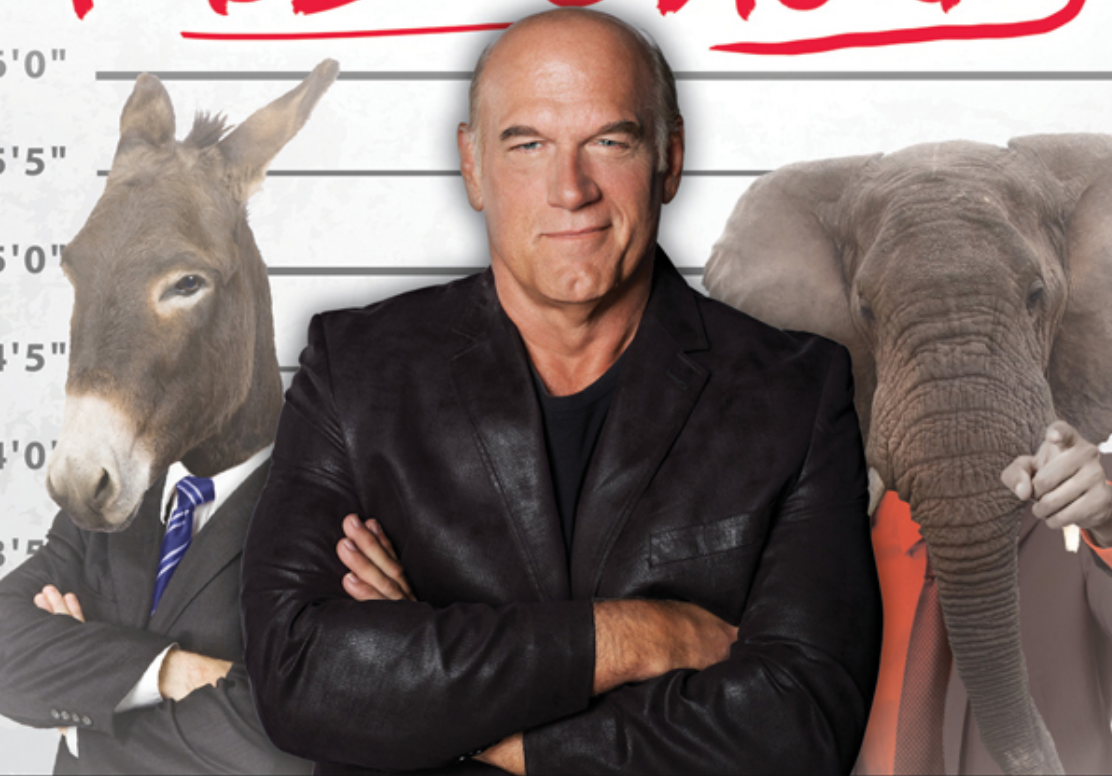


NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR

JESSE VENTURA

WITH DICK RUSSELL

DEMOCRIPS AND
ReBLOODLicans



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ReBLOODlicans

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NO MORE GANGS IN GOVERNMENT

JESSE VENTURA

with Dick Russell



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To

Hunter S. Thompson,

A real journalist and a man who warned us

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

“There is no nation on earth powerful enough to accomplish our overthrow. Our destruction, should it come at all, will be from another quarter. From the inattention of the people to the concerns of their government, from their carelessness and negligence. I must confess that I do apprehend some danger. I fear that they may place too implicit a confidence in their public servants and fail properly to scrutinize their conduct; that in this way they may be made the dupes of designing men and become the instruments of their own undoing. Make them intelligent, and they will be vigilant; give them the means of detecting the wrong, and they will apply the remedy.”

—Daniel Webster

DemoCRIPS AND

ReBLOODlicans

GANG WARFARE: DEMOCRIPS VS. REBLOODLICANS

Let me start out by explaining the title of this book for those readers who might not be familiar with the Crips and the Bloods. The Crips were a street gang founded in Southern California in 1969 and were looking to unite local gang members in South Central Los Angeles to battle other street gangs.¹ According to Crips founder Stanley Tookie Williams, blue eventually became the color associated with the Crips after one of their first members, Buddha (who habitually wore a blue bandana), was shot and killed in February 1973.

As time went on, the Crips became popular and were able to incorporate other gangs into their ranks. With more than 35,000 estimated members, the Crips engaged in a whole slew of illegal activities, ranging from drug distribution and extortion to the general spread of gang-related violence through the '70s and '80s.

