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Posted on 09 February 2019 By Bob Woodward

^FREE BOOK ? Fear: Trump in the White House ? PDF eBook or Kindle

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I have to say, I'd enjoyed Michael Wolff's book much more than this one. Simply because it was so much easier for me to indulge in Wolff's narrative of chaos and stupidity. What Woodward serves up here is harder for me to accept. The gist: The president gets what he wants and has plenty of enablers and supporters who will make any of his wants come true. I don't know how others see it, but it's clear to me the real pushback Trump ever got had to do with tariffs and South Korea. Yeah, his staff calls him names behind his back, so what? They go along with his bullshit anyway. I don't know why the White House needed to rebut anything written in this book. It portrays Trump as a man who will go after his goals with relentless stubbornness. No amount of information, common sense, expertise will distract him. You and I may have an issue with his view of the world where America's only purpose should be making money, and money his inability to understand complexities of geopolitics or his use of power as the only diplomatic tool. But Trump's supporters love it. What depressed me the most not that the book draws Trump as the small, limited person that he is, but that he will achieve most of what he aims to achieve, because he has the likes of Lindsey Graham and Mike Pence around to help him. And he will do so while tweeting disgusting garbage about women, people of color, asylum seekers, et al. There is no resistance in the White House, let's not kid ourselves. This is America now and it can be changed only by people voting in the next election. As far as the writing itself goes, I found the book to be very messy and poorly organized. I am guessing it is well-sourced, but the main sources work here mostly to repair their public image. It's clear Cohn, Porter, Priebus and Bannon were the main spillers of the beans. Now I am going to watch Brett Kavanaugh's hearing and get even more depressed. Revelation: Cohn realized that Trump had gone bankrupt six times and seemed not to mind. Bankruptcy was just another business strategy. Walk away, threaten to blow up the deal. Real power is fear. Donald Trump is probably the most divisive President in US history and has created a polarized nation between those believing he is honestly and strategically playing a role to achieve gains for the US, and those who think he's destructive, stumbling from one, sometimes self-imposed, incident to another. The world that shaped Trump is one of privilege and wealth. His business style is one of brash authority where he doesn't need to placate others, and if he makes a mistake, it costs money but is not life and death. As US President, one of the most powerful men in the world, he is responsible for global politics, economics and national security, and IT IS a matter of life and death. The big issue I wanted answering is, whether Trump is equipped with the capability, integrity and selfless ambition to form a Government and serve his nation. He is required to shoulder the expectations of ALL citizens to deliver prosperity and security to his country and play his role on an inclusive world stage. Is he doing this? Bob Woodward sets out a journalistic style, piece by piece book, that draws a picture of a leader that is erratic, unpredictable and will say and

do anything to remain a popular public figure The image of Trump is of a president that lacks knowledge about his area of responsibility, someone who lacks integrity, someone who cannot analyse a situation in depth and bring comprehensive diverse advice to inform a coherent defensible but definite decision He will make irrational decisions with little appreciation of political structures, legislature or legal agreements Despite almost daily report of chaos and discord in the White House, the public did not know how bad the internal situation actually was Trump was always shifting, rarely fixed, erratic He would get in a bad mood, something large or small would infuriate him Trump is presented through the various incidents covered in the book to show a lack of understanding on economic strategies and how they affect domestic and global markets, and how little candour and loyalty he has when it comes to building a team that can cohesively deliver the Government's plans His turnaround in staff is deeply concerning and his history of turning apparently close friends into enemies is shocking In particular the Clintons, Steve Bannon Trump's Chief Strategist and Gary Cohn Director of National Economic Council With Trump's impulsive and unpredictable approach, this can be advantageous in certain instances and can achieve results For example, the NATO agreements on moving each member country to honour its committed financial contribution, or the rapid consolidation of the Gulf Cooperation Council, showing unity against Iran It would be a great tool to have at your disposal when diplomacy drags in the quagmire of debate and negotiation However, if it becomes the norm, it becomes predictable and playable Woodward describes a White House environment where advisors, aides, appointed officials, and Government staff are constantly berated while they protect the President Country by hiding executive order documents to prevent serious international consequences Rex Tillerson Secretary of State, after one of the senior staff meetings, says to Reince Priebus just don't like the way the president talks to these generals They don't deserve it I can't sit around and listen to this from the president He's just a moron Chapter by chapter, the narrative covers the period from pre-Republican nomination to recent times, through issues involving, immigration, racial divisions, tax reforms, North Korea, South Korea, Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, NATO, and the numerous trade deals Unfortunately, there are no real revelations that we may have hoped for The sad result is that our greatest fears about Trump, his bullish, disrespectful and offensive character, and his inability to constructively contribute to a domestic and international political and economic agenda have a solid foundation, and are not just a front The pace of these events and the dialogue are a little slow but there are moments of interest that are engrossing, and then it's gone again. It's almost impossible to be unbiased in considering Trump and his position as President of the USA I haven't read other books on Trump but when this account became available from Bob Woodward, my perception was that if there is an opportunity of reading a considered account of Donald Trump as US President, where the veracity of the background research and sources are validated, this would be it There are obvious debates over those sources being played out in the news and

