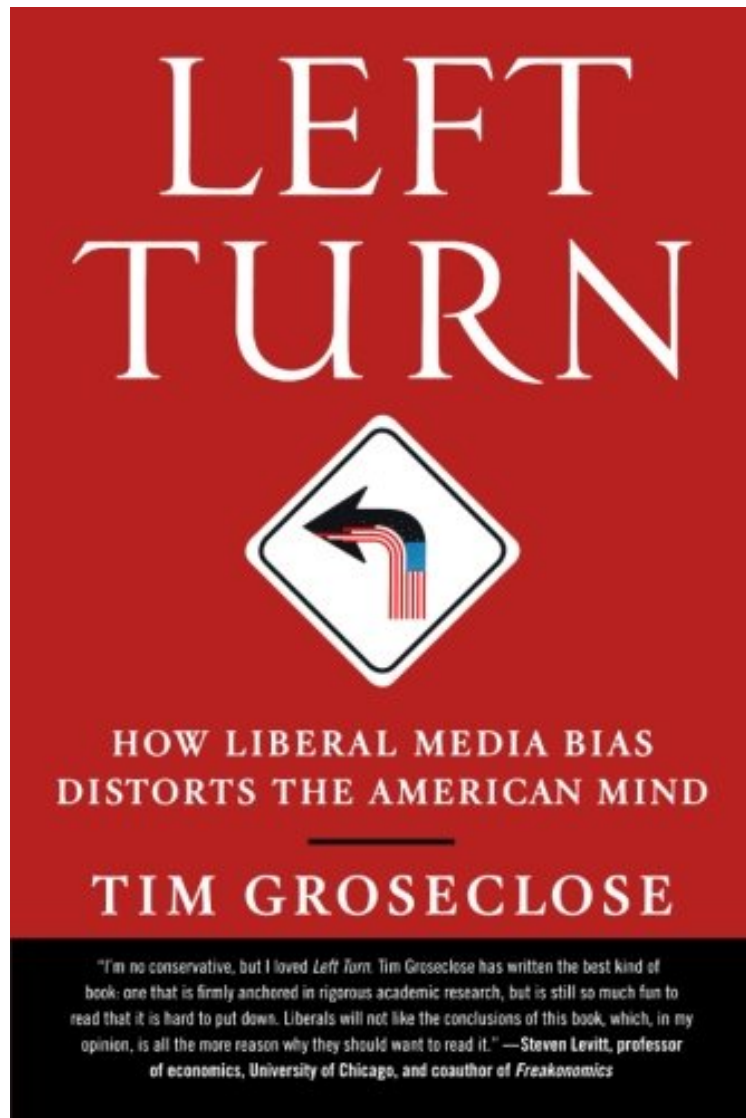


(Online library) Left Turn: How Liberal Media Bias Distorts the American Mind

# Left Turn: How Liberal Media Bias Distorts the American Mind

*Tim Groseclose PhD*

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**Tim Groseclose PhD : Left Turn: How Liberal Media Bias Distorts the American Mind** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Left Turn: How Liberal Media Bias Distorts the American Mind:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Thoughtful, honest and important analysis of media bias and its effectsBy Kent CovingtonThis book represents the most thoughtful, comprehensive and scientific evaluation of media slant in America that anyone has done thus far. The subtitle of the book might suggest that it's a conservative rant on left-wing media bias (titles and subtitles are, of course, designed to get attention and sell books). But not so. If fact, it's

an incredibly measured, dispassionate, fact-based and honest analysis of bias in the news media. This book is not a rant, it was written to be a conversation-starter. Groseclose proves that media slant exists. He also measures the degree to which it is slanted and offers a persuasive case that it matters; that media bias does have an impact on culture, elections and public policy. Left Turn is an important work and well worth the time I spent reading it. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Confirmation of what I've believed for years, that most news is biased and that is harmful to democracy. By Mike S. This book confirms what I have known for years, that journalists distort the news to push a liberal agenda and that is harmful to America. This book puts into perspective the magnitude of bias practices using statistics and research. The author goes to great lengths to explain the science the data from not only his own, but several other studies that prove the bias of the mainstream media. His use of thought experiments are very helpful to illustrate some of the more complex points of his research. He makes a point that his methodologies and research have never been seriously questioned by his peers or anyone from the left. This seems to me like it is one of the most important books written in the last several years and explains why America continues to drift unnaturally towards the left with further moral decline and great divisiveness. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Eye-opening look at media bias using real numbers. By E. Miller. This book does a great job of explaining what media bias is, and showing that, indeed the media is biased. The author supports his conclusions with hard data, and discusses how the media is biased as well as its effects. In the end, bias is about which news is reported and how, not "fake news": media outlets on all sides tend to be accurate. But read the book to see how accurate reporting can still be biased, and still influence people's opinions.

