaskar Sunkara, President: Founding editor of Jacobin and former vice-chair of the Democratic Socialists of America, Sunkara is the author of The Socialist Manifesto: The Case for Radical Politics in an Era of Extreme Inequality. He founded Jacobin in 2010

in his junior year at George Washington University.

John Nichols, Executive Editor: Nichols is an author and associate editor of The Cap Times magazines, a progressive magazine based in Madison, Wisconsin. Notably, Nichols co-wrote a book with Bernie Sanders called “It’s OK to Be Angry About Capitalism.”

COURIER

Courier: Founded in 2019, Courier emphasizes a pro-democracy approach to news that aims to create a more informed public through online value-driven content. Their content distributed via digital media channels through readable newsletters, video content, and graphics.

Key Voices:

Tara McGowan, Publisher and CEO: A Democratic political strategist, former journalist, and new-media entrepreneur, McGowan is the co-founder of several influential organizations, including Acronym, Lockwood Strategy, Good Information Inc., and Courier Newsroom.

RC Di Mezzo, VP of Brand and Social, National: Prior to serving as a Managing Director and Executive Producer at Courier Newsroom, Di Mezzo built his career in Democratic political communications and digital strategy, working on national progressive campaigns.

Kevin Dreyfuss, Managing Director and Executive Producer, National: Prior to joining Courier, Dreyfuss notably served as the deputy creative director for the 2024 Biden Harris Campaign.

Common Dreams

To inform. To inspire. To ignite change for the common good.

Common Dreams: Common Dreams publishes a diverse mix of breaking news, commentary, video content, and press releases covering issues that matter to progressives. Founded in 1997, the publication has a long history of providing free journalism sponsored by their readership through small donations. Common Dreams operates on the foundational belief that its reporting should inspire readers to engage in progressive change.

Key Voices:

Craig Brown, Executive Director: Brown co-founded Common Dreams in 1997 with his late wife, Lina Newhouser. He was formerly a community organizer and political consultant who has managed multiple congressional campaigns.

Julia Conley, Senior Editor: Conley previously worked as a broadcast news producer for Al Jazeera America, Bill Moyers Journal and Moyers & Company, and on documentary films focused on various issues, including the US opioid crisis and global climate emergency.

Jessica Corbett, Senior Editor: Prior to joining the newsroom in 2017, Corbett worked for Rolling Stone, The Nation, In These Times, and other publications in New York City and Chicago.

Jake Johnson, Senior Editor: Johnson joined the Common Dreams team in 2017. Before officially joining the newsroom, he contributed to the site and other outlets as a freelance writer with a focus on the progressive movement and healthcare justice.

Olivia Rosane, Opinion Editor: Prior to her arrival in 2023, Rosane wrote regularly for EcoWatch about the environment. Her work has also appeared in Atmos, YES! Magazine, Dissent, Tree Hugger, the Trouble, and Real Life, among other publications.

Mother Jones

Mother Jones: Mother Jones is an institution within progressive media. Founded in 1976 as a publication dedicated to investigative journalism, Mother Jones is one of the country’s oldest investigative news magazines. The Center for Investigative Reporting produces Mother Jones, expanding the platform to include two flagship podcasts and a strong social media presence. Explicitly reporting democracy and voting rights, racial justice, reproductive rights, and food and agriculture; the publication is fundamentally progressive.

Key Voices:

Monika Bauerlein, CEO: Bauerlein started her career as a foreign correspondent and worked with a range of publications before assuming her role as CEO of the Center for Investigative Reporting, which produces Mother Jones and their flagship programs: Reveal, and More to the Story.

Clara Jeffery, Editor-In-Chief: Jeffery is editor-in-chief of Mother Jones and the Center for Investigative Reporting, recipient of a PEN America award for editing, and past president of the American Society of Magazine Editors.

MTN

MeidasTouch: MTN was founded in 2020 by three brothers Ben, Brett, and Jordan Meiselas, whose presence in the liberal media space continues to grow. Their publication MTN, is focused on reporting that aims to strengthen democracy by informing the public and their “pro-democracy” readership whom they refer to as the Meidas Mighty. The publication produces a variety of podcasts on a wide range of topics, and a YouTube channel that adds a progressive lens to current events. Their publication has an explicit pro-democracy foundation; their content heavily amplifies a progressive perspective, and the platform has launched the three brothers into the liberal limelight.

Key Voices:

Ben Meiselas, Co-Founder: Ben Meiselas gained national recognition for his legal work representing high-profile clients, including serving as business partner and counsel to former NFL player Colin Kaepernick. His expertise in law and advocacy has established him as a voice on issues of justice and civil rights, while his transition into media has expanded his influence on public discourse.

Brett Meiselas, Co-Founder: Brett Meiselas is an Emmy Award-winning editor and leads video production and digital engagement for the network. Previously, he worked for The Ellen DeGeneres Show and Trojan Vision Television.

Jordan Meiselas, Co-Founder: In addition to his work with the MTN, Jordan Meiselas has a strong social media presence. Starting his career in marketing, he has translated his skills to help make MTN a rising media powerhouse.

Ron Filipkowski, Editor-In-Chief: A Marine and former Republican, Filipkowski has amassed a massive following for his reporting exposing those who threaten American democracy. Filipkowski co-hosts the hit podcast ‘Uncovered’ on the MeidasTouch Network.