The Bloods formed in reaction to the Crips in 1972. Initially founded by members of the Pirus street gang, a faction that broke off from the Crips, the Bloods set themselves apart by resorting to extreme violence and the production of crack cocaine in the 1980s. (They got some help with that from the federal government, which used the proceeds to fund the Nicaraguan Contras.)² The color for the Bloods, not too surprisingly, is red.

Okay, think about this for a moment. The color schemes, for example. Think “red states” and “blue states.” Aren’t the Republicans considered the “red state” party, and the

Democrats “blue” like the Crips? Besides trying to kill each other off while building up their own coffers with funds-for-favors, don’t the Republicans and the Democrats do everything they can to incorporate any “neighboring street gangs?”

The current state of political discourse and activity in our country is one that bears a close resemblance to gangland warfare. So in my view, it’s highly appropriate to equate “DemoCrips” and “ReBloodlicans” with their street counterparts. The only difference is that the two parties (gangs) have just been at it longer. The two political gangs have their turf, and that’s what they protect. They operate identically with street gangs: Dues are paid by members of the gang; all decisions are made within the gang; there’s hierarchy within the gang. Gang members became the admired objects of rap songs, and the party (gang) members have become media celebrities.

And why do we allow them to use a fun word like *party*? When you say party, you think of a joyous occasion. My Webster’s dictionary defines party as “a social gathering or assembly of persons for entertainment, amusement, or pleasure,” as in partygoer, party time, party girl, party hearty, party on, and so forth. Everybody loves to party! Well, I guess our politics have pretty much become entertainment, but you’d think we might take governance more seriously than to just identify it with partying.

Besides, what these people are doing is hardly cause for joy. The reality is, they’re stealing our country, and they’re doing it in the same manner that any street gang does: by acquisition of turf. And right now, your candidate for president is not

chosen by you the public—he or she is chosen by the two gangs.

So let's call a party a party and a gang a gang. I can also say that with a straight face because I was a member of the Mongol Motorcycle Club, South Bay California chapter. That was toward the end of my service as a Navy SEAL and after my discharge from active duty. Eventually, I became the sergeant-at-arms of my chapter before I left in 1974.

Of course, even in the outlaw motorcycle world, we don't call ourselves gangs. We're motorcycle clubs. That's what you see on the back of every jacket—MC for Motorcycle Club. Just like the gun club or the chess club—you pick a name to project the image that you want—whether it's true or not, such as the Democratic Party (gang) and the Republican Party (gang). Of course, nobody gets shot (generally speaking); they just get paid off and set up (think Monica Lewinsky and Clinton's impeachment). However, some of these gang members do go to jail like other gangsters, for instance Governor Good-Hair, Hot Rod Blagojevich, who got caught on tape saying what the other gang members say in private.

All right, time to get serious. There's another comparison to be drawn between political and street gangs, and that's collateral damage to innocent civilians. Think about it. When bikers fight in a bar, and occasionally guns get drawn, if somebody happens to get in the way, too bad. When politicians fight each other within our government and take their bribes from the lobbyists, we're the ones who always pay the price. It's not only about war, but also about collateral damage to people losing their homes and jobs.

So what is this book about, and what am I advocating? If the word “gang” offends you, then for this paragraph I’ll use the term “cabal” for party leaders who are out to maintain their hegemony over our system of government (much to the detriment of most Americans, not to mention the ideals and intentions of the founding fathers).

Or I’ll use another analogy: pro wrestling. I know that sounds kind of silly, but it’s true. The two gangs pretend to be adversaries in front of the public—good-cop, bad-cop, depending on whether you’re sitting in the high-priced seats or the bleachers—but ultimately, they’re both working for the same things: maintaining their power, getting richer, and making sure their wealthy backers keep control of the ship-of-state.

I’ve often been asked what has gone so fundamentally wrong with our country. My response is that the Democrats and Republicans are equally responsible and equally guilty because they’ve been in charge for over 150 years. They’ve created a system based upon bribery. Today, Wall Street owns our politicians, no matter which party (gang) it is—their allegiance is to the corporations and big business. “We basically have two bankrupt parties bankrupting the country,” is the way a Stanford political scientist, Larry Diamond, put it.³

The loose definition of fascism is when corporations take over government. And I think in the United States, we’re right on the brink of that, if we’re not there already.