Dr. Tim Groseclose, a professor of political science and economics at UCLA, has spent years constructing precise, quantitative measures of the slant of media outlets. He does this by measuring the political content of news, as a way to measure the PQ, or "political quotient" of voters and politicians. Among his conclusions are: (i) all mainstream media outlets have a liberal bias; and (ii) while some supposedly conservative outlets such as the Washington Times or Fox News' Special Report do lean right, their conservative bias is less than the liberal bias of most mainstream outlets. Groseclose contends that the general leftward bias of the media has shifted the PQ of the average American by about 20 points, on a scale of 100, the difference between the current political views of the average American, and the political views of the average resident of Orange County, California or Salt Lake County, Utah. With Left Turn readers can easily calculate their own PQ to decide for themselves if the bias exists. This timely, much-needed study brings fact to this often overheated debate.

With knowledge there is victory and power. This book helps Americans learn the truth and discover how we are being manipulated by the mainstream media. It is hard to understate how brilliant and insightful Left Turn is. It is, I believe, one of the most important books ever written about American politics. Congressman Paul Broun, M.D. (R-Ga.) I'm no conservative, but I loved Left Turn. Tim Groseclose has written the best kind of book: one that is firmly anchored in rigorous academic research, but is still so much fun to read that it is hard to put down. Liberals will not like the conclusions of this book, which in my opinion, is all the more reason why they should want to read it. Steven Levitt, Professor of Economics, University of Chicago, and co-author of Freakonomics. This book--an evolution from the pioneering article in the 2005 Quarterly Journal of Economics by Groseclose and Jeffrey Milroy--uses a clever statistical technique to construct an objective measure of conservative or liberal bias in news coverage. This method and those now adopted by other serious researchers show clearly that most U.S. news outlets lean left. Most frighteningly, we learn that the media bias actually affects the ways that people think and vote. Robert Barro, Professor of Economics, Harvard University, and Senior Fellow, Hoover Institution. This book serves up the most convincing evidence for media bias I have seen, ever. Tim Groseclose is the leading academic scholar in the area, but this is a smartly-written book which every person can read for enlightenment and also for pleasure. Tyler Cowen, Professor of Economics, George Mason University, and co-author of the internationally acclaimed economics blog, MarginalRevolution.com. In writing this book Professor Groseclose has done a great service for our country. Congressman Allen West (R-Fla.), (Lt. Col. U.S. Army, ret.) About the Author TIM GROSECLOSE is the Marvin Hoffenberg Professor of American Politics at UCLA. He has joint appointments in the political science and economics departments. He has held previous faculty appointments at Caltech, Stanford University, Ohio State University, Harvard University, and Carnegie Mellon University. Excerpt. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. 1. What Are PQs and How Do They Reveal Media Bias? COME ON. POLITICAL science isn't really a science, said my friend Dawson Engler one day, trying to goad me. Engler, one of the country's premier computer scientists, is currently a professor at Stanford, where his specialty is operating systems. He has constructed his own operating system twice. He is the type of person who succeeds at nearly anything he tries. Born in Yuma, Arizona, during high school he placed second in the Teenage Mr. Arizona bodybuilding contest. After graduating from Arizona State University, he enrolled in the highly prestigious computer-science PhD program at MIT. It is unusual for a PhD student to publish a paper in a peer-reviewed scientific journal. Yet Engler published eight while a doctoral student. Shortly after Stanford hired him, for a brief period he dated one of the actresses from Baywatch. When Engler goaded me, both of us held positions at

MIT, and he knew that my position was in the political-science department. At MIT, which is filled with real scientists and engineers, you often hear quips like Englers. So when he made it, I was prepared. Look, I said. We can both agree that if you can graph something, then you can describe it mathematically. Yeah, said Engler. And people, all the time, talk about politicians being left wing or right wing. Okay, said Engler. And so if a position is left wing or right wing, then you can graph it. Which means you can describe it mathematically. Which means its science. Engler smiled. I dont think I really convinced him, but he didnt goad me any further. At least in my mind, Id won the days debate.\*\*\*

**WITHIN POLITICAL SCIENCE** a small industry exists to do the science that I described to Engler: to calculate precise, numerical measurements that describe the liberalness or conservativeness of politicians. In fact, at the time Engler made his quip, I was working on such a project. Indeed, the political quotients that I describe in this book are based on that research. A persons PQ is a number, generally between 0 and 100, that describes how liberal he or she is. I have created a Web site, [www.timgroseclose.com/calculate-your-pq](http://www.timgroseclose.com/calculate-your-pq), which allows you to compute your own PQ. I have computed PQs for members of Congress by observing their record on roll call votes. By answering the following ten questions, you can get a rough approximation of your PQ. When you answer the questions, try to put yourself in the shoes of the members of Congress and decide how you would have voted at the time that the politicians considered the measure. For instance, some people feel that the Cash for Clunkers program was not as successful as they hoped or thought it would be. Accordingly, when you answer the question related to this program as well as when you answer the other questions think about your opinion of the issue when it was considered in Congress, not necessarily about how you feel about it now.