THE NEW REPUBLIC

The New Republic: The New Republic, founded in 1914 launched as an “experiment” to convene liberal intellectuals arguing reform throughout the industrial era. The publication claims to continue that legacy bolstering perspectives that “rethink outworn assumptions and political superstitions as radically changing conditions demand.” The publication is progressive and geared towards an intellectual audience, reporting on news, culture, art, and literature.

Key Voices:

Michael Tomasky, Editor: Tomasky’s work has appeared across a wide range of publications, with three decades of experience as a writer. He took his first editorial role at The American Prospect, where he is still a contributing editor. In addition to his work at The New Republic, Tomasky is the editor at Democracy Journal.

Ryan Kearney, Executive Editor: Kearney built his career as an editor and reporter, working previously as a breaking news editor at POLITICO, an editor at TBD.com, and a staff writer at the New Haven Advocate.

CROOKED

Crooked Media: Founded in 2017, Crooked Media is a media platform that hosts many prominent liberal writers, commentators, and thinkers across a variety of programs. Crooked Media houses an array of podcasts and newsletters. Their most popular program is the podcast, Pod Save America, but other prominent shows include Strict Scrutiny and What A Day. Three of the founders worked in the Obama administration and have a deep history engaging in Democratic politics. They have adopted an activist approach and routinely criticize institutional media while promoting progressive policies and voices.

Key Voices:

Lucinda Kinau Treat, CEO: After graduating from Georgetown law in 1996, Treat began a career in corporate law. Following a four-year stint as the Chief Legal Officer for VICE media, Treat came to Crooked Media in 2022.

Jon Favreau, Co-Founder and Host: Favreau work on John Kerry’s 2004 campaign and was former president Barack Obama’s speech writer from 2005-2013. He is co-host of the podcast Pod Save America and maintains a strong social media presence.

Jon Lovett, Co-Founder and Host: Lovett is known for co-hosting Pod-Save America. Additionally, he worked as a speechwriter then-Senator Hillary Clinton, and again for Clinton during her presidential race. Following the 2008 primary, Lovett began writing speeches for the Obama administration.

Tommy Vietor, Co-Founder and Host: Vietor worked for President Obama for nine years, including a stint as White House National Security Spokesman. Now, he is

a co-host of Pod Save America and host of the foreign policy-focused Pod Save the World with Ben Rhodes.

Dan Pfeiffer, Host: A former White House communications director and noted political and digital strategist, Pfeiffer is a Pod Save America co-host, writer of the Message Box newsletter, and best-selling author. He was senior advisor to President Obama for strategy and communications from 2013 to 2015.



Vox: Vox is a popular media site that's goal is to make news understandable and digestible for anyone who wishes to be informed. Founded originally in 2014 by Matt Yglesias, Ezra Klein, Melissa Bell, the publication frequently reflects the progressive values of the publication's founders. Vox claims to have popularized explanatory journalism, and the publication is more widely read than other liberal media sites.

Key Voices:

Swati Sharma, Editor-In-Chief: Following her three-year tenure at The Atlantic where she served as Managing Editor, Sharma came to Vox in 2021. She has also held prominent roles across mainstream publications including The Washington Post and The Boston Globe where she contributed to Pulitzer Prize winning coverage of the Boston Marathon Bombing.

Noel King, Editorial Director: Prior to joining the Vox team, King worked across top tier programs including as the host of NPR's flagship radio show Morning Edition, reporting with Planet Money and Marketplace. He also hosts the podcast Today, Explained.

Zack Beauchamp, Senior Correspondent: Beauchamp covers challenges to democracy in the United States and abroad, right-wing populism, and foreign policy.

He hosts the Vox-owned podcast, Worldly, bolstering him as a key voice on foreign policy for the publication. Beauchamp is also the author of the newsletter, On the Right, a newsletter that reports on the rise of the conservative right.

Seam Rameswaram, Creative Director: Before he joined the Vox team, Rameswaram worked as a correspondent for Radiolab's More Perfect program. He also hosts the podcast Today, Explained.

Bryan Walsh, Senior Editorial Director: Walsh oversees Future Perfect, a series that explores current issues and how to solve them. Additionally, Walsh oversees Vox's climate teams and the podcasts Unexplainable and The Gray Area.



Daily Kos: Founded in 2002, Daily Kos is a digital media platform and activism hub connecting progressive news with activism networks across the country. Under the Daily Kos' organizational title, they employ journalists and activists to push progressive narratives and action. Their newsletters help to organize political campaigns aimed at changing policy in Washington and around the nation. The Daily Kos liberation league focuses on social justice issues, tracking elections, and endorsing candidates.

Key Voices:

Markos Moulitsas Zúniga, Publisher/Founder: Moulitsas is co-author of the critically acclaimed book Crashing the Gate: Netroots, Grassroots, and the Rise of People-Powered Politics, and Taking on the System: Rules for Radical Change in a Digital Era, a contributing columnist to Newsweek Magazine and a weekly columnist at The Hill newspaper.

David Nir, Political Director: Nir is responsible for the site's elections coverage, polling operations, race ratings, and the "Orange to Blue" fundraising list. Hired as Political Director in 2011, David has been a member of Daily Kos since 2002, and in 2003, he used the site's new diary feature as a launching pad for his own blog, the Swing State Project.