Consider the following:

-
- Wall Street gets bailed out, while average homeowners who got bilked by the banks go broke.
 - Not one Street-wise exec gets prosecuted for mega fraud, but if you get caught selling an ounce of marijuana, hasta la vista, baby.
 - American Airlines declares bankruptcy so they won't have to pay their debts or renegotiate their labor contracts, but the law doesn't let a regular family declare personal bankruptcy to renegotiate their mortgage.
 - We hear all the Rebloodlicans squawking about the budget deficit, but the true reason it's been growing is because of how big money has corrupted the government—including the thievery of our election process.

These are some of the things that the Occupy Wall Street (OWS) movement—which was born in Manhattan's Zucotti Park in the heart of Wall Street and has sprouted up around the world—are protesting about. They're not all opposed to capitalism. (I love Wall Street, I just don't like the crooks and conspirators who run it.) The occupiers are simply saying, "Stop it, Wall Street, stop buying the allegiance of our politicians!" They want leaders, not politicians, who are committed to the challenges of average people to put a roof over their head and food on their table. They want proof that their leaders are acting for the greater common good and not simply out of greed or lust for power. They want leaders who are accountable for their actions—like President Truman said, "the buck stops here."

Despite the media spin that the Occupiers are sex-crazed twenty-somethings with nothing better to do than loaf, party, and trash the parks, the facts bear out that the OWS movement is diverse, and its members are older than you think. For every young person, there is one in his or her forties. The occupiers are from all walks of life, and supporters are sending contributions from as many as thirty-seven countries.⁴ Almost half the people polled by the New York Times/CBS News in October 2011 said they believed “the sentiment at the root of the Occupy movement generally reflects the views of most Americans.” They want higher taxes for corporations and millionaires and a more even distribution of wealth. But full 89 percent of Americans say they “distrust government to do the right thing.”⁵

So these demonstrations seem to be waking more people up. In Minnesota, I wanted to be the first political face in the country to come forward and support this movement. I went down there about half a dozen times. One night I made a trip to the hardware store and bought all the hand warmers they had, which I took down to the park in a big bag and set on their table. I said, “Hey I’m too old to spend the night, but for you young people doing this, these will help keep you warm.”

Now get this: In Minnesota they wouldn’t allow generators for the people to keep warm—they say no generators are permitted in the park—but there *was* a generator there, and it was running 24-7. You know what it was for? It had a camera on top of a pole, keeping all the protesters under surveillance. So it’s okay for the government, but for people to keep warm exercising their First Amendment rights, it’s not allowed! One set of rules for one side, a different set for the other side.

You'll read more about what's happening to the Bill of Rights in our supposed democracy as this book unfolds.

It's my hope that this book puts forward a step toward winning back our country. For the first time, I've taken a new position. From my perspective, I can't be an advocate anymore for third-party politics. I know this might stun some people, but I no longer support any third party. I happily wore that banner with pride for six or seven years. However, we've got to face the reality that the two parties control the system to such an extent that, to be viable, a third party would have to sell out and become just as bad.

Look at the Tea Party, it's already become corrupt! I'll spell out the details as we go along. When the major players are Glenn Beck and his ilk, I don't see that as a good alternative. It just adds another head to the already two-headed monster.

So I am in favor of abolishing *all* political parties within the system. To what level can we take that? Do we have the ability to remove them from ballots, to where people simply run by their names and are not identified by party? Wouldn't it then become incumbent upon us, the people, to know who these people *are*, rather than simply going out and voting for a specific party line?

The party line isn't what our country was supposed to be about. If we go back to our founding fathers, when they created these United States, it wasn't so that we would go vote for the political agenda of a particular group. They had in mind that we would vote for individuals and what each individual stood for. Now, could the individual be endorsed by a political party? Certainly that could happen, just the

same as you could be endorsed by any other special interest group, the teacher 's union or whatever. It still leaves that freedom in place. But the domination by these gangs has got to end! Hey, if competition is good for our economy, why isn't the same true for our politics?

I'll be laying out some heavy, maybe unpleasant, truths in this book. You'll learn about the money trail that leads from the rich and powerful and their lobbyists to the politicians and how that puts a stranglehold on our democracy. You'll get my take on the Obama administration and on the various rival Rebloodlican gang members challenging the Democrips in the 2012 election. You'll learn about the perils of computerized elections and how they take away our fundamental right to vote. You'll see how the politicians get "perks" that you can't and get away with shit that you'd go to jail for. You'll be chilled, as I have been, to learn about the police-state tactics that are undermining our freedoms and values, about the role of the media in maintaining "business as usual" when it comes to the politics in this country, and how the constitutional guarantee about separation of church and state is becoming a moot point. You'll learn about third-party politics, both historically and personally from my experience, and hopefully understand my call to get away from all that. And I'll be laying out something of a blueprint for how we might leave behind all the "party line" bullshit and in the process restore our country to what it used to stand for.