Woodward's own agenda, but I feel it slightly irrelevant, as there were no surprises or startling insights that would cause me to change my perception of Donald Trump. Whether open-minded pro-Trump supporters will see their President in a different light, is an interesting question. I would recommend reading this book as it does provoke interest and debate but don't expect any great revelations. I may just be cynical, but I'm still not convinced I've heard the whole truth and I'm just wondering what hidden agendas are at play by sources providing material for this book.

It's Bob Woodward. How do you think Trumpworld will react? Woodward is methodical, precise, and willing to hold anyone to account, regardless of political stripe. Unlike *FIRE AND FURY*, Bob Woodward's work is backed by the validity of two Pulitzer prizes and numerous accolades for his inscrutable reporting. One of the key men responsible for helping to shed a light on and bring down Nixon and his atrocities, I can think of few other journalists who are needed in our modern political realm than Woodward. That said, *FEAR* scared the shit out of me. Move over, Stephen King, Bob Woodward has written the most terrifying book in years. Never has it been so crystal clear as it is within these pages just how unfit and batshit insane our president is. From his rambling tirades, to his painful ignorance, to his absolute steadfast intentions to push for his own interests and casting aside the greater needs of our country, Woodward paints an revoltingly intimate portrait of a man who conned an entire country and seems determined to watch it all burn in his wake. Let me make this clear. I don't want things to be like this. I don't live to read about the salacious and cringeworthy acts of our president. I take no joy in this. I just want a competent, compassionate president who has the greater interests of our country in their heart. Woodward's intricate and detailed reporting gives us incredibly specific examples of our president's malfeasance and the shock and awe not only among our allies, but within his own White House. The bottom line none of this is normal. We, as Chief of Staff General Kelly himself said, have gone off the rails. This is Crazytown. There is no way that this is sustainable. Either we will tear ourselves apart as a nation, or one of the president's nonsensical actions will do the job for us. One of the most important books of the year. Woodward gives us the facts the rest is up to us.

While the talk of the 45th President of the United States POTUS seems to be an endless cycle of conversation, insults, and downright headaches, I approached reading this book with an open and curious mind. I chose to let Bob Woodward, a highly esteemed journalist in his own right, guide me through some of his findings during the early period of the Trump presidency. Woodward explores Trump's candidacy and first year or so in the Oval Office, tackling some of the controversial events and topics that came to light. Woodward offers the reader some insights into this time, where Trump was fuelled by a passionate hatred of President Obama and how he would do anything to derail or dismantle programs put in place, making promises at rallies and seeking to enact them as soon as he had a presidential seat. There was also much talk of his attempts to make his own mark in the military, trade, sanctions, and even diplomacy, all guided by his Trump-centric mentality. Woodward clearly points that