Joan McCarter, Senior Policy Editor: McCarter worked in both the district and Capitol Hill offices of then Congressman and now Senator Ron Wyden from 1987 until 1993 and worked on congressional campaigns in Oregon and Idaho. She has been a contributing editor at Daily Kos since 2006 and became Senior Policy Editor in 2010.



Slow Boring: After his departure from Vox, Matthew Yglesias started Slow Boring in 2020 as a daily newsletter that discusses public policy and newsworthy events around the United States. The newsletter's mission is to host difficult conversations that challenge biases and traditional perspectives. Both this goal and the outlet's name pull from a quote by philosopher Max Weber: "Politics is a strong and slow boring of hard boards. It takes both passion and perspective."

Key Voices:

Matthew Yglesias, Founder: In 2020, Yglesias split from his role as editor of VOX to publish his independent Substack, The Slow and Boring and join the Niskanen Center as a Senior Fellow. Yglesias is firmly a member of the center left; he has written about the benefits and potential strengths of moderates in combating bipartisanship. He often supports similar goals to liberals and leftists,

while critiquing specific policy and rhetoric within progressive movements.

Halina Bennet, Reporter: Bennet was editor-in-chief of Bowdoin College's school newspaper before graduating. She began her career as a National News Assistant for The New York Times, where she wrote for two years before coming to Slow Boring in August 2025.

Podcasts:



The Rachel Maddow Show: A narrative-driven political analysis podcast focused on institutional accountability, democratic norms, and fact-based reporting, using long-form storytelling, historical context, and legal analysis to examine current political developments.

Host: Rachel Maddow, a television host, political commentator, and author best known for The Rachel Maddow Show on MS NOW. Maddow has written, produced, and hosted four original podcasts for MS NOW.



Pantsuit Politics: A civic-focused political dialogue podcast that emphasizes nuance, empathy, and democratic engagement, offering contextual explanations and thoughtful discussion of U.S. politics without outrage-driven framing.

Host: Sarah Stewart Holland and Beth Silvers, civic educators and political commentators.



The Al Franken Podcast: A conversational political interview podcast featuring policy discussion, political analysis, and reflections on governance, drawing on Franken's experience in the U.S. Senate and mainstream Democratic politics.

Host: Al Franken, a former U.S. Senator and comedian.



The Daily Beans: A daily progressive news and accountability podcast combining political analysis, legal breakdowns, humor, and activism, designed as a morning news briefing focused on Trump accountability, rule of law, and social justice.

Host: Allison Gill, a former health system specialist for the US Dept. of Veterans Affairs and Executive Director of MSW Media; and Dana Goldberg, comedian and progressive political commentator.



Find Out Podcast: The Find Out podcast describes itself as an “irreverent” and “no bull****” podcast. The show breaks down the news of the day from a progressive lens while routinely mocking MAGA politics.

Host: Tim Fullerton, a former Obama campaign and admin staffer who led social media for the Department of the Interior and worked as chief digital officer for the State of New York; Kris Goldsmith, an investigator, writer, founder, and Iraq combat veteran; ItsLuke, a social media influencer with hundreds of thousands of followers; and Ohh That's Rich, a social media influencer and former journalist for MTV News



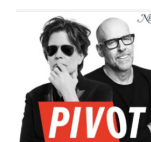
Pitchfork Economics: A policy-focused economics podcast challenging trickle-down and neoliberal economics, using interviews and explainers to promote worker-centered, inclusive-growth economic reforms.

Host: Nick Hanauer, a venture capitalist, entrepreneur and progressive economic advocate. He founded the League of Education Voters and has authored two books with Eric Liu on progressive civic engagement.



The Ezra Klein Show: A long-form interview podcast exploring ideas, institutions, and structural forces shaping public policy, economics, technology, and culture through evidence-based, analytical conversations.

Host: Ezra Klein, a former co-founder/editor-in-chief of Vox and columnist at The Washington Post, and currently an opinion writer for The New York Times. He is also the author of Why We're Polarized and Abundance.



Pivot: A technology, business, and politics podcast analyzing the intersection of corporate power, media, and public policy through insider commentary, data-driven analysis, and sharp debate.

Host: Kara Swisher, a journalist who has written for The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal and The Washington Post, and is also the Editor-at-Large for New York Magazine; and Scott Galloway, a current NYU professor and former WEF “Global Leaders of Tomorrow” honoree whose work spans marketing consulting and digital intelligence.



On with Kara Swisher: A long-form interview podcast featuring direct, accountability-focused conversations with influential figures across technology, media, politics, and culture, centered on power, leadership, and governance.

Host: Kara Swisher, a tech-focused journalist and editor for New York Magazine.



The Prof G Pod: A podcast network with different daily shows: Office Hours, which discusses business, career and life; China Decode, a discussion of the latest of China's economic, political and cultural news; Raging Moderates, a breakdown of the week's biggest political stories; and Conversations, discussions with thought leaders across business, geopolitics, tech, and culture.

Host: Scott Galloway, an NYU professor; Alice Han, a China strategist for a macroeconomic and geopolitical advisory firm; James Kynge, a principal of China Confidential and Renminbi Compass; and Jessica Tarlov, a political strategist for the Democratic Party and co-host of Fox News' The Five.



