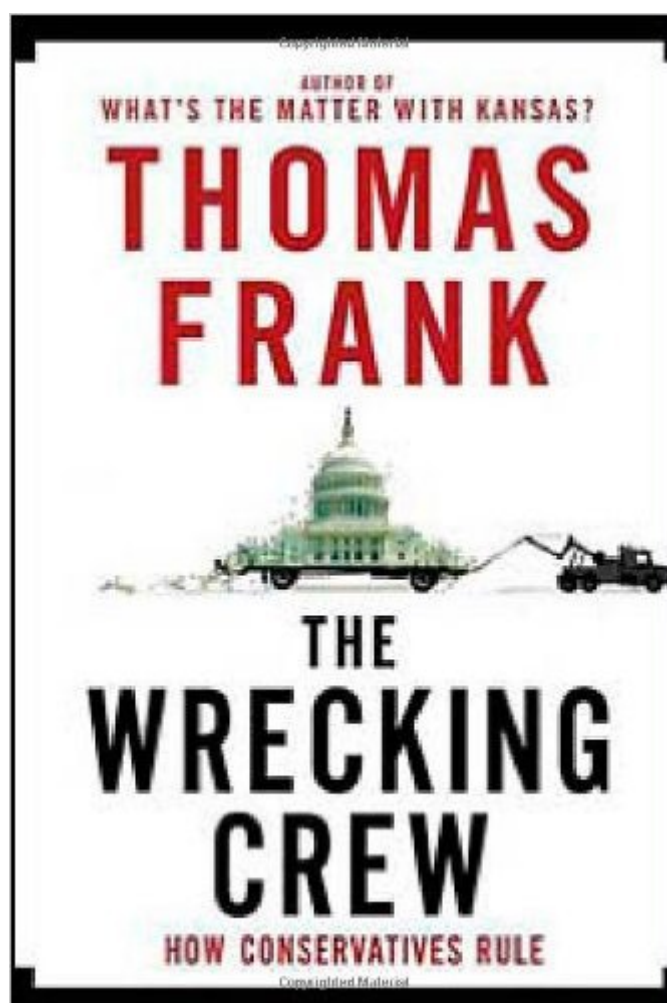


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# The Wrecking Crew: How Conservatives Ruined Government, Enriched Themselves, And Beggared The Nation



## Synopsis

From the author of the landmark bestseller *What's the Matter with Kansas?*, a jaw-dropping investigation of the decades of deliberate and lucrative conservative misrule. In his previous book, Thomas Frank explained why working America votes for politicians who reserve their favors for the rich. Now, in *The Wrecking Crew*, Frank examines the blundering and corrupt Washington those politicians have given us. Casting his eyes from the Bush administration's final months of plunder to the earliest days of the Republican revolution, Frank describes the rise of a ruling coalition dedicated to dismantling government. But rather than cutting down the big government they claim to hate, conservatives have simply sold it off, deregulating some industries, defunding others, but always turning public policy into a private-sector bidding war. Washington itself has been remade into a golden landscape of super-wealthy suburbs and gleaming lobbyist headquarters—the wages of government-by-entrepreneurship practiced so outrageously by figures such as Jack Abramoff. It is no coincidence, Frank argues, that the same politicians who guffaw at the idea of effective government have installed a regime in which incompetence is the rule. Nor will the country easily shake off the consequences of deliberate misgovernment through the usual election remedies. Obsessed with achieving a lasting victory, conservatives have taken pains to enshrine the free market as the permanent creed of state. Stamped with Thomas Frank's audacity, analytic brilliance, and wit, *The Wrecking Crew* is his most revelatory work yet—and his most important.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Frank paints a complex and conspiracy-ridden picture that illuminates the sinister and controversial practices of the Republican party in the 20th and 21st centuries. While Frank's assessments and interpretations of key events, players and party doctrines is accurate and justifiable, his overwhelming blame of the Republican Party as the source of everything that's wrong with this country and as the emblem of self-destructing government denies the Democrats and the citizenry their roles in a decaying democracy. Wyman's matter-of-fact delivery hints at the obviousness of Frank's words, but provides enough enthusiasm to make listeners believe he, too, is invested in Frank's message. His emphasis and vigor keep the text enjoyable, long after the rant of Republican despotism has become excessive. A Metropolitan Books hardcover (Reviews, May 26). (Aug.)  
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• Kirkus Reviews, starred review • Written with barbed wit and finely controlled anger, he skewers such juicy targets as libertarian strategist Grover Norquist and Michelle Malkin. • Publishers Weekly, starred review • Glorious • Often brilliant • Frank's gloom is leavened by an eye for the unexpected and the absurd. • Los Angeles Times • Well-researched and witty • Provides a powerful liberal antidote to the high-volume rantings of Bill O'Reilly, Ann Coulter and Fox News. • Seattle Post-Intelligencer • Frank's gifts as a social observer are on display • His analysis of why there are so many libertarian think tanks in a country with so few libertarians is dead on. In Thomas Frank, the American left has found its own Juvenal. • The New York Times Book Review • Frank offers one damning anecdote after another. The Wrecking Crew explains how cynical conservatives have wrested control of the government by railing against its very existence, all while using federal perches to funnel billions into the pockets of lobbyists and the corporations they represent. • Time • Thomas Frank is back with another hunk of dynamite. The Wrecking Crew should monopolize political conversation this year. It's the first book to effectively tie the ruin and corruption of conservative governance to the conservative "movement building" of the 1970s, and, before that, the business crusade against good government going back at least to the 1890s. • Salon.com • Tom Frank has hold of something real. The Wrecking Crew can be good, spirited fun. Frank captures a quality of exuberant bullying in those of his conservative subjects he knows well enough to identify individually, rather than categorically. • The New Yorker • Frank's sentences inhale and unfurl with a wit and verve • The New York

Observerâ œConservatives in office have made their share of blunders and mistakes, and Frank is at his finest in depicting some of the stunning instances of hypocrisy and idiocy in the period of Republican rule.â • â •The New York Postâ œSmart, thoroughly researched, and written with wit and panache.â • â •The Wichita Eagleâ œA welcome read. There is no doubt that Frank is helping to restore the journalistic and literary standards to political books. Elegantâ | The Wrecking Crew has the rhetorical power to illustrate the dire consequences of a government sold off piece by piece to the highest bidder. One finishes the book feeling as if one's political vision has been brought into focus.â • â •The Courier-Journalâ œA superb follow-up to What's The Matter with Kansas?... Thorough reporting and incisive historical analysis. With genuine outrage and blasts of polemic, but Frank never allows The Wrecking Crew to become just another seething right- or left-wing political tract preaching to the choir.â • â •The Oregonianâ œFrank brings invaluable insider perceptions, ardor, and precision to his lancing inquiry into the erosion of democracy and the enshrinement of the mighty dollarâ | An electrifying, well-researched analysis of â ^ conservatism-as-profiteering.' This staggering history of systematic greed with inject new energy into public discourse as a historical election looms.â • â •Booklist (starred review)â œThe author of the best-selling What's the Matter with Kansas? Examines the political, social, and economic consequences of several decades of deliberate and lucrative conservative misrule, revealing how Washington has been remade into a world of economic disparity, lobbyists, and incompetence.â • â •Forecast

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