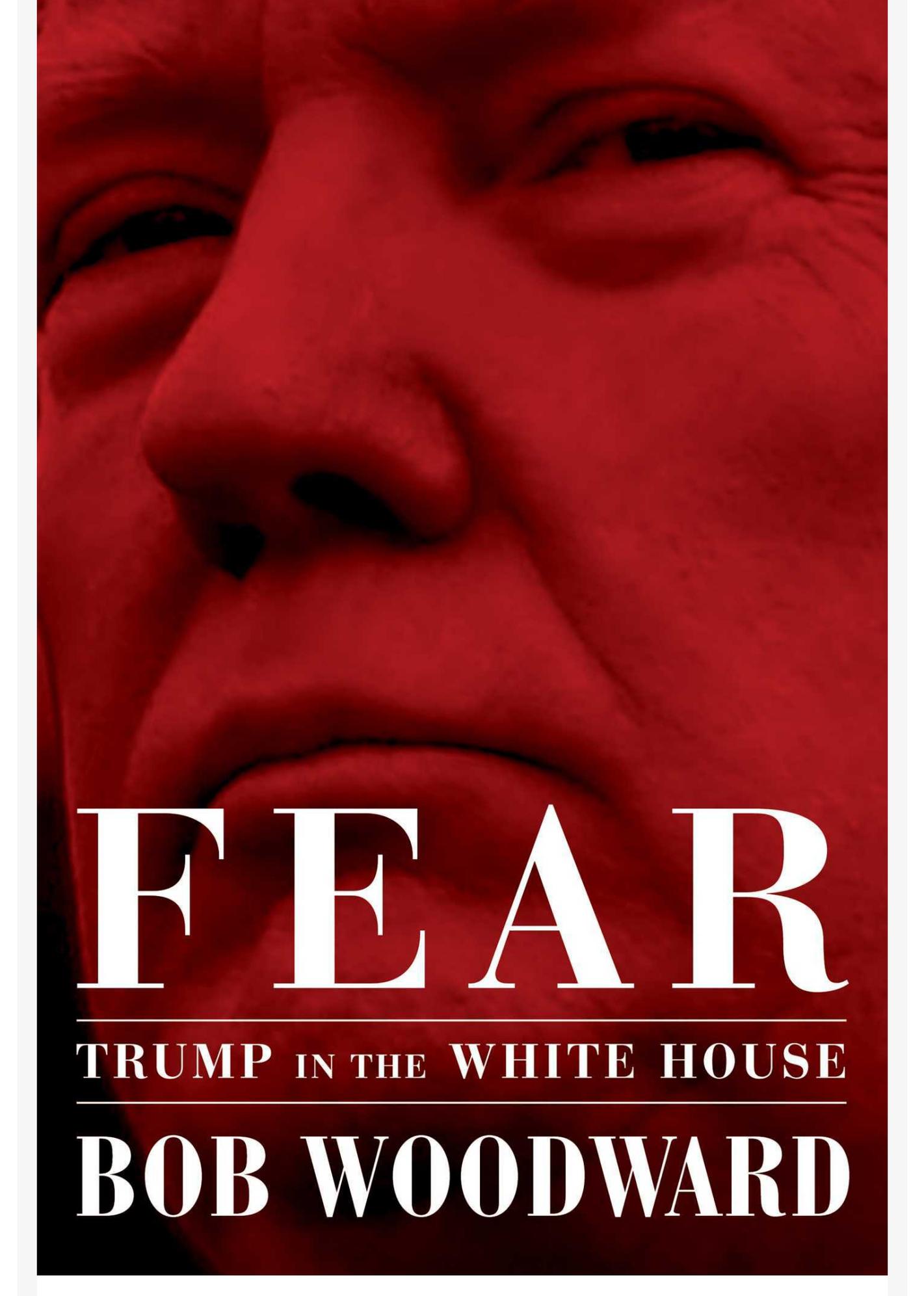
Trump was not alone, as he had a number of well meaning as well as completely useless advisors around him, many of whom tried to guide him in a certain direction While I may not agree with their politics, Woodward presents these advisors as those who sought to educate and guide Trump towards what could be done for America and how the Jenga blocks needed to be inched in a certain direction in order not to make things come cascading down, thereby heralding catastrophe The few sycophants who emerge from the text are those who are useless to the larger process, but entirely what Trump felt he needed on a daily basis Armed with his narrow view on the world and with his Twitter account as a billy club, Trump tried to fix all things in a few characters, which usually failed to bring about presidential diplomacy If Woodward offers a single theme in this book that echoes throughout the pages of well documented chapters, it is that Trump wanted to do things his way and will rarely follow the narrow and calculated path asked of him A renegade to some and completely rogue to others, there is reason to fear America s enemies are ready and willing to strike, which evokes added concern, when the man with his finger on the button treats it like his own personal toy, rather than listening to the reason of those who seek to advise Woodward should be applauded for this book, as he seeks to offer insights through the eyes of others, rather than rallying his own personal attacks with little substantive proof Recommend for those who want a glimpse inside the West Wing without the baseless attacks of a jilted few who feed only negative information to sell books.I have heard much about this book before I even began the opening sentence Some loved the book for its openness and exploration of a number of topics, while others hated it for not revealing new smoking guns or additional finger pointing Still others criticized it for poking fun at the POTUS in any way, as we should bow to him and allow him to create America in a new image I found the book to be intriguing in many ways and took much away from it While I have read a few books on the Trump presidency is it not indicative of something that so many pieces have come out so soon after he made it to the Oval Office there are themes that come out in all of them These include obsession with television portrayals, refusal to read background materials for essential decisions, preconceived notions of effective governance, and a hatred for all who oppose him What this book helped me see was that all of these and other perspectives were further solidified through the interviews Woodward undertook with those closest to Trump This was not Woodward standing atop a soap box and issuing criticism dreamed up in his own mind, he used the words and sentiments of many who were in the trenches to garner a better understanding for the reader Call me naive, but I cannot see Bob Woodward as one who is all that interested in using weak information to build his arguments Woodward has shown time and again that he asks the tough questions, but seeks to be fair in his delivery First hand accounts serve as the foundation of this book s narrative momentum, which I applaud There are moments of praise for Trump and others of complete mockery, but when they come from within, can be really call it a smear campaign by liberal media sources I have never hidden my sentiments