No Lie with Brian Tyler Cohen: A rapid-response political commentary podcast focused on countering conservative media narratives and reinforcing Democratic messaging through concise analysis, interviews, and talking points.

Host: Brian Tyler Cohen, a YouTube influencer covering national politics and progressive commentator critical of mainstream media. He co-founded Chorus Creator Incubator Program after the 2024 presidential election to build a progressive creator network. He has interviewed political figures like Joe Biden and Kamala Harris, among many other influential Democrats.



I've Had It: A personality-driven cultural and political commentary podcast channeling liberal frustration through humor, rants, and listener stories, focused on anti-MAGA themes and contemporary social norms.

Host: Jennifer Welch, a longtime Democrat and atheist; and Angie Sullivan, a former Republican and Christian who drifted away from those beliefs in recent years. The two co-hosted the Bravo series Sweet Home Oklahoma from 2016-2019, and launched I've Had It in 2022.



The Weekly Show: A long-form political and cultural discussion podcast that extends Stewart's satirical instincts into deeper, sustained conversations about power, accountability, and systemic failure across government, media, and corporate institutions. The show emphasizes context, rigor, and reform-oriented inquiry over rapid-fire comedy.

Host: Jon Stewart, a comedian, writer, political commentator and television host, known for The Daily Show on Comedy Central.



Higher Learning: A culture-forward commentary podcast examining race, politics, media, and identity through sharp analysis, lived experience, and humor, with a strong focus on accountability and representation—particularly as they relate to Black America and pop culture.

Host: Van Lathan, a journalist, producer, and political commentator, formerly a senior producer for TMZ; and Rachel Lindsay, an author, attorney, media personality, and podcaster.

Influencers:



Aaron Parnas | Substack:

The Parnas Perspective

Bio: Aaron Parnas is a popular public figure, journalist, and attorney. He

also hosts his own podcast, The Parnas Perspective under the MeidasTouch name. While Parnas is unapologetically reporting from a liberal lens, he steers clear of conspiracy theories and presents himself as a newsfluencer, who prioritizes factual reporting. He frequently provides round-the-clock coverage on fast evolving topics across his popular platforms.

Platforms: X, Instagram, TikTok, Substack, YouTube, Facebook



Jay Kuo | Substack:

The Status Kuo

Bio: Jay Kuo is a Broadway playwright, composer, and producer best known

for Allegiance, a musical about Japanese American internment during WWII. He began his political commentary in November 2020 on Facebook, covering Biden's election and Trump's attempts to overturn the results. This led to his ongoing political analysis on Substack and other platforms under the name The Status Kuo. He covers top news through a progressive lens.

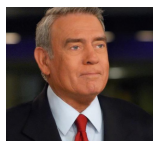
Platforms: Substack, Facebook, Bluesky, TikTok

**Judd Legum | Substack:**

Popular Information

Bio: Legum is best known as the founder and author of Popular

Information, an independent newsletter focused on accountability journalism that covers U.S. politics, public policy, and corporate influence. Previously, he co-founded and served as editor-in-chief of the political news site ThinkProgress and worked as research director on Hillary Clinton's 2008 presidential campaign. Legum explicitly reports through a progressive lens; however, he is committed to reported factual informational and openly discusses the importance of diverse opinions.

Platforms: X, Substack**Dan Rather | Substack:** Steady**Bio:** Dan Rather is an American broadcast journalist, commentator, and former national evening news anchor

with a career spanning more than seven decades. Most significantly, Rather held the anchor spot at CBS evening news for 24 years. Rather left the anchor desk in 2005 following the Killian documents controversy, in which he presented unauthenticated documents in a news report on President George W. Bush's Vietnam War-era service in the National Guard.

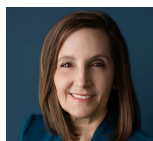
In 2010, he left CBS and began a series of more independent news projects, including his popular Substack, "Steady". Rather is staunchly against the Trump administration and openly reports from the liberal lens.

Platforms: X, Facebook, Instagram, Substack, YouTube**Matthew Yglesias | Substack:**

Slow Boring

Bio: Matthew Yglesias is a longtime American blogger, author, and

journalist who co-founded VOX. In 2020, Yglesias split from his role as editor of VOX to publish his independent Substack, The Slow and Boring and join the Niskanen Center as a Senior Fellow. Yglesias is firmly a member of the center left; he has written about the benefits and potential strengths of moderates in combating bipartisanship. He often supports similar goals to liberals and leftists, while critiquing specific policy and rhetoric within progressive movements.

Platforms: Substack, X, BlueSky, Facebook**Joyce Vance | Substack:**

Civil Discourse with Joyce Vance

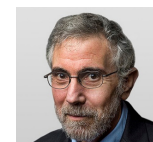
Bio: Joyce Vance is a former U.S. Attorney for the Northern District

of Alabama, nominated by President Obama, and a longtime federal prosecutor with deep expertise in criminal law and democratic institutions. She is now a law professor at the University of Alabama, a legal analyst for MSNBC and NBC, and the author of the Substack Civil Discourse. Central to Vance's perspective is her firmly pro-democracy, pro-institution, pro-civic engagement lens.

