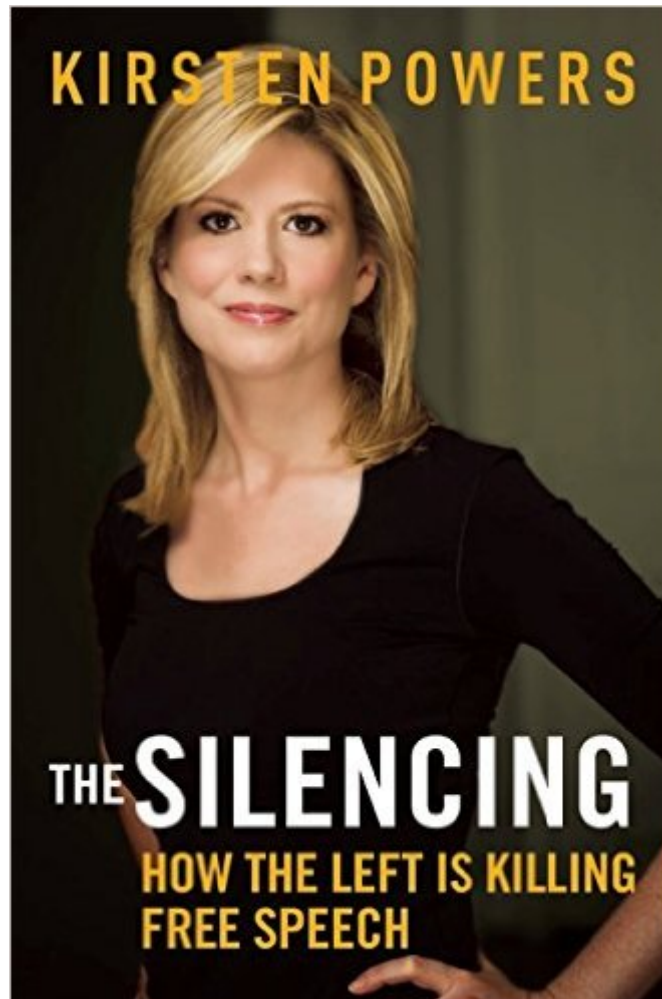


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The Silencing: How The Left Is Killing Free Speech



Synopsis

Lifelong liberal Kirsten Powers blasts the Left's forced march towards conformity in an exposé of the illiberal war on free speech. No longer champions of tolerance and free speech, the "illiberal Left" now viciously attacks and silences anyone with alternative points of view. Powers asks, "What ever happened to free speech in America?"

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Kirsten Powers opens up by explaining that she is not a natural conservative. She comes from an Irish, working-class background and considered herself Democratic all of her life. She went to George Washington University and the University of Maryland, one which I attended, the other one just down the street. They are liberal bastions. Her life's experience has made her more conservative. The subtitle of the book, *How the Left Is Killing Free Speech*, and her choice of a publisher, Regnery, suggest that this is a radically right-wing book. It is not at all that. It is simply a plea for common sense. Here, already before she has started, her point is made. Liberal orthodoxy has so defined the spectrum of thought in modern America that simply to question it, which is all she really wants to do, is to brand oneself as a right-winger. Miss Powers is a USA Today contributor and a Fox News contributor. These are both centrist mass outlets, conservative mainly in the sense that they are often smeared as conservative. At 36 she is relatively young. She does not make many historical references. Let me start out with a few. Saul Alinsky wrote the book on smearing conservatives. He called it *Rules for Radicals*. • (NB: I included his rules as the 8th comment

below.) The techniques that Miss Powers describes have been used by propagandists for all of my lifetime. I live in Ukraine, and note with chagrin that Russia is extremely effectively applying most of the techniques that she describes in order to vilify Ukraine and turn the Russian people (and American and European libertarians!) into unthinking supporters of Vladimir Putin. The illiberal liberal camp, her word, champions pet issues which will be familiar to any reader of this review.

Be afraid, be very afraid, because the events described in Kirsten's book are snowballing. I think this should be a candidate for book of the year. Let me explain. I am a professor at a liberal state university, and I see all of the situations in Kirsten's book unfolding first hand. In fact, my university was listed in Kirsten's book as one of the colleges that threatened or derecognized Christian groups for their refusal to say they would not 'discriminate' on the base of belief--and I served on one of those hearing committees! Anyway, this book exposes a disturbing trend happening in the US and specifically in college campuses in general--the assault on free speech by a growing segment of liberals that Kirsten calls ILLIBERALS (I like this term because it sounds like illogical and liberal juxtaposed). For ILLIBERALS, free speech is fine, as long as it's the kind of speech they agree with. Anything else must be silenced FOR THE GREATER GOOD. Of course, they define what "the greater good is" and it rarely is good for society as a whole. ILLIBERALS feel any speech they disagree with is violence against them. And they feel warranted in some cases to use physical violence. Kirsten gave the example of a UCSB professor who >physically attacked< a teenage pro-life activist. Her university hailed her as a hero. Which I find funny because a professor at my university tweeted a post about fat graduate students not having will power, and he was reprimanded, and told to take sensitivity training, removed from committees, and had to issue a public apology. Kirsten describes two main techniques that ILLIBERALS use to silence free speech, and gives copious examples throughout.

Like millions of other people, I watch and enjoy Fox News. Kirsten Powers is one of the reasons I enjoy that News Outlet. While many of the Progressives / Liberals on that channel are also fine journalists, some of the Liberal talking heads are there to carry water for their bosses, be it Obama or Hillary or whomever. Kirsten Powers is a person of deep conviction and belief. She comes to her views sincerely and honestly, and I enjoy hearing from people like that. She grew up as a Liberal child in Conservative Alaska. Her parents were Liberal academics who taught at the local University. Her house mourned when Carter lost to Reagan while their neighbors cheered. During her adult life, she became a professional in various aspects of Democrat political life and eventually she came to

Fox News. A few years after that, she became a Christian. Still a sincere Liberal, she also began to see the bubble she had been living in for what it was. Powers uses this book to point out the problems with the political debate in our Country right now and while both parties have some guilt in the sins she enumerates; the Liberals in academia, the media, and in the highest offices in the land are the most egregious and systematic offenders. She points out that only about a quarter of adults over 45 think there is too much free speech in America. But over 45% of those 18 to 45 do! That means as those adults mature and become the authority figures in society, free speech is going to be in trouble. We hear many on the Left, including Hillary Clinton(!) saying the first amendment must be changed because it is infringing on too many other rights â “ the ones she and other Progressives prefer and canâ™t win if there is open and free debate about them.

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