Let's first look at what the founders of our great country had to say about political parties. It might surprise you.

NOTES

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1. Origin of Crips: Stanley Tookie Williams and Tavis Smiley, *Blue Rage, Black Redemption* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 2007).
 2. Crips and Contras: Gary Webb, *Dark Alliance: The CIA, the Contras and the Crack Cocaine Explosion*, Seven Stories Press, 1999.
 3. Larry Diamond quoted “Third Party Rising,” by Thomas L. Friedman, op-ed in *New York Times*, October 31, 2011.
 4. “Who is Occupy Wall Street? After six weeks, a profile finally emerges,” by Gloria Goodale, *The Christian Science Monitor*, November 1, 2011.
 5. “New Poll Finds a Deep Distrust of Government,” by Jeff Zeleny and Megan Thee-Brenan, *New York Times*, October 26, 2011.

CHAPTER ONE

WHAT THE FOUNDERS SAID (AND DID)

Our founding fathers created the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. What was their perception of political parties? Did they want them to have the power that we see so clearly today? Did they want them submitting the candidates you would vote for as president? Did they want platforms to come out of political parties and candidates to have the party next to their names?

These are all questions I've been wondering about, and going back to our beginnings seems like a good place to start—especially since so many politicians in both the Democratic and Republican Parties (gangs) are so fond of fabrications about the founders so as to justify their own actions.

George Washington, as it turns out, hated the whole idea of political parties that pitted one group of citizens against another. Here is what Washington had to say in his farewell speech in 1796:

They [political parties] serve to organize faction, to give it an artificial and extraordinary force; to put, in the place of the delegated will of the nation, the will of a party, often a small but artful and enterprising minority of the community; and, according to the alternate triumphs of different parties, to make the public administration the mirror of the ill-concerted and incongruous projects of faction, rather than the organ of consistent and wholesome plans digested by common counsels, and modified by mutual interests.

However combinations or associations of the above description may now and then answer popular ends, they are likely, in the course of time and things, to become potent engines, by which cunning, ambitious, and unprincipled men will be enabled to subvert the power of the people, and to usurp for themselves the reins of government; destroying afterwards the very engines, which have lifted them to unjust dominion.

Was Washington farseeing or what?! We've become the United States of Usurpers, and, if I may continue the thought, based on Usury. Later in that same speech, Washington went on to warn about what political parties can ultimately lead to:

The alternate domination of one faction over another, sharpened by the spirit of revenge, natural to party dissension, which in different ages and countries has perpetrated the most horrid enormities, is itself a frightful despotism. But this leads at length to a more formal and permanent despotism. The disorders and miseries which result gradually incline the minds of men to seek security and repose in the absolute power of an individual; and sooner or later the chief of some prevailing faction, more able or more fortunate than his competitors, turns this disposition to the purposes of his own elevation, on the ruins of public liberty.¹

There you have it, direct from the mouth of one of the fathers of our country. Keep in mind that, when the Constitutional Convention took place in 1787, there weren't yet any official political parties. The debate over the Republic's future did have two sides: The Federalists were in favor of a strong centralized government, while the anti-Federalists were worried that the position of the president could devolve into a

monarchy, like the English one we'd just broken away from, and that the rights of the states and of individuals would be compromised.

The Federalist Party started off really and truly as a “faction” formed by Alexander Hamilton, the first Secretary of the Treasury under President Washington. A rival faction formed around Thomas Jefferson who, as Secretary of State, opposed Hamilton's idea for a powerful federal government. Like the Bloods who built up their rival gang, the Crips, the divide between Hamilton and Jefferson, spawned two national parties: the Federalists, with Hamilton and John Adams, versus the Democratic-Republican Party, with Thomas Jefferson as well as James Madison, the “Father of the Constitution.” That's the first time anything resembling partisan party politics occurred in our country, and it was during Washington's first term. But even though he was sympathetic to the Federalist Party, Washington was pretty much an independent—and he sure foresaw the pitfalls if the country partied on.

So did our second president, John Adams, who once said, “There is nothing I dread so much as a division of the Republic into two great parties, each arranged under its leader and converting measures into opposition to each other.” Adams believed that political parties were to be feared as “the greatest political evil under our Constitution.”²

Here's what a columnist for *USA Today* had to say recently about our second president:

Adams feared big political parties for what they have become: polarizing institutions, rather than mediating ones. He did not

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