Platforms: Substack, X, Bluesky, Instagram, Facebook**Robert Reich | Substack:** Robert Reich**Bio:** Robert Reich is an American economist, author, and political commentator who served as U.S.

Secretary of Labor under President Bill Clinton from 1993 to 1997. He is a professor emeritus of public policy at UC Berkeley and a prominent voice on economic inequality, labor policy, and democracy. Reich is also the author of

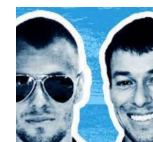
multiple bestselling books and produces widely followed commentary across Substack, YouTube, and social media. He utilized mixed media to illustrate his opinions and present information through a highly progressive lens. He believes his work should be used to meet the Republican party with a "bold progressive populist movement that strengthens democracy and shakes up the system."

Platforms: Substack, YouTube, X, Facebook, Instagram, Bluesky, TikTok**Paul Krugman | Substack:**

Paul Krugman

Bio: Paul Krugman is a Nobel Prize-winning economist, author, professor, and

political commentator known for his work on international trade, economic geography, and public policy. He spent more than two decades as a columnist for The New York Times and is currently a professor at Princeton University. Krugman writes and speaks widely on economic inequality, macroeconomics, and liberal democracy, primarily through his Substack newsletter. Krugman sees his independence through Substack as an opportunity to be more honest with his readers and open with his opinions. He is highly critical of the Republican party and frames the headlines through a progressive lens.

Platforms: Substack, X**Ed Krassenstein and Brian****Krassenstein | Substack:** Krassenstein**Bios:** Brian Krassenstein and Ed Krassenstein are twin brothers who are writers, entrepreneurs, and political commentators.

Their content is focused on reporting stories that are critical of the Republican party and support a progressive lens.

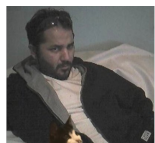
Platforms: X, Bluesky, Substack, YouTube

**Leigh McGowan | Substack:**

xoxo, Politics Girl

Bio: Leigh McGowan is an American political commentator, content

creator, and host who breaks down current events, public policy, and civic engagement for digital audiences across platforms. She built her following by translating complex issues into accessible explainers targeting younger voters, and she frequently appears in mainstream media to provide analysis on U.S. politics and elections. McGowan hosts her own podcast and has participated in political events including the 2024 Democratic National Convention. Her commentary is firmly social liberal, politically progressive, and pro-civic engagement.

Platforms: Substack, YouTube, X, Instagram, TikTok**Acyn Torabi****Bio:** Acyn Torabi began his career in software development and does not come from a traditional background

in politics or journalism. His content centers on short video clips highlighting the day's most compelling political moments, and it has a strong track record of going viral. Torabi works with a Texas-based software company, SnapStream, whose multichannel video feeds are used by newsrooms and marketing firms to monitor and analyze live television. Torabi often highlights and amplifies moments to expose weaknesses or contradictions in Republican politicians.

Platforms: X, Bluesky**Aaron Rupar | Substack:** Public Notice**Bio:** Aaron Rupar is a journalist, political commentator, and the founder of Public Notice, a Substack newsletter covering American politics, media, and democracy.

He previously served as a senior editor at Vox. Rupar's work focuses on accountability journalism, particularly analyzing right-wing media, political rhetoric, and the Trump movement, and his clips are widely cited by journalists, researchers, and policymakers across the political spectrum.

Platforms: Substack, YouTube, X, Bluesky, Facebook**Ken Klippenstein | Substack:**

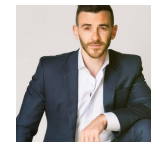
Ken Klippenstein

Bio: Ken Klippenstein is an American journalist who served as The Nation's

Washington DC correspondent and later reported with The Intercept. He left to become an independent journalist to focus on national security. Klippenstein is recognized for his work publishing the opposition research dossier on JD Vance's electoral vulnerabilities that was written by the Trump campaign leading up to the VP announcement.

Platforms: Substack, YouTube, X, Instagram, Bluesky, Facebook, TikTok**Jon Favreau | Substack:**

Crooked Media

Bio: Jon Favreau is a political commentator and speech writer. Early in his career, Favreau worked on John Kerry's 2004 campaign. Notably, Favreau was former President Obama's speech writer from 2005-2013. He co-founded Crooked Media in 2017 and became a co-host for the podcast Pod Save America. In addition to his work, he maintains a strong social media presence and has co-authored his first book, Democracy or Else, alongside his colleagues from Crooked Media.**Platforms:** Substack, YouTube, X, Instagram, Bluesky, Facebook, TikTok**Brian Tyler Cohen | Substack:**

Brian Tyler Cohen

Bio: Brian Tyler Cohen is a progressive political commentator, YouTuber, and

podcast host known for breaking down U.S. politics and countering conservative media narratives. He is the creator of No Lie with Brian Tyler Cohen and runs one of the largest progressive political channels on YouTube, where his content focuses on Democratic messaging, voting rights, and accountability journalism. Cohen is also the founder of Democracy Docket Media and writes a Substack newsletter covering elections, media, and American democracy. Cohen is explicitly reporting and reacting to politics from a liberal lens with a mission to better inform the public and frame politics through accessible analysis. He has interviewed high profile politicians and has a wide viewership across platforms.