on this topic and while I try to get some of my foundation through reading and trying to better understand the situation, I am also an outsider I admit to being happy that I have the right to expand my horizons and to better comprehend that which I argue against from my side of the unwallled border Freedoms to express my sentiments cannot be taken, nor should they, so long as I am not fanning unfounded hatred for the sake of personally harming others Worry not, Woodward handles this discussion in the book when he speaks of the supremacist rallies in the summer of 2017. This was the first book I read on the subject where I was attacked by both pro and anti Trump folks The former group sought to criticize me for reading about the negativity of the POTUS and how it all lies, while the latter bemoaned that I would waste my time reading about him at all It is this ignorance that has pushed for me to seek a better understanding of the situation I find many readers seek to trump the ongoing discussions, in hopes that people will stop talking and trying to better understand things as they evolve Should we, as citizens of the world, live in fear until 2020 Might the type of behaviour exemplified in this book lead to horrible things There is that possibility, but it could also be a rallying cry for American voters to turn out to cast their ballots, while Intelligence agencies work to plug some of the gaping holes that permitted outsider influences in elections past I encourage Bob Woodward to return to this topic after the Trump presidency has ended however that will come about , as I would read that book, which can explore the entire experience in a single arc Until then, I encourage all readers with an interest to give this book a try, ignoring the trolls on both sides who hurl insults at your choice Kudos, Mr Woodward, for giving me something about which to think I feel enriched about what you have presented and look forward to where things will lead from here. Love hate the review An ever growing collection of others appears at Book for All Seasons, a different sort of Book Challenge The thing you should know about Woodward and Bernstein is that Woodward was never much of a writer No, Bernstein, he was the writer Choosing the right word, arranging the facts in a persuasive array, concluding with a rhetorical flourish these are contributions Bernstein made that gave the work of Bernward and Woodstein its sophistication, its polish. Of course, Bernstein was a heck of a reporter too, but the two of them were different Bernstein was mercurial and intuitive Woodward was indefatigable and relentless Bernstein knew instinctively what would move the reader Woodward was the boy who got things done Speaking of getting things done in addition to their collaborations, Woodward has to date completed seventeen books Bernstein has completed three Still, for all his strengths, Bob Woodward has always been a plodder For example, he introduces his characters with predictable adjectives Bannon is aggressive, certain, and loud, Kellyanne Conway is feisty, Mitch McConnell is wily He does not paint a scene well, and he seldom tries Instead, he lets his dialogue do it for him. It is the dialogue that gives his books their strength Woodward is known to make audio recordings when he can, and stenographically record everything else His dialogue has the ring of authenticity If not completely accurate, each scene undoubtedly reflects the memory however self serving

