

# 'Rant Radio' promotes the politics of rage to brainwash American citizens

by Doug Mallouk

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## **The Way Things Ought To Be**

by Rush H. Limbaugh III  
Pocket Books, New York, 1992  
304 pages, hardbound, \$22

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You're a typical, struggling middle-income American. So far, you've managed to hold on to your job and keep up the mortgage payments, but nonetheless your world seems to have been turned topsy-turvy.

Your son's graduating high-school class reads on a median fifth-grade level, but the designers of his curriculum seem to be concerned only with "enhancing self-esteem" through such course offerings as "Applied Auto-Eroticism" and "Indigenous Peoples' Alternatives to European Mathematics." Your pre-teen daughter has taken to babbling that the atmospheric ozone above your town will disappear and that everyone in the neighborhood will get skin cancer if you don't unplug the family refrigerator immediately.

More and more of your income is gobbled up in taxes, yet the inner cities are, if anything, even more poverty-stricken than when the Great Society programs began in the sixties. And now you get the dreaded news that not even your once-pristine suburban community is immune from the crack-and-crime epidemic sweeping the nation.

Do you have a perfect right to be hopping mad about the whole situation? Absolutely! But beware: If you can't get beyond the simple state of raw rage to actually think through why this is happening and how it can be reversed, then you are an easy mark for a growing breed of pseudo-conservative political hucksters inhabiting a communications medium most appropriately termed "Rant Radio."

Take the case of the best-known of these characters, the omnipresent Rush Limbaugh, now the host of nationally syndicated talk-shows on both radio and television. Truly a rising pop-culture icon, Limbaugh prides himself on being about as "politically correct" as whale-meat burgers, and at 300-odd pounds, he's almost as big as the critter from which they're made. While his bragging claim of reaching 12 mil-

lion listeners a day may be a delusion, there is no denying that his crusade against "Communists, Socialists, Environmental Whackos, Feminazis, Militant Vegetarians, Animal-Rights Extremists, and Liberal Elitists" has tapped into a visceral disgust on the part of a large chunk of Middle America with the antics and inanities of the New Age political correctness mafia.

The problem, of course, is that with Limbaugh and his legion of imitators on various radio programs throughout America, it never gets beyond the level of viscera—by design. Not all talk-show hosts are Rush "Wannabes" by a long shot, but too many of those who are, have become veritable experts at reducing their mostly middle-class audiences to a pitiable collection of "right-wing" rage-balls, politically impotent to do anything except maybe pave the way for some "new world order" bankers' dictatorship.

One need only peruse Limbaugh's recent literary opus *The Way Things Ought to Be* to comprehend how the operation works. Rush is truly a heavy thinker and the fact that his weighty tome has been for several weeks the national number-one bestseller (eclipsing even that other social critic, Madonna) speaks volumes as to the current state of mind of the U.S. population. Some choice "Quotations from Chairman Rush," with amplifying commentary, aptly illustrate just how Limbaugh endeavors to play that mind-set like the proverbial fiddle.

## **Rush fools in**

**Dr. Limbaugh's Prescription for Stopping AIDS:** "People should just *stop \* \* \* around!*" (deletions in original). This is quintessential Limbaugh: He gets his audience going by poking massive fun, quite justifiably, at the "safe sex" maniacs who are unrelenting in their perverse determination that no American over the age of nine ever be without a condom or a clean drug needle, depending on his or her life-style. Rush supplies "bungee condom" skits, tongue-in-cheek suggestions to convert public school study halls into giant bedrooms, complete with clean sheets, as supervised safe sex laboratories, etc.

But in the midst of all the frivolity, perhaps one notices a small something missing: a solution to the spread of the

disease. Except for the one-sentence sermon on the imperative of chastity quoted above, Rush doesn't offer any.

And he's got no excuse, either. In 1986, when Limbaugh's talk-show was based in Sacramento, associates of Lyndon LaRouche in that state put a referendum on the ballot mandating a full battery of public health measures for AIDS, including compulsory testing, contact tracing, and the option of quarantine. They insisted that only these policies, combined with a crash research program in emerging disciplines like optical bio-physics, could halt the advance of the virus and ultimately defeat it. Their efforts were viciously attacked by a very queer alliance of militant sodomites, trendy Hollywood lefty-libs (Patty Duke et al.), condom-mongers, and oddly enough, some fiscal conservatives, who felt that the measures would unbalance the budget.