Platforms: Substack, YouTube, X, Instagram, Bluesky, Facebook, TikTok, Twitch, Snapchat, Discord**Dean Withers | Substack:**

Dean's Substack

Bio: Dean Withers is an American political commentator and live streamer known

for his viral debate-style content on social media. He rose to prominence through TikTok and YouTube, where he challenges conservative arguments and discusses topics such as civil rights, democracy, and social policy from a liberal perspective. Withers frequently engages directly with ideological opponents, emphasizing debate, persuasion, and political education as part of his approach. He has spoken publicly about growing up in a conservative environment and later shifting toward liberal views. Through short-form clips and long-form discussions, he has built a large following as a prominent figure in online political discourse.

Platforms: YouTube, X, Instagram, TikTok, Discord, Substack


Joy-Ann Reid | Substack: Joy's House

Bio: Joy-Ann Reid is a political commentator, author, and media host with a long career in journalism and

political analysis. She became widely known as the host of The ReidOut on MSNBC and previously anchored AM Joy and The Reid Report, blending news coverage with commentary rooted in contemporary Democratic and progressive perspectives. Reid's work reflects her engagement with issues of race, democracy, and American political life.

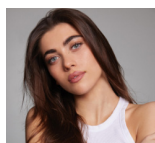
Platforms: Substack, YouTube, Instagram, Bluesky, Facebook, TikTok


Suzanne Lambert

Bio: Suzanne Lambert is a DC-based comedian and internet personality. Known as "the Regina George liberal,"

she rose to prominence on TikTok, where her viral videos blend satire, pop-culture references, and pointed liberal political critique. Lambert is a former Republican who has publicly discussed her ideological shift and is now aligned with the Democratic Party. Suzanne describes her style as quick, sharp, amused bewilderment; she pairs strangely strong opinions about inconsequential topics with beauty tips, hot political takes, and hosts well known political figures. She also hosts Mean But True, a podcast that explores pop culture, current events, and politics.

Platforms: YouTube, Instagram, TikTok


Amelie Zilber

Bio: Amelia Zilber is a digital creator, model, and social-impact communicator known for blending

fashion, lifestyle, and political education across social media. She rose to prominence on TikTok and Instagram, where she shares content on current events, global issues, and civic engagement alongside modeling and personal storytelling. Zilber also founded TwoMinuteTimes, a youth-focused news initiative designed to make complex political topics accessible through a short and explanatory newsletter.

Platforms: X, Instagram, TikTok


Elizabeth Booker Houston | Substack: bookersquared

Bio: Elizabeth Booker Houston is a legal commentator, writer, and digital

creator known for her sharp, humorous analysis of law, politics, and current events. She built a large social media following where she publishes long-form political commentary. Houston's work centers on progressive themes such as social justice, class, race, and accountability in public life.

Platforms: Substack, X, Instagram, TikTok


Ezra Klein

Bio: Ezra Klein is a columnist for The New York Times and the host of The Ezra Klein Show, where he interviews

thinkers, policymakers, and writers across politics, economics, and culture. He rose to prominence as a Co-Founder/Editor-in-Chief of Vox and was also a columnist at The Washington Post. He is also the author of Why We're Polarized and Abundance, and his work is generally associated with liberal and progressive policy analysis, though he emphasizes long-form reasoning over partisan advocacy.

Platforms: YouTube, X, Instagram, Bluesky


Rachel Maddow

Bio: Rachel Maddow is a television host, political commentator, and author best known for hosting The Rachel

Maddow Show on MS NOW. She is known for long-form, evidence-driven analysis of U.S. politics, national security, and history. Maddow has also authored bestselling books and produces documentary-style projects such as Ultra and Rachel Maddow Presents. Her work is widely associated with liberal and progressive perspectives, particularly in her critiques of authoritarianism and threats to democratic institutions.

Platforms: YouTube, Bluesky

The Preservationists

This section of liberal media features Democrats and “Never-Trump” Republicans who are concerned at attacks on American institutions and see the current cycle as a battle to save democracy and the republican system of government in the United States. Due to this focus on preserving American institutions, there is less policy coverage in these outlets than in the other segments of the liberal media sphere. This space is smaller than the other two in part because it is the voice of the establishment, much of which still resides in the traditional media institutions. This sphere features both new and old publications with many found on Substack. Another feature of this slice of the liberal media environment is the collegiality between the leading voices, many of whom have worked together in media or politics for several years. There is traditional news reporting, but the primary feature of their news coverage is opinion pieces and columns from the founders and others in their network. These outlets and individuals will play a leading role in framing the thematic debate over the country in 2028 including as top destinations for centrist political voices.

Publications

The Recount
Democracy Now!
The Atlantic
The Bulwark
The Dispatch
The UnPopulist

Podcasts

The Lincoln Project
Left, Right & Center

Influencers

Jennifer Rubin
David Pakman
Jesse Dollemore
Anne Applebaum
Heather Cox Richardson
Adam Kinzinger
Nate Silver

Publications



The Recount: Founded in 2019, The Recount is a media brand that is a part of Caliber News, a media company that houses The News Movement, The Recount, and Capsule. Promoted primarily through digital media channels, their reporting isn't explicitly partisan but is considered to have a slight left lean.