of his principal source for the particular event And, given Woodward's methods, you can be sure each source is backed up by one or two others. In *Fear*, it is not difficult to see who these sources are. Predictably, they seem to be big time players already ejected from the administration: Bannon, Priebus, Cohn, Porter, McMaster, Tillerson, and Dowd, with an occasional scene contributed by a peripheral player, such as Lyndsey Graham or Chris Christie. The sad fact, though, is that little is to be learned from *Fear*, in spite of all the hype. The value of the usual Woodward book is that Bob Woodward because of his sterling reputation has a knack for getting on record sources other people can't get. But this is an unnecessary virtue when you are writing about a White House where everybody leaks all the time. I'm not saying you don't learn things from the book. You learn, for example, how Mattis in conjunction with McMaster and Tillerson saved us from WW III by saying no to Trump, how Gary Cohn and Rob Porter forestalled economic meltdown by stealing papers from Trump's desk, and how Dowd unsuccessfully tried to rescue Trump from Trump. And of course you learn how stupid and erratic and childlike everybody thinks Trump is. But if you've read *Fire and Fury*, if you've been following the *Times* and the *Post*, then you know most of this stuff anyway. I'd like to end with a brief passage. It is not central to the book, not even germane to the coprological cataclysm that is the Trump White House, but I liked it because it told me something I did not know: why Kim Jung Un is a more effective leader of his nation than his father Kim Jung Il. The elder Kim had dealt with weapons test failures by ordering the death of the responsible scientists and officials. They were shot. The younger Kim accepted failures in tests, apparently absorbing the practical lesson: Failure is inevitable on the road to success. Under Kim Jung Un, the scientists lived to learn from their mistakes and the weapons programs improved. I don't read many non-fiction books, and almost never politics, let alone foreign politics. But after two years of slavishly, horrifiedly following a spectrum of US news sites and tweeters, has changed that. First, I read and reviewed *Fire and Fury* my review [HERE](#), as one of the early headline grabbing books of Trump's regime. Then, *A Day in the Life of Marlon Bundo* my review [HERE](#), as it was refreshingly fun, and with a good, positive message. Next up was *The Faith of Donald J. Trump: A Spiritual Biography* my review [HERE](#) as it's at the rotten heart of what I most despise. And now this: *Because It's by Bob Woodward* a multi-award winning journalist and biographer of nine presidents, red and blue. There's a detailed index, notes, explanations, and no gossip. No analysis either. Just reportage from multiple deep background interviews with firsthand sources. *Fear is a Liar: Real power is* I don't even want to use the word fear. Candidate Trump, in an interview. Trump weaponises fear, deliberately. Real power is fear. It's all about strength. You've got to deny, deny, deny. Trump to a friend accused of sexual misconduct. *Image Fear is a Liar graffiti Source.* What does the fearmonger fear? He pivots and lies instinctively, compulsively, and maybe sometimes unconsciously. Even in private, on trivial matters, and regardless of how easy to disprove. That's why his lawyer didn't want him to talk to Mueller. There's plenty to fear from a fact-averse White House that is as unpredictable as its

nominal head one minute threatening fire and fury on North Korea from his bigger nuclear button, and a few months later declaring he fell in love with Kim thanks to a beautiful letter Trump's dysfunctional regime is one long nervous breakdown, and, with key documents being swiped from the Resolute Desk before Trump can sign them the big scoop of this book, there has perhaps been an administrative coup d'état. Cast Aside Fears Trump a puppet whether of Putin, Bannon, the Mercers and other 1%ers, the Saudi royals, or the Faith and Freedom Coalition and other fundamentalist conservative Christians or is he the master manipulator I'm not sure which would be alarming, let alone which is true All presidencies are audience driven, but Trump's central audience was often himself. Staff despair of his TV and Twitter habits, but he knows their power, and harnesses it This is my megaphone This is who I am This is how I communicate It's the reason I got elected. Trump gets printouts of his most popular tweets to spot what works The showman knows what he's doing in this medium, and thus controls the public discourse and news cycles. For the narrow period covered, this book is thorough, and it's reasonably well written But it's old news The worrying aspects of Trump's personality and behaviour have long been in plain sight this book adds context and examples, but nothing new It will doubtless be referred to thirty years hence and beyond, but it's not history yet There is certainly the fear of the title But somehow it's dull Maybe I have fear fatigue. Image Cecily is finished with Fear Goodreads auto-generated status. Focus on Hope Did staffers speak to Woodward to salvage some integrity, especially those who left it too late to leave Trump's regime untainted With hundreds of pages of detailed notes, plus hours of recordings, I'm sure their identities will eventually be proven It's not what we did for the country It's what we saved him from doing. Gary Cohn. That gives hope to those who still fear what this unpredictable and unprincipled president might do. Image Hope by George Frederic Watts. Source. I've seen this beautiful picture in London Hope is blinded, seated on a globe, and clutching a lyre with a single remaining string It is apparently a favourite of Obama's after it was used in a sermon, and the pastor said the woman in the portrait had the audacity to hope an idea Obama used as the title of his autobiography my dusty review [HERE](#) Hope isn't about fluff and rainbows Hope is most powerful in times of need In times of fear Real power is hope It's not all about strength You've got to hope, hope, hope And act when, where, and how you can. Cecily. If Bob Woodward's latest book doesn't put a little fear in your heart, then you're not paying attention I'm a Watergate kid I grew up with the Watergate hearings on our television along with Vietnam, of course every single day We knew who John and Mo were and Senator Sam and the entire mesmerizing, horrifying bunch But the pair we knew best were Woodward and Bernstein To me, they were heroes who met in dark alleys to get the scoop and had the power to bring down the president Of course, that was a different era when high crimes and federal laws actually were important and breaking those laws meant you would be indicted and incarcerated or, in the case of Nixon, forced to resign Thankfully And sadly We no longer live by the same standards today If you're looking for commentary

