

Chapter 1 : NPR Choice page

Republican Gomorrah is a bestiary of dysfunction, scandal and sordidness from the dark heart of the forces that now have a leash on the party. It shows how those.

Transcript This is a rush transcript. Copy may not be in its final form. Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is continuing a public campaign to cast doubt on diplomatic engagement with Iran. Speaking before the U. Inside the Movement that Shattered the Party. His new book is Goliath: Life and Loathing in Greater Israel. Max, welcome back to Democracy Now! Great to be back. He came to power in at the helm of the most right-wing government in Israeli history. He markets himself to Israelis as "you know, he appears in my book as the salesman, and he markets himself as a man who can go to the U. And Obama has been forced to sit with Netanyahu for 2. And so, Netanyahu really looks kind of desperate and diminished at the U. Now let me talk to you. Now let me tell you something. Let me "let me tell you something. I think the American president believes that. Well, let me "let me tell you what I think is the issue, and then you can judge whether you agree with me or not, and the same thing I say to everyone in the world. The settlements in the territories are not the cause of the conflict. Ninety percent of the Jewish population is clustered in the "in Judea, Samaria, the West Bank, is clustered in a tiny fraction of that land. Well, a lot of Jewish Israelis believe that, and they might cheer Netanyahu for saying that. How did you get this exclusive access? They want "Israeli politicians want PR. And this younger generation feels like the more pro-settlement they can be, the more extreme they can be, the more votes they get. So does his economy minister, Naftali Bennett. This is the future of Israeli politics. How important is U. You spend a lot of time in your book talking about the transformation of Israeli society and the growth of intolerance among the young "the young people, their attitudes towards "not only to the Palestinians in the Occupied Territories, but Arabs within their own country and Africans, as well. And there is an active process in Israel of actually kind of moving the occupation back into Israeli society. I talk about how I lived in Jaffa, which is one of the "you know, the remnant of the Palestinian community before , which has now been incorporated into the Tel Aviv municipality. And a religious nationalist settlement has been built in the center of this Palestinian-Israeli area, creating an enormous amount of friction. My favorite restaurant in my neighborhood was firebombed by hoodlums from the West Bank. Homes have been attacked by hoodlums from the West Bank. This is occurring in Jerusalem, not just weekly, but even daily. And then you look at the polls, you look at the attitudes of Israeli youth. Price tag attacks are basically vigilante attacks carried out by settlers against the Palestinian population in the West Bank. Could you talk about that, as well? Yeah, there are 80, Bedouins living in the Negev desert who are Israeli citizens, who serve in the Israeli army. They live in unrecognized communities. I just visited one of them, called Umm al-Hieran , when I was in the Negev two weeks ago. Almost every building in this community has been marked for demolition. It is a real town. I mean, when you think of Bedouins, you think of nomadic people. No, these are people who have been there before the state of Israel was established, and they will be replaced by a Jewish community that had gone in the night before I was there to stake out plots and decide where they would live. Yeah, I mean, the situation for them is incredibly complicated, because they sit atop the totem pole of Palestinian society, but at the same time there is a program of official discrimination within Israeli society. Their schools are monitored by the Shin Bet. I interviewed its author. The Nakba law actually penalizes Palestinian NGOs who participate in observation "in observances of the Palestinian dispossession in I interviewed two young tech workers. You always hear about Israel as the startup nation. And one of them made a really depressing comment to me. We have less than a minute. What were you most surprised by in your research for your book Goliath? Max Blumenthal, award-winning journalist, best-selling author, his latest book is Goliath: Please attribute legal copies of this work to democracynow. Some of the work s that this program incorporates, however, may be separately licensed. For further information or additional permissions, contact us.

In "Republican Gomorrah," reporter Max Blumenthal plumbs the depths of the Religious Right and its growing involvement in GOP politics -- and shows just how the Christian Reconstructionists have taken over the party.

For example, there was a breed of political animal called a liberal Republican. He loaned millions of dollars in cash! Another liberal Republican, Rep. John Anderson for whom I volunteered ran as an independent in the presidential campaign against Reagan and Carter. With the retirement of Sen. Mark Hatfield in the mids they became extinct. In the past twenty years, Republican moderates have slowly followed their path to oblivion. This trend has led us to where we now are: For my friends around the world who wonder how the U. I first read this book soon after it was published in Although it is more than ten years old, it seems more contemporary with each passing day. Blumenthal is the son of a prominent advisor to Bill and Hillary Clinton, but he is an independent, gifted voice driven by outrage of unfairness and intolerance. He tells this brisk story in three parts. Although Barack Obama won, the strategy has been refined. It can be argued that the election of Donald Trump, the advent of the American Dear Leader, owes virtually everything to this political movement. So how did we get here? It all started when the ideas, but not the paths, of two very different men crossed. Rushdoony, the son of an immigrant who in escaped the Armenian genocide perpetrated by the Ottoman Empire, was a theologian with a world view that did not include doubt. Rushdoony believed the greatest threat to freedom was communism and that many American societal and governmental institutions were compromised because they had diverted from the laws of God. Although he was never a member of the John Birch Society, he was sympathetic to their views, even their extreme racist and conspiratorial views. He promoted an agenda for the U. Women would be generally relegated to hearth and home. Insufficiently Christian men would be denied citizenship, perhaps executed. Francis Schaeffer could not have been more different from Rushdoony. He was a free thinking, counterculture American pastor in Switzerland in the late s who returned to the U. Wade to legalize abortion, which he equated with infanticide, became the consuming motivation in the last decade of his life, a motivation that would indelibly change American politics. His son, Frank, who was initially integral to build these alliances, has since abandoned the movement and become one of its most passionate critics. Yet ideas and congregations were not enough to sustain the movement. It needed money, lots of it. His son Erik went on to become the founder of Blackwater, a private armed force that came to prominence in the Iraq War. His daughter, Betsy, married into the DeVos family, whose fortune was built on the multi-level marketing scheme Amway, to create an