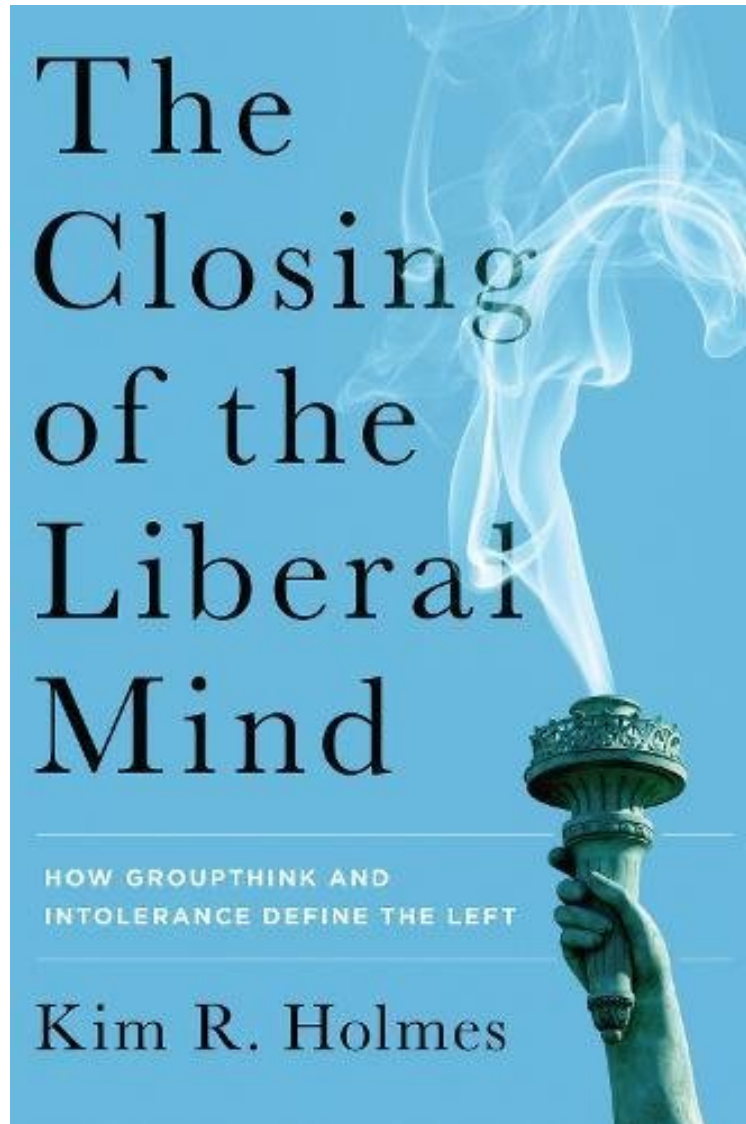


The Closing of the Liberal Mind: How Groupthink and Intolerance Define the Left

Kim R. Holmes

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Kim R. Holmes : The Closing of the Liberal Mind: How Groupthink and Intolerance Define the Left before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Closing of the Liberal Mind: How Groupthink and Intolerance Define the Left:

20 of 20 people found the following review helpful. The key to understanding the oxymoron of liberal intoleranceBy ceebeIf you are in search for an explanation of the recent antics of the Left in the House of Representatives with their

sit-in, petulantly demanding a vote on gun controls, and eagerly jettisoning the Bill of Rights, look no further than this book! The answers are here. Those on the far Left are no longer true liberals. Rather, the regressive, excuse me, progressive movement, as the author analyzes, has become one of gross intolerance punctuated by puerile shouting down of any and all views that are not concordant with their emotion-driven, and inaccurate, world view. This is an essential read in the 2016 election cycle. It will give the reader a window into the emotion-driven mindset of the illiberal mind going forward, unless appropriate checks, balances and common sense are restored. I did not find this book to be a difficult read, as a few have noted. While it didn't read as fast as a spy thriller novel, I did not have to slog through it, as I did when I read Kenneth Minogue's 1963 classic *The Liberal Mind*. Of the two, this is, in my assessment, the timelier and more important work for our day. 5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Finally, a clear, concise remedy for the lack of a decent education in the history of "Liberalism" By ndplume This is a must read book for every thinking person, especially for people under 30, a generation of Americans who have no personal memory of the Soviet Union and have been denied an education that even begins to give them a basic perspective of history. (Judging from their support for Bernie Sanders' socialism, they prove true Churchill's warning that, if we cannot "learn from the mistakes of history, we are doomed to repeat them.") In the beginning of this book, Holmes lays out a clear and concise explanation of just how we have gotten to the horribly uninformed place that we find ourselves today. It's all there in a few chapters, modernism, re-defined liberalism, progressivism, postmodernism and all of the re-self-definition games that have been played by the left over the years as every Marxist-based national government in the world disgraced itself and eventually imploded by the end of the Cold War. Save yourself hundreds of hours of reading by starting with this clearly written and very enlightening new book. If you read this book and see the new movie, "Hillary's America," the scales will fall from your eyes, and you will understand how badly we have been bamboozled by the left-leaning media and education system. Before we throw out the baby of freedom with the bathwater of historical ignorance, every American owes it to his/her country to read this short book. 8 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Why change is so difficult in an era when elites control so much and continuity is run by so very few. By douglas brown Holmes gives clear, compelling evidence for his views concerning how the institutions and the leaders who run such institutions remain entrenched in their thoughts about what is acceptable and not acceptable in the "group think" elite circles.

A former U.S. Assistant Secretary of State and currently a Distinguished Fellow at the Heritage Foundation, Kim R. Holmes surveys the state of liberalism in America today and finds that it is becoming its opposite: illiberalism, abandoning the precepts of open-mindedness and respect for individual rights, liberties, and the rule of law upon which the country was founded, and becoming instead an intolerant, rigidly dogmatic ideology that abhors dissent and stifles free speech. Tracing the new illiberalism historically to the radical Enlightenment, a movement that rejected the classic liberal ideas of the moderate Enlightenment that were prominent in the American Founding, Holmes argues that today's liberalism has forsaken its American roots, incorporating instead the authoritarian, anti-clerical, and anti-capitalist prejudices of the radical and largely European Left. The result is a closing of the American liberal mind. Where once freedom of speech and expression were sacrosanct, today liberalism employs speech codes, trigger warnings, boycotts, and shaming rituals to stifle freedom of thought, expression, and action. It is no longer appropriate to call it liberalism at all, but illiberalism: a set of ideas in politics, government, and popular culture that increasingly reflects authoritarian and even anti-democratic values, and which is devising new strategies of exclusiveness to eliminate certain ideas and people from the political process. Although illiberalism has always been a temptation for American liberals, lurking in the radical fringes of the Left, it is today the dominant ideology of progressive liberal circles. This makes it a new danger not only to the once venerable tradition of liberalism, but to the American nation itself, which needs a viable liberal tradition that pursues social and economic equality while respecting individual liberties.

About the Author Kim R. Holmes is a Distinguished Fellow and former Vice President of The Heritage Foundation and a former U.S. Assistant Secretary of State. His published works include *Rebound: Getting America Back to Great* (Rowman Littlefield, 2013) and *Liberty's Best Hope: American Leadership for the 21st Century* (Heritage Foundation, 2007). He has an M.A. and a Ph.D. in history from Georgetown University with a focus on European and American history.