on the meat of this book, there are plenty of other reviews out there to read You already know what it is about I m not going to discuss politics or who is right and who is wrong Everyone who reads this review already will have their mind made up and that is sad Just as Woodward listened to Deep Throat and wrote about that informant s information and kept that source a secret for decades, he again has listened to informants and recorded the despicable acts committed by an entire group of people but namely, Donald Trump There is enough information in the book, credible information, to impeach Trump However, it is doubtful in this age that it will be done No one cares Americans don t care Americans can get riled up until hell freezes over regarding political parties but that is not what this is about It is about an incompetent man in the white house a man who broke laws to get there, one who is putting this nation in jeopardy with his tantrums, insidious postings to twitter and inability to lead a nation that once was the greatest in the world For the record, I am neither a Republican nor a Democrat This country doesn t have a party for me and my political ideology Again, that is not what this is about The book the one being read and reviewed was written by a capable journalist whose facts are very succinctly laid out Yes, his sources are protected AS THEY SHOULD BE Journalists have gone to prison for keeping a source s identity unknown That does not negate their information and the information presented here, in the book, is spot on I wouldn t expect anything less from Bob Woodward



FEAR

TRUMP IN THE WHITE HOUSE

BOB WOODWARD

the only thing we have to fear is fear itself Franklin Delano Roosevelt Inaugural address March 4, 1933 Real power is I don't even want to use the word fear Presidential candidate Donald J Trump in an interview with Bob Woodward and Robert Costa on March 31, 2016 FDR was correct The fear that gripped the nation in the Great Depression may have had a basis in reality, but acceding to that fear could have hindered any attempts to make the dire economic situation better Would Roosevelt feel the same way today Do we have nothing to fear but fear itself Well, we do have a very concrete problem that generates a fair bit of concern, anxiety, nervousness, and yes, fear The guy in the White House The fear that Roosevelt addressed was a concern that the nation, under the weight of the latest in a series of economic collapses, might not be able to recover from it soon enough to matter, leaving the nation impoverished, riven with internal strife, and in danger from external enemies The fears we contend with today include a widespread concern about a declining standard of living, a whipped up concern about minorities, both foreign and domestic, distrust of those who worship differently, or not at all, confusion about increasing gender fluidity, and diversity But there are specific fears that center on the guy in the Oval Office, both of the incoming and outgoing sorts Bob Woodward image from the Washington Post As illustrated in the opening quote above, which is the opening of the book as well, the Trump quote, that is Donald Trump believes the application of fear in dealing with people and nations is the proper course Threats, bullying, and intimidation are the favorite irons in his bag In the application of this approach, it is distinctly possible that he might miscalculate to the point of sparking economic mayhem, or even war But the other element of fear that should terrify us all is his fear for himself Donald Trump has paid vast sums of money to see that his under the covers philanderings remain under cover You've got to deny, deny, deny and push back on these women, he said If you admit to anything and any culpability, then you're dead He is terrified that the world might see what an empty vessel he truly is You may recall his conversation with the Mexican president in which Trump pleaded with El Presidente to give him some political cover so he would not have to face his supporters with the news that building the wall was really only a campaign scam He is afraid that he will be shown to be a mobbed up front man, a tool for the Russian mafia, living large by laundering their ill gotten rubles He is terrified that he will be exposed as an asset of the Russian government, impacting American foreign and domestic policy in ways that advantage his Russian handler Where those fears become kinetic is in how he attempts to protect himself He has done his best to shred the two American institutions that might hold him accountable, the justice system and the fourth estate, waging war on truth itself Trump has been griping about the media, well the media that is not Fox, Infowars, Clear Channel, Rush Limbaugh, or any of the far right wing outlets that serve as a public relations propaganda support system for him, at least since his campaign It has always seemed clear that the intent here is to erode the standing of news organizations that were likely to expose his many misdeeds His attacks on judges handling suits against him, on the FBI, which was

