

WHAT'S KILLING AMERICA

INSIDE THE RADICAL LEFT'S TRAGIC
DESTRUCTION OF OUR CITIES

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IF YOU LIVE IN A BIG CITY, does your neighborhood look and feel the same way it did when you first moved in? Has it stayed clean in recent years, or is it defiled by trash, graffiti, used needles, and human waste? Do you feel safe letting your kids ride their bikes alone? Have you had to explain to them what that homeless man is smoking on the sidewalk?

Or did you move to a suburb, hoping to escape the crime, homelessness, and despair of big city life only to find these problems followed you to your new home? Have more homeless addicts popped up? Have your taxes soared? Is your kid's school pushing values in conflict with your own? For millions of Americans, and perhaps yourself, the answer to these questions is a resounding yes. In many cities and towns, the Radical Left has taken control of the Democrat Party and transformed the places you live and love into unmitigated failures by ramming through disastrous virtue-signaling, woke policies.

But some of you answered no. Sure, there are problems popping up around your community, but they seem manageable. After all, there's no perfect community. You're confident that your neighborhood could never devolve into chaos. Well, I hate to burst your bubble. Crime, drug addiction, homelessness, left-wing school indoctrination, so-called "inclusive" housing policies, and outrageous taxes don't stay within big city limits forever. They don't even stay in liberal cities. It's not Las Vegas. What happens in Los Angeles, Chicago, Portland, New York, Seattle, San Francisco, and other cities run by the Radical Left doesn't stay there. The effects of ideologically-driven left-wing policies always spread. Activists pushing policy changes in Democrat strongholds inspire like-minded ideologues in other cities to step up and organize for change. It's why they see more policy victories than we expect.

Activists on the Radical Left are more organized than those on the Right. They're more organized than those of you who don't have a firm ideological position. You vote for who you think best serves your community and believe no one party can completely define your interests and views. You like some ideas on the Left, others on the Right, and you vote with your gut, not with a political identity you casually identify with. How in the world do you find like-minded people to join you in a political fight to retake your communities? And even if you could find them, would you have the time to do what's necessary to make meaningful change?

The Radical Left has a set of ideologically motivated, professional activists who show up to meetings in the middle of the day when you're at work, on a Tuesday evening when you're preparing dinner for your family, or when you're picking up your son or daughter from soccer practice. They endlessly scroll social media, looking for protests to attend or new causes to embrace. They share information with a community they've curated to help promote their activism, while you're online paying bills, finding family recipes on a budget, or looking for a movie to watch with the kids.

It's hard for you to organize because you have jobs and lives, families and responsibilities. Who wants to spend a Thursday evening at a city council meeting, when you could be at home spending quality time with your spouse and kids or grandkids, going to a concert, relaxing in front of a movie, or reading a book? Believe me, I get it. But when you choose not to engage more in the community, you've unintentionally ceded power to the Radical Left. They know you don't show up to meetings or town halls, so they fill the empty seats with the purpose of convincing lawmakers to take their positions and transform our cities.

Sure, in Democrat-run cities it's much easier for the Radical Left to convince lawmakers to take their side. They share a general political view and see the world through the same social justice lens. But why should we make it so easy for them? Why not put up a little resistance and inspire those who are not politically motivated, who see what's going on and are displeased, so that we can win small victories before, ultimately, winning the war for the future of our country? Why not connect the dots for those who don't understand or even see what's going on, so that we can explain away most of what's destroying our neighborhoods by directly tying it to a radical policy that won't ever produce the results we deserve?

I have two primary motivations for writing this book. I hope you'll view them as important, as I do.

First, there are millions of Americans who have no idea how bad our largest, Democrat-run cities have deteriorated. That may be hard to believe, but think about your neighbors or coworkers. Do they admit that the homeless crisis in your area is as bad as it is? Perhaps they think the complaints are hyperbole, and that it's only really a problem in certain neighborhoods they don't visit anyway. They don't seem to realize how quickly homelessness spreads. Are your childless friends aware of what's happening in our schools? They think it won't ever affect them, but those woke kids become the next generation of lawyers, doctors, CEOs, and politicians. Do we want their worldview to be defined by the Radical Left?

In my hometown of Seattle, I've spoken to people who think my reports about the very city they live in are fake, manipulated, or exaggerated. I've infiltrated Antifa marches to witness the vandalism, arson, and chaos. I've been followed home by Black Lives Matter radicals who tried to intimidate me into silence. I've hiked deep into unsanitary homeless encampments, stepping over needles and human waste to talk with men and women about what's keeping them on the streets. I've reviewed hundreds of secretly recorded videos and audio of Radical Left educators trying to indoctrinate your kids. I've covered more stories than I can count about my deteriorating city as part of my Seattle-based talk radio show. Yet, some claim I'm making all these problems up. Even after playing video of my experiences on Fox News, I'm told the problems don't really exist. It's pretty surreal.