Why doesn't Limbaugh mention one word about that huge battle in his book? It is simple political marketing: There are far greater gate-receipts to be made screaming "Stop \* \* \* around!" than in forcing the American people to think through a comprehensive war plan to actually conquer AIDS. But it's safe to say that the parents of the late Kimberly Bergalis (who contracted the AIDS virus on a visit to her dentist) or the millions of absolutely innocent African children who have the disease would not be overly impressed with Rush's pat one-line "remedy."

**Limbaugh-nomics:** Rush-ing in to defend the economic track record of the Reagan era, Limbaugh waves around with great bravado a Commerce Department study claiming, "The 1980s were years of an almost unbelievable revival by U.S. industry." Indeed, to those of us who beheld the shut-down steel mills, foreclosed family farms, and collapsing infrastructure during that decade, this assertion certainly is unbelievable.

What Rush doesn't tell us, of course, is that those fun-loving government statisticians (never ones to let reality stand in their way) managed to massage the figures by such sleights-of-hand as reclassifying personal computers as "machine tools"! Maybe Limbaugh could devote one of his shows to proving that a bunch of Wall Street yuppies peddling junk bonds at their computer terminals are really skilled machinists.

Elsewhere in the book, Limbaugh lets his slip show by defending as sacrosanct the bailout of the savings and loan institutions. He argues that the S&Ls were torpedoed, not by deregulation and the ensuing speculative bubble that it created, but by the 1986 Tax Reform Act. This was admittedly a horrible piece of legislation, but Rush's objection to it is simply that it "eliminated tax incentives for investment in real estate"—that is, it popped the bubble! He says point-blank that "what this recession needs is a good dose of inflation in real estate and a lot of our problems would be solved." Who needs production? Just pump more hot air into the balloon, boys!

But make no mistake: There are plenty of Americans,

nostalgic for the speculative quick-buck boom days of the 1980s, who passionately want to believe this mumbo-jumbo.

**On Being Outrageous for Fun and Profit:** Limbaugh explains that he likes to provoke people by saying things that are deliberately inflammatory. For example, after trashing Anita Hill and feminists generally: "I love the women's movement—especially when I'm walking behind it." (If Limbaugh had consciously intended to fill the coffers of NOW, he couldn't have done a much better job than with that one.) Or, after complaining that America's poor are positively rich compared to their counterparts in India, Ethiopia, etc., he calls them "the biggest piglet at the mother pig (i.e., the federal government) and her nipples" and concludes: It's time to "tax the poor," take away their extra TVs, stop them from reproducing, *ad nauseam*.

Of course, he covers himself by saying, not too convincingly, that he doesn't really mean it all literally, that he wants to get people to lighten up and laugh. But in fact, the whole appeal to his listeners lies in the notion that he is actually saying in public all those dark, unutterable things that they have only dared to think privately. And while Limbaugh spends an inordinate amount of time remonstrating that he's really not a racist, and doesn't lack compassion, it is obvious that he is delighted to have these things said of him by his adversaries. He knows the audience to which he's playing.

### **Crucial omissions: Where are the oligarchs?**

Limbaugh's book is far more significant for what it doesn't say. He may rail interminably against various manifestations of America's economic and cultural decline, but left out is even a hint as to who or what may be behind it all.

For example, he is right in labeling today's radical environmentalism a pagan cult of earth-worship; he even cites Dixy Lee Ray's excellent book *Trashing the Planet* as an antidote to greenie pseudo-science. But he never mentions the well-documented fact that the eco-fascists are massively funded by multibillion-dollar foundations connected to top Wall Street financial families whose interest in stopping industrial progress has much more to do with enhancing their own political power than with saving the biosphere.

He rightly attacks the abortion and euthanasia movements as tending toward Hitlerian race science—but somehow manages to omit that New York financiers Averell Harriman and Prescott Bush, the father of Limbaugh's 1992 choice for U.S. President, virtually created the international eugenics movement prior to the Nazi seizure of power and were actively promoting abortion and sterilization as population control measures long before Gloria Steinem and her crowd even existed.

It should be noted that by the time of the November general election, Rush had pretty much turned himself into a public relations flak for the unlamented George Bush. Indeed, of all Limbaugh's quips and attempts at humor in his

book, none is more hilarious than his dead-serious contention that Bush underwent a born-again conversion to the pro-life cause in the late 1970s “because he became convinced that it [legalized abortion] was contributing to an overall decline in American moral values.” He is referring to the same moral watchdog who, as a member of the U.S. Congress, publicly lauded the proposals of the vile “race scientists” Arthur Jensen and William Shockley for forced sterilization of black females to prevent “down-breeding” of the U.S. population!