investigating his campaign's potential ties to Russia, and on the Justice Department, which controls the FBI, and under which the Special Counsel was appointed, are all attempts to undermine the authority of agencies that are likely to bring his crimes to light and him to justice. If he can persuade the American people that the cops and judges are all corrupt, he might get away with his particular responsibility for decades of money laundering, at the very least, and quite likely a traitorous alliance with Putin, whether entered into willingly or via blackmail. Fending off investigators, public and journalistic, is an existential challenge for him, driven by his fear of exposure. The focus of Woodward's book is on one particular form of fear, the concern the people who work for Donald Trump have that he might do serious damage to the United States, and even to the world, either in his handling of potentially fraught negotiations, domestic or international, there is particular attention paid to dealings with South and North Korea that illustrates this very well or in his need to preserve his freedom, and privilege, by destroying respected norms and institutions. He is Godzilla, and we are all Tokyo. Another substantial element is the chaos that is the White House, where established lines of communication and authority are regularly crossed, where the staff are constantly on the edge, wondering when the next absurd and/or dangerous presidential action may require their intervention, to try talking him out of it, slow him down, or make the requisite paperwork vanish. A third theme that permeates is Trump's flaws as a leader, his lack of intellectual curiosity, his adherence to preconceived notions regardless of research and advice that would lead a flexible human to a informed opinion, for example, accusing Iran of violating the treaty despite his own people telling him that they had not his inability or unwillingness to take in than a minimum amount of information on pretty much any subject, suggesting an attention deficit disorder. You have probably heard quite a few quotes from this book, as coverage of its contents has been widespread. Perhaps the most significant are in the prologue. It was no less than an administrative coup d'état, an undermining of the will of the president of the United States and his constitutional authority. In addition to coordinating policy decisions and schedules and running the paperwork for the president, Porter told an associate, A third of my job was trying to react to some of the really dangerous ideas that he had and try to give him reasons to believe that maybe they weren't such good ideas. Another strategy was to delay, procrastinate, cite legal restrictions, Lawyer Porter said, But slow walking things or not taking things up to him, or telling him rightly, not just as an excuse but this needs to be vetted, or we need to do process on this, or we don't have legal counsel clearance that happened 10 times frequently than taking papers from his desk. It felt like we were walking along the edge of the cliff perpetually. The United States in 2017 was tethered to the words and actions of an emotionally overwrought, mercurial and unpredictable leader. Members of his staff had joined to purposefully block some of what they believed were the president's most dangerous impulses. It was a nervous breakdown of the executive power of the most powerful country in the world. As with Michael Wolff's *Fire and Fury*, Steve Bannon has clearly offered the author considerable information on the

goings on inside the White House It is also clear that there are many other insiders who have talked to Woodward One must always wonder, of course, where reporting events accurately leaves off for these sources, and where reputation embellishment begins Thankfully, Woodward has gone to great lengths to corroborate diverse accounts to arrive at an accurate picture I would be inclined to take what is reported in this book as the best obtainable version of the truth. Here are some other details that are worth remembering