Too many live in a bubble where they're not exposed to reality; others live in an echo chamber where they refuse to acknowledge the politicians and policies they support are destroying their communities. And if they watch CNN or MSNBC or get their news from left-wing Twitter, they are rarely exposed to the crises overtaking American cities. They don't know that Los Angeles gave up its streets to homeless encampments that spread medieval diseases or that Seattle radicals passed criminal justice "reforms" at the state level that allow criminals to speed away from the scene of a crime without any fear the police will follow. Few know of the reforms to single-family housing zones that threaten the American dream of homeownership in Minneapolis or that the way you cook or drive is now dictated in New York and Denver. And the truth is, though you are concerned with the news you see and are rather engaged, you might not even know the extent of the crises destroying our cities. This book will highlight those stories.

Second, for those of you who share my concerns about the state of our cities, it's important to understand *why* the Radical Left believes what they do, *how* their policies are failing, and *what*

alternatives exist to combat and counter their agenda. You'll never be able to convince a radical that they're wrong or dangerous because they're blinded by their own ideology. They are unmovable and, frankly, not worth our time. You want to win over the moderate Democrats, the independents, the unmotivated Republicans, or the I-Don't-Know-What-the-Heck-I-Am family member, neighbor, friend, and coworker (the one who won't report you to Human Resources for talking politics, at least). The best way to convince people something isn't working is to specifically explain why and how. The only way to inspire people to push for positive change is to argue from a place of facts with examples of failures and reasons why a different approach will work.

In the following chapters, I will dive deep into some of the country's largest American cities, take a few detours to some midsize and small ones, and focus on states where extremist policies are wreaking havoc. My focus is almost exclusively framed around Democrat policies from the Radical Left because they're the ones who run most major cities. It's not meant to suggest there are no problems in Republican-led cities. There most certainly are. And I'm not critical of all Democrats who are, on average, well-intentioned, kind, generous, and thoughtful—we just may have an honest difference of opinion. Instead, my focus is on a subset of powerful radicals who, right now, have the most power in major population centers. I believe they're wielding their power and control recklessly.

Each chapter is organized by a big picture topic, such as homelessness, illegal immigration, crime, or education. Some examples about Radical Left policies gone awry will be explored in great detail. Other times, I'll give you everything you actually need to know in order to see how the problems spiraled out of control. I'll focus on policies that don't work, while striving to highlight policies that do. I hope you'll learn as much about a city you don't live in as the one that you do live in.

I cover these topics, for the most part, through a political lens.

That's not to say every issue is political. I don't see policing, school curriculum, or housing policy as inherently political. Likewise, most Americans don't consider any overt political objective when supporting a policy, initiative, or strategy—regardless of one's political background. Democrats and Republicans alike just want what's best for their family and community. But the Radical Left crafts and passes their policies through a political lens, and the only way to properly understand them is by analyzing them in the way they're advanced. Plus, I do hope that more people are inspired to vote for the better candidates as a result of what you learn in this book.

To be clear and upfront: I have biases. *We all do*. There is no such thing as a purely objective journalist, talk show host, or television talking head. (I hold all of those titles.) The best of us try to report or analyze stories in good faith and without bias, but we screw up. Me? I don't pretend that I don't have a view. I very clearly do. My analysis, informed by 41 years of experiences living in big cities, surrounded almost entirely by people who don't think the way I do, is why you hear me on the radio, read me on popular websites, and watch me on television. I think there's value to my perspectives and observations, but I don't always expect you to agree with me. In fact, I hope you take advantage of the many endnotes included in this book to learn more about stories I cover and the source material that led to my observations and conclusions. It's okay to disagree with me. So, if you're so inclined, review the sources and form your own viewpoints to help shape your communities.

And a personal note: In addition to being intelligent, witty, attractive, and humble, I do have a tendency to get snarky or sarcastic. In other words, I can be a smart ass. You will experience that personality from time to time in the forthcoming chapters. But ultimately, I hope you'll appreciate the presentation that's meant to inform, shock, anger, *and* inspire you into bringing back sanity and reason to your community and, ultimately, the country.

If we don't pay more attention to what's going on in our most liberal cities, the policies will continue to spread. We've been complacent for far too long, assuming that the craziest elements of the Radical Left would stay confined to both coasts and that their ideas wouldn't sweep the country like a woke plague. It's time to take a closer look at what's going on in our country.

These policies are what's killing America.