Equally telling is Limbaugh’s commentary on the recent Los Angeles riots. Speaking of the thugs and vandals, he says that it was “almost as if they were poised to begin rioting” even before the Rodney King decision was announced. No “almost” about it, Rush! That outburst was pre-planned, not by black or Hispanic ghetto residents, but by top (white-skinned) new world order operatives like Warren Christopher and the Anti-Defamation League’s Sol Linowitz, as *EIR* has documented.

And while no sane person would defend the “animal rights” lunatics, nevertheless, when Limbaugh accuses only them—and neither the banks nor the grain cartels—of putting the American farmer out of business, it is obvious that something is sorely missing here.

The net effect of these crucial omissions in Limbaugh’s portrait of the political landscape is elementary. Lacking any comprehension of how the oligarchy creates and controls these “movements” and operations, the beleaguered middle-class American—Limbaugh’s targeted readership—simply sees a kaleidoscopic array of hostile interest groups variously trying to take away his piece of the pie, or undermine his values. And he reacts predictably, with fear and rage, to “defend” himself, while Limbaugh and his ilk chortle, “Yeah, that’s right, blame it on the other guy”—defined, of course, as anybody except the puppet-masters behind the show. This is precisely how dying societies are caused to collapse into class warfare, anarchy, and ultimately, dictatorship.

### How ‘democracy’ becomes fascism

The question remains: Is this scenario Limbaugh’s intended result? Is he philosophically some kind of fascist? The answer is unequivocally yes—but for the exact same reason that this term applies with equal force to his liberal New Age nominal adversaries.

The essence of fascism as a social-political movement is absolutely not some “ultra-conservative” phenomenon. As Lyndon LaRouche has recently explained, the liberal establishment “has found a new name for fascism. They call it democracy.”

Democracy, as opposed to democratic republicanism, can be characterized by the proposition that there is no higher law governing the affairs of men than the prevailing majority opinion at any given time. LaRouche and other republicans have always insisted that the very worst form of tyranny is

the imposition of a set of arbitrary rules in violation of the laws of God and nature by a majority upon a minority.

In contrast, Limbaugh’s unabashed support for democracy comes out most luridly in his argument in favor of capital punishment. Without rehashing the death penalty debate here, consider the incredible method he employs to polemicize for its implementation.

He doesn’t even attempt to dredge up some phony theological justification for state-sponsored executions and he readily admits to having not a shred of evidence that capital punishment deters crime at all. He simply says that not to pull the switch would “thwart the will of the people,” repeating that ponderous phrase half a dozen times.

To fully appreciate just what these words mean, let us now tune in to a fifth-century B.C. “talkathon” in the city square of ancient Athens, with the participants discussing a celebrated case of “democracy in action.” Our host, Opinionatus Humongous, has drawn around himself an enormous crowd (some overly sensitive types might say “mob”), as a stranger steps up to question the Great Demagogue (a innocuous Greek term meaning simply one who is popular with the people).

**Stranger:** I’m really bothered by the recent decision in the case of Meletus versus the condemned man. . . .

**Opinionatus Humongous:** Stuff it, you lice-infected liberal fuzz-brain! Look, the guy they convicted was a first-class, Grade A pervert. Seventy years old and he spends all his time hanging around young boys! You know what that means, don’t you, heh-heh-heh? (*Crowd titters.*)

**S:** But Opinionatus—

**OH:** Furthermore, he’s got no visible means of support and claims he makes his living peddling this thing he calls philosophy. Yeah, right, and I’m King Tut!

**S:** I don’t think you understand—

**OH:** Look, this country needs another weirdo beggar like we need a slave revolt!

You bleeding hearts have to get one thing straight. Not only was this character preaching disrespect for the trusty, home-grown gods that any red-blooded All-Athenian regular guy would be happy to adore, but he’s even gone so far as to say that there is only one God who made the whole universe! What nerve! Can you imagine the incredible snafus we would have trying to rely on Centralized Theocratic Planning?! Instead of making a simple sacrifice to your own local deity, you’d have to get in line behind every nincompoop worshipping the sole Creator of Heaven and Earth. Just processing supplications could take weeks!

**S:** I don’t think it will be quite as bad as you indicate.

**OH:** (*Voice dripping with sarcasm*) Geez, I’m just so glad to hear that!

Listen, sap, the next thing you know, this guy will have the helots and other riff-raff believing that they are our equals in the eye of God. There would be a complete breakdown of

law and order! Now even a nice liberal like you can understand what that means, can't you?