Reince Priebus, as head of the GOP, had invested heavily in analytics and big data, over 175 million, and was very effective in using the drill down intel to target neighborhoods with battalions of volunteers in the 2016 election The intel even allowed targeting of individuals It was in 2015 that the NSA first found that Russia was looking at US voter rolls After pussygate, while almost all of his advisors urged Trump to drop out of the presidential race, there were two who urged him to stay in, Bannon, which is no shock, and Melania, which is, given the general view that she wanted no part of a presidential run Woodward also reports that, while Trump and Melania operate in pretty much separate spheres, there is genuine affection between the two Color me skeptical It was interesting to learn how much influence and access Lindsay Graham had at the White House, which goes a long way to explaining how Graham could have pulled such a 180 on Trump Graham had called Trump a race bating xenophobic bigot in 2015, but in 2018, Graham said He s not, in my view, a racist by any stretch of the imagination It s enough to give a guy whiplash Fascinating to read about Trump s lawyer John Dowd and his dealings with Trump and Robert Mueller It was somewhat alarming learning of the sundry notions that were floated by presidential advisors re how to deal with North Korea s acquisition of ICBM capability And also alarming, although not at all surprising, to read of John Kelly s avid hostility toward Dreamers His people manage Trump s time so he gets home after the weekend news on CNN and MSNBC goes into softer mode at 9pm Much of the book goes into specifics on the hirings and firings that keep the doors of the White House in need of constant oiling Sometimes the idiocy is mind boggling Trump, early on, passed over John Bolton for a significant position because he did not like his moustache Not that I have any particular fondness for Bolton, myself, but you do not base such decisions on the quality of someone s facial hair I mean he hired Ty Cobb, for god s sake, or had him kidnapped from another century Gripes Woodward sticks by his public position that the Steele dossier was a garbage document and that Comey should not have presented any of it to the president It is unclear on what Woodward bases this position, given the solidity of the investigator, and the ongoing verification of information reported in that document. You have probably heard read this, but here are some of the lovely things said about Trump by his own appointees Cohn had witnessed this for over a year denial when needed or useful or convenient He s a professional liar, Cohn told an associate He s a fucking moron, Tillerson said so everyone heard Trump had failed the President Lincoln test He had not put a team of political rivals or competitors at the table, Priebus concluded He puts natural predators at the table, Priebus

said later Not just rivals predators The president s unhinged, Kelly said Trump normally wouldn t listen long or very carefully to his national security adviser but it had gotten much worse, McMaster told Porter It s like I can t even get his attention Cohn realized that Trump had gone bankrupt six times and seemed not to mind Bankruptcy was just another business strategy Walk away, threaten to blow up the deal Real power is fear Applying this mind set from his real estate days to governing and deciding to risk bankrupting the United States would be a different matter entirely In a small group meeting in his office one day, Kelly said of the president, He s an idiot It s pointless to try to convince him of anything He s gone off the rails We re in crazytown I don t even know why any of us are here This is the worst job I ve ever had McMaster said that he believed Mattis and Tillerson had concluded that the president and the White House were crazy As a result, they sought to implement and even formulate policy on their own without interference or involvement from McMaster, let alone the president In the political back and forth, the evasions, the denials, the tweeting, the obscuring, crying Fake News, the indignation, Trump had one overriding problem that Dowd knew but could not bring himself to say to the president You re a fucking liar The man really commands loyalty in his people And then there are the insults, the abuse to which he subjected that staff, regardless of their level of loyalty to him It is amazing anyone will even speak to the man I will spare you those It is obvious that there is a clear and present danger to all Americans from the man currently resident in the White House, a man who is not only unfit to hold this highest position in the nation, but a man whose dull intellect, exuberant venality, core deep corruption, contempt for American values and laws, authoritarian inclinations, and unsurpassed greed have made him the worst president in the history of the nation His rigidity and ignorance have caused even people who share the political values he espouses to engage in activities that are probably criminal in order to spare the nation the downsides of his ill informed, and often darkly intentioned decisions Fear is not the only thing we have to fear We have just cause to fear what Donald Trump might do with the gigantic instrument he has been charged with operating While busying himself looting the national treasure for himself and his pals, while paring back sane restrictions on polluting industries, while dismantling much of the mechanism of government that produces and distributes factual information for the nation, while engaging in border practices that make us remember the 1930s and 1940s, he is also busy tearing down respected institutions, shredding political and moral norms, and making the USA the laughingstock of the world So, President Roosevelt, it is most certainly NOT THE CASE that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself There are plenty of fear generating people, nations and events on our planet that can justify our fears But the one that supersedes all, for the moment, is Donald J Trump He is a danger to us all, and, as the investigations into his dark deeds progresses, he is only getting paranoid and desperate Be afraid Be very afraid We must especially beware of that small group of selfish men who would clip the wings of the American Eagle in order to feather their own nests.FRANKLIN D ROOSEVELT, State of the Union Address,

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