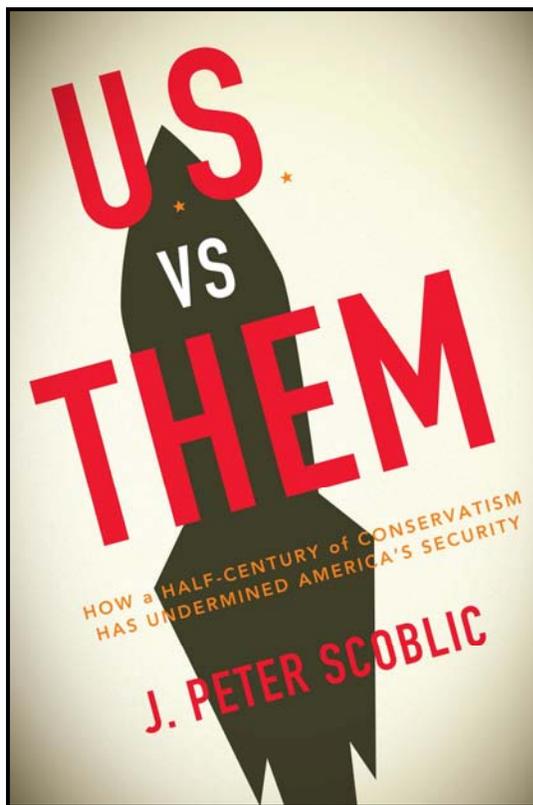


U.S. vs. THEM

How a Half Century of Conservatism Has Undermined America's Security

J. Peter Scoblic

George W. Bush hasn't led a foreign policy revolution. It just seems that way.



★“In stark, almost frightening detail . . . Scoblic illustrates how and why conservatism shaped the current administration and explains how it guided Bush’s ‘good vs. evil’ morality. **This is an important book, well researched and well reasoned in its assessment of conservatism and mandatory reading for anyone concerned with America’s security and future.**” —*Publishers Weekly* (starred)

“J. Peter Scoblic’s rollicking indictment of how conservatives have undermined America’s security since the dawn of the nuclear era is intellectual history at its best. Scoblic shows us that a ship of fools is afloat, still navigating us all towards catastrophe. It is a shocking and even sordid tale, told with calm logic and clear prose. Every informed citizen should pick up this book—but the next president should not occupy the Oval Office without first reading *U.S. vs. Them.*”

—*Kai Bird*, co-author of Pulitzer Prize-winning biography *American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of J. Robert Oppenheimer*

J. Peter Scoblic's *U.S. vs. THEM* (Viking; on-sale April 21, 2008; 320 pages; ISBN: 978-0-670-01882-6) is the book that finally explains the Bush administration’s foreign policy—and that shows why it still matters. Rather than simply describing Bush’s policies or articulating their

immediate causes, Scoblic identifies their true source in an ideological movement that has been with us for fifty years: American conservatism.

In the tradition of James Mann's *Rise of the Vulcans*, Scoblic traces the intellectual roots of modern conservative geopolitics—from the foundational years when William F. Buckley defined the Cold War as an apocalyptic struggle against "Satanic communism," to the right-wing campaign against the nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, to George W. Bush's "Axis of Evil." Digging through forgotten history, he shows how the Bush administration's foreign policy choices—its frequent refusal to engage in diplomacy, its obsession with missile defense, its hatred of the United Nations, even the invasion of Iraq—spring from the ideals of Barry Goldwater and *National Review*, and how they prevent the United States from addressing the twenty-first century's greatest security threat: nuclear terrorism.

Scoblic shows that American conservatism is locked into a binary setting—an insistence on seeing the world in terms of good versus evil, or us versus them—that transposes an eighteenth-century view of America's global role onto a modern battle against transnational threats. While this insistence on "moral clarity" helps win elections, it has endangered the United States because it leads conservatives to embrace nationalistic solutions to problems, like proliferation, that can be solved only through international cooperation.

Bush may leave office next year, but conservatism is firmly embedded in the politics of the Republican Party, including those of John McCain. In this contentious election year, *U.S. vs. Them* provides an eye-opening insight into how conservative ideas have undermined our safety—and how different ideas can restore America's place in the world.

About the Author

J. Peter Scoblic is the executive editor of *The New Republic*. Before joining *TNR*, Scoblic was the editor of *Arms Control Today*, a professional journal covering efforts to prevent the spread and use of weapons of mass destruction. A former fellow at the New America Foundation and a

Contacts: Ben Petrone, 212-366-2440
Ben.petrone@us.penguin.com

Kate Lloyd, 212-366-2225
kate.lloyd@us.penguin.com

visiting scholar at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, he has published widely on security issues, including pieces in the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, and *Los Angeles Times*. A graduate of Brown University, Scoblic lives in Washington, DC.

Tour Dates and Cities for J. Peter Scoblic:

Collegeville, MN	St. John's University	April 21, 2008
Minneapolis, MN	Council on Foreign Relations, 11:30am	April 22, 2008
San Francisco, CA	Commonwealth Club / Inforum, 6:30pm	April 23, 2008
Los Angeles, CA	Pasadena Public Library / Vroman's, 7pm	April 24, 2008
New York, NY	Media Day	April 28, 2008
Washington, DC	Politics & Prose, 7pm	April 30, 2008

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J. Peter Scoblic ■ Viking ■ \$25.95 ■ 320 pages

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*For more information or to schedule an interview with J. Peter Scoblic,
please contact Ben Petrone (212.366.2440 or ben.petrone@us.penguin.com)
or Kate Lloyd (212-366-2225 or kate.lloyd@us.penguin.com)*

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