Key Voices:

Jessica Coen, Editor-and-Chief: Prior to joining The Recount, Coen spent three years at Caliber, The Recounts parent company. Coen has a long career as a media executive holding the title of Editor-and-Chief at Morning Brew, Mashable, Jezebel, and held senior editorial roles at Vanity Fair and New York Magazine, where she helped launch The Cut and expand Vulture.



Democracy Now!: Founded in 1996 by international journalists and documentarians Amy Goodman and Juan González, Democracy Now! is a leading force in independent broadcast media. The program offers a global news hour covering current events and long-form interviews, airing every weekday across a variety of public and community stations. They cover breaking news, social justice, war, the environment, and grassroots movements, with a focus on stories that are underrepresented in mainstream media. Critical of

corporate influence, Democracy Now! does not accept government or corporate funding.

Key Voices:

Amy Goodman, Host & Executive Producer: The Nieman Foundation for Journalism at Harvard honored Goodman with the 2014 I.F. Stone Medal for Journalistic Independence Lifetime Achievement Award. Goodman has co-authored six New York Times bestsellers. She co-writes a weekly column with Denis Moynihan, for which she was recognized in 2007 with the James Aronson Award for Social Justice Reporting.

Juan González, Co-Host: González is currently a Senior Fellow at the Great Cities Institute of the University of Illinois-Chicago. He has been a professional journalist for more than 40 years and was a staff columnist at the New York Daily News from 1987 to 2016. He is a two-time recipient of the George Polk Award for commentary and was inducted into the Deadline Club's New York Journalism Hall of Fame in 2015.

Nermeen Shaikh, Co-Host & Producer: Shaikh worked briefly at Al Jazeera English in Washington, D.C. before joining Democracy Now! in 2011. She serves on the Board of Directors of the Nobel Women's Initiative.



The Atlantic: The Atlantic is the earliest liberal media publication in the country, founded in 1857 under the title The Atlantic Monthly. The Atlantic is still a prominent publication known for politics, global affairs, and culture coverage. In recent years, it has taken a leading role in advocating for preserving American institutions and many of its former staff writers have

founded their own news publications. It has also hired reporters from The Washington Post building a roster of writers who shot to prominence during that paper's "Democracy Dies in Darkness" era.

Key Voices:

Nicholas Thompson, CEO: Prior to his role at The Atlantic, Thompson was the editor of WIRED for four years. Beyond his editorial experience, Thompson worked as a reporter across top publications including WIRED, CBS, CNN, Bloomberg, The New Yorker and more. Thompson created the platform SpeakEasy AI where people can engage in conversations around artificial intelligence and natural language processing.

Jeffrey Goldberg, Editor-in-Chief: In addition to his role, Goldberg moderates The Atlantic's program, Washington Week. Originally, Goldberg joined The Atlantic in 2007 as a national correspondent. Under his leadership, The Atlantic has won awards and grown its readership. Prior to joining the Atlantic, Goldberg spent time at a variety of publications including The Washington Post, The New Yorker, The Jerusalem Post, and The Forward.



The Bulwark: The Bulwark is fundamentally preservationist in nature; a publication dedicated to combating the far-right conservative movement, publishing accessible content with the goal of saving American democracy. The content is geared center to center right. Sarah Longwell, with the support of Bill Kristol and Charlie Sykes, launched the current rendition of The Bulwark in 2018. The publication has a variety of podcasts, newsletters, video content, and articles that primarily cover politics. The publication earns revenue from both a subscription and advertising business model.

Key Voices:

Jonathan V. Last, Editor: Last previously wrote for The Weekly Standard and has been a leading conservative voice against President Trump's takeover of the Republican Party.

Tim Miller, Podcast Host: A former communications director for Jeb Bush's presidential campaign, Miller is a writer-at-large and host of the successful flagship podcast The Bulwark. A never-Trump Republican, Miller has become a leading voice for moderate conservatism and is a regular contributor on national news networks and some progressive media platforms.

Sam Stein, Managing Editor: Stein is a veteran political journalist and a contributor to MS Now who has covered national politics and the White House.

The Dispatch

The Dispatch: The Dispatch was founded in 2019 as a rebellion from inflammatory news, mainstream media, and the conservative media sphere. However, The Dispatch is explicitly conservative; they claim to have a politically diverse and "politically homeless" readership. While the publications publish through a conservative lens, they claim to use factual reporting to persuade the public but not as an indictment of a particular party or person. While not explicitly a "never-Trump" publication, their critique of the right media ecosystem and the ways in which media operates within a movement directly correlates to a critique of Trumpian conservatism. Their content; newsletters, podcasts, and websites are funded through reader subscriptions and limited ads.

Key Voices:

Jonah Goldberg, Editor-in-Chief: Goldberg was a longtime editor at National Review and has written multiple books on politics. He also hosts the podcast The Remnant.

Steve Hayes, CEO & Editor: Prior to his current role, Hayes worked at The Weekly Standard and currently works as a political analyst for NBC News.

Sarah Isgur, Senior Editor: Isgur has worked in politics for the majority of her career, including stints in all three branches of government and on three presidential campaigns.