1. On January 29, 2009, the Senate passed the SCHIP bill (State Childrens Health Insurance Program). The bill would provide matching funds to states for health insurance to families with children. The funds would be limited to families with incomes less than three times the federal poverty level. The cost would be offset by increasing the federal tax on cigarettes from \$0.61 to \$1.00 a pack. Democrats voted 580 in favor of the bill; Republicans voted 832 against the bill.
  - a. I would have favored the bill.
  - b. I cant decide.
  - c. I would have opposed the bill.
2. On February 26, 2009, the Senate passed the District of Columbia House Voting Rights Act. The act would create a House district for D.C., and simultaneously create an additional House district in Utah. The Utah district would be subject to change or elimination by future censuses. The act would give D.C. one vote in the Electoral College, however it would not give D.C. representation in the Senate. Democrats favored the bill 562; Republicans opposed it 535.
  - a. I would have favored the bill.
  - b. I cant decide.
  - c. I would have opposed the bill.
3. On April 1, 2009, the House passed a bill that would limit the bonuses of executives if their company received TARP (Troubled Asset Relief Program) funds. It granted authority to the secretary of the treasury to set standards for such executive compensation, including determining what is excessive compensation. Democrats favored the bill 2368; Republicans opposed it 11163.
  - a. I would have favored the bill.
  - b. I cant decide.
  - c. I would have opposed the bill.
4. On April 30, 2009, Senator Richard Durbin proposed an amendment to the Helping Families Save Their Homes Act. His amendment, titled Prevention of Mortgage Foreclosures, was sometimes called the cramdown provision. According to the provision, if a homeowners income was low enough (less than 80 percent of the median income), then a bankruptcy judge could reduce the level of the interest and principle that the home owner owed on a mortgage. Democrats favored the amendment 4512; Republicans opposed it 039.
  - a. I would have favored the amendment.
  - b. I cant decide.
  - c. I would have opposed the amendment.
5. On June 18, 2009, the House considered a major appropriations bill. Jerry Lewis, a Republican from California, introduced an amendment to the bill that would bar funds from being used to shut down the Guantanamo Bay prison. The amendment would have acted against an executive order that President Obama had issued to close the facility. Democrats opposed the amendment 39213; Republicans favored the amendment 1733.
  - a. I would have opposed the amendment (that is, I would have favored shutting down Guantanamo).
  - b. I cant decide.
  - c. I would have favored the amendment.
6. On June 26, 2009, the House passed the American Clean Energy and Security Act, the main provision of which was to create a cap and trade system. Under the system, energy producers would be allotted a cap on the pollutants they could emit, but they could buy credits from other energy producers if they wanted to emit more pollutants. Or, if they emitted less pollutants than their cap, they could sell some of their credits to other producers. The bill set a target of reducing emissions to 83 percent of the 2005 level by the year 2050. The act also included several billions of dollars for incentives for businesses to invest in green technologies. Democrats favored the bill 21043; Republicans opposed it 8169.
  - a. I would have favored the bill.
  - b. I cant decide.
  - c. I would have opposed the bill.
7. On July 31, 2009, the House passed the Cash for Clunkers bill (officially named The Consumer Assistance to Recycle and Save Program). It provided \$2 billion in vouchers to people who traded in an older, less fuel-efficient car and bought a newer, more fuel-efficient car. Democrats favored the bill 23814; Republicans opposed it 7895.
  - a. I would have favored the bill.
  - b. I cant decide.
  - c. I would have opposed the bill.
8. On August 26, 2009, the Senate voted on the confirmation of Sonia Sotomayor to be a justice on the Supreme Court. Democrats favored her confirmation 580; Republicans opposed it 931.
  - a. I would have favored her confirmation.
  - b. I cant decide.
  - c. I would have opposed her confirmation.
9. On November 8, 2009, the Senate considered an amendment proposed by Senator Ben Nelson (D-Neb.) to the Obamacare health bill. His amendment would have barred federal money to be used to pay for an abortion. Further, federal money could not help pay for any health plan that covered abortions. The Democrats opposed the amendment 752; Republicans favored it 382.

(Technically, the vote was on a motion by Barbara Boxer to table the Nelson amendment.) a. I would have opposed the amendment. b. I can't decide. c. I would have favored the amendment. 10. On December 15, 2009, the Senate voted on a provision to allow U.S. citizens to import prescription drugs. Most important, it would have allowed citizens to order prescription drugs from Canadian pharmacies, which often sold the drugs at lower prices than U.S. pharmacies did. (The provision was the Dorgan amendment to the Reid amendment to the Pharmaceutical Market Access and Drug Safety Act.) Democrats opposed the measure 2831; Republicans favored it 2317. a. I would have favored the provision. b. I can't decide. c. I would have opposed the provision. Give yourself ten points for each time that you answered a, five points for each b, and zero points for each c. Next, add up the points. That is approximately your PQ. One feature of the PQ is that it is constructed from roll call votes in Congress. This means that simply by noting how members of Congress voted on those roll calls, I can calculate their PQs, and you can compare your PQ to theirs. The following are the PQs of some well-known politicians. PQs and Media Bias Perhaps the ...