**S:** (*About to open his mouth*)

**OH:** Stop interrupting. Besides, I can tell from your accent that you're not from around here. (*To crowd*) Is he, boys? (*Audience murmurs in assent.*) See, stranger, this fellow you're so in love with was convicted by a unanimous decision of an All-Athenian jury backed by overwhelming popular demand. And for folks in these parts, that about settles it. So unless you or your God (heh-heh-heh) have any more objections, we'll proceed to the business of killing that menace Socrates!

**Audience:** (*Cheering and whistling*) All hail Opinionatus Humongous!

An unfair parody of Mr. Parody himself? Not at all. It is absolutely indisputable that both Socrates and Christ were executed in a thoroughly democratic fashion, fully in accord with the popular mood. And while today's death row inmates are obviously not comparable to those two great benefactors of humanity, what is amazingly similar, then and now, is the mob psychology demanding the "satisfaction" of executions.

At one point in his book, Limbaugh even answers the objection that crowds demanding the gas chamber for one recent California convict were "screaming for blood, too excited, too happy about it," not by denying the charge, but

by affirming this mob mentality as natural, understandable, justified! When Hitler and Mussolini employed Limbaugh's precise turn of phrase "will of the people," this is just what they had in mind.

Therein, it must be said, lies the key to Limbaugh's meteoric rise. No matter how many valid skew points he may score against the "feminazis," greenies, etc., the hard kernel of his appeal lies in the fact that he's a skillful (and very democratic) fascist manipulator, or to put it in Rush-ian, a "demo-nazi."

To reach you, all he does is to follow the path of least resistance. It is much easier to blame the plague of drugs in your town on some local hoodlums (or, simpler still, on the hapless parents of the kids who get hooked) than to launch a serious attack on the highest level Anglo-American bankers (and their Anti-Defamation League hired thugs) who constitute the command center of Dope, Inc.; far less difficult to wail about "welfare cheats" in the ghettos than to take on and dismantle what is easily the biggest something-for-nothing program in the country—the Federal Reserve System that hands hundreds of billions of dollars each year to a clique of international financial parasites; and too often a lot more comfortable to listen to a Rush Limbaugh articulate "your" pet peeves than to someone like LaRouche who will tell you the hard truth about these matters and demand that you do some real thinking.

## Books Received

**Hannah Arendt-Karl Jaspers: Correspondence 1926-1969**, edited by Lotte Kohler and Han Saner, translated by Robert and Rita Kimber, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, New York, 1992, 821 pages, hardbound, \$49.95

**The Great Melody: A Thematic Biography and Commented Anthology of Edmund Burke**, by Conor Cruise O'Brien, University of Chicago Press, Chicago, 1992, 640 pages, hardbound, \$34.95

**Evil Money: Encounters Along the Money Trail**, by Rachel Ehrenfeld, HarperCollins, New York, 1992, hardbound, \$22

**Jubal: The Life and Times of General Jubal A. Early, C.S.A., Defender of the Lost Cause**, by Charles C. Osborne, Algonquin Press, Chapel Hill, N.C., 560 pages, hardbound, \$29.95

**Stonewall: A Biography of General Thomas J. Jackson**, by Byron Farwell, W.W. Norton, New York, 1992, 560 pages, hardbound, \$29.95

**The Civil War, An Illustrated History**, by Geoffrey C. Ward, with Ric Burns and Ken Burns, Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 1992, 448 pages, hardbound, \$37.50

**The Civil War: A Treasury of Art and Literature**, edited by Stephen W. Sears, Hugh Lauter Levin, New York, 1992, 368 pages, hardbound, \$75

**The Fire This Time, U.S. War Crimes in the Gulf**, by Ramsey Clark, Thunder's Mouth Press, New York, 1992, 325 pages, hardbound, \$21.95

**A Paper House, The Ending of Yugoslavia**, by Mark Thompson, Pantheon Books, New York, 1992, 350 pages, hardbound, \$23

**Western Approaches to Eastern Europe**, edited by Ivo John Lederer, Council on Foreign Relations Press, New York, 1992, 112 pages, paperback, \$14.95

**Forgotten Fatherland: The Search of Elisabeth Nietzsche**, by Ben Macintyre, Farrar Straus Giroux, New York, 1992, 256 pages, hardbound, \$22

**Brother Number One, A Political Biography of Pol Pot**, by David P. Chandler, Westview Press, Boulder, Colo., 1992, 254 pages, hardbound, \$24.95