The UnPopulist: The UnPopulist is a digital publication and multimedia platform hosted on Substack dedicated to defending liberal democracy against the rise of populist authoritarianism globally. Founded in 2012, it operates under the Institute for the Study of Modern Authoritarianism (ISMA), a non-profit organization that seeks to move beyond traditional left-right partisan divides. The publication describes its mission in terms of "defending free and open societies against emerging forms of authoritarianism in the United States and around the world. Its content includes investigative essays, podcasts, and video reporting that scrutinize both nationalist populism on the right and illiberal trends on the left."

Key Voices:

Shikha Dalmia, Founder and Editor-in-Chief: Dalmia is President of ISMA and a former fellow at the Mercatus Center at George Mason University, but she ultimately left the libertarian movement because of its "failure to meet the challenge posed by Donald Trump".

Podcasts:



The Lincoln Project: A confrontational political commentary and messaging podcast focused on opposing Donald Trump and MAGA-aligned politics, emphasizing rule of law, democratic norms, and electoral strategy from an anti-Trump conservative perspective.

Host: Rick Wilson, Republican strategist and co-founder of The Lincoln Project.



Left, Right & Center: A public radio program and podcast that frames itself as a "civilized yet provocative antidote to self-contained opinion bubbles." The show brings together representatives from across the political spectrum to debate current events, policy, and pop culture, with the goal of providing clarity on ideological differences rather than smoothing them over.

Host: David Greene, an award-winning journalist and former co-host of NPR's Morning Edition, serves as the moderator. Regular panelists include Mo Elleithee (representing the left) and Sarah Isgur (representing the right).

Influencers:



Jennifer Rubin | Substack:

The Contrarian

Bio: Jennifer Rubin is a former conservative commentator with

The Washington Post, who split from the Republican Party following Trump's rise in power. Rubin turned to Substack under the blog, The Contrarian, for an independent platform following Jeff Bezos' refusal to run an endorsement of Kamala Harris for president. Rubin is explicitly against the Trump administration in her public commentary and contrasts the administration with the "democracy movement."

Platforms: Substack, X, Bluesky



David Pakman | Substack:

The David Pakman Show

Bio: David Pakman is a political commentator, author, and media host

best known for The David Pakman Show, a widely followed progressive talk show and podcast. He built his audience through digital media, particularly YouTube, where he provides analysis of U.S. politics, media, and culture from a left-leaning perspective. Pakman frequently discusses issues such as democracy, economic inequality, and misinformation, while also critiquing political extremism across the spectrum. He is the author of Think Like a Detective, which focuses on critical thinking and evaluating claims in public discourse. Through his show and writing, Pakman has become a prominent voice in independent progressive media.

Platforms: Substack, YouTube, X, Instagram, Bluesky, Facebook, TikTok



Jesse Dollemore

Bio: Jesse Dollemore is a political commentator, YouTube creator, and podcaster best known for his channel

Dollemore Daily and the podcast I Doubt It with Dollemore. A U.S. Air Force veteran, he frequently draws on his personal background and experiences to analyze American politics and media narratives. A former Republican, Dollemore has publicly discussed his departure from the party and now produces content rooted in liberal and progressive critiques of conservative politics. His work focuses on accountability, voting rights, and misinformation, often combining direct commentary with audience engagement.

Platforms: YouTube, Instagram, Bluesky, Facebook, TikTok



Anne Applebaum | Substack:

Open Letters

Bio: Anne Applebaum is a Pulitzer Prize-winning historian, staff writer for

The Atlantic, and a senior fellow at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies. She is widely regarded as a preeminent expert on the history of communism and the development of civil society in Central and Eastern Europe. Applebaum has authored several seminal works, including Gulag: A History and Iron Curtain, which document the mechanics of Soviet totalitarianism. In recent years, her work has pivoted toward the global rise of authoritarianism and the fragility of liberal democracy, as detailed in her book Twilight of Democracy. She is a co-founder of the Arena program, which researches disinformation and the 21st-century "information war."

Platforms: X, Substack



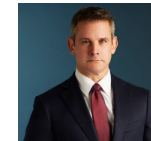
Heather Cox Richardson | Substack:

Letters from an American

Bio: Heather Cox Richardson is an American historian, author, and political

commentator best known for her newsletter Letters from an American. A professor of history at Boston College, she specializes in the history of democracy, capitalism, and the Republican Party, frequently applying historical context to contemporary U.S. politics. She has described herself as a "Lincoln-era Republican," grounding her work in democratic principles rather than modern party affiliation.

Platforms: Substack, YouTube, X, Instagram, Bluesky, Facebook, TikTok



Adam Kinzinger | Substack:

Adam Kinzinger

Bio: Adam Kinzinger is a former GOP Congressman who is now a political

influencer who is pro-democracy and anti-Trump. While he has not outright claimed to be a Democrat, his anti-trump stance has pushed him against mainstream republicans and firmly identifies him as a moderate.

Platforms: X, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, Substack



Nate Silver | Substack:

Silver Bulletin
Bio: Nate Silver is a statistician, writer, and data analyst best known for pioneering election forecasting through

the founding of FiveThirtyEight. He gained national prominence for accurately modeling U.S. presidential elections and translating complex statistical concepts into accessible public analysis. Silver is also the author of The Signal and the Noise, which explores probabilistic thinking and decision-making under uncertainty. After leaving FiveThirtyEight, he launched the Substack newsletter Silver Bulletin, where he writes independently about politics, media, sports, and data science.

Platforms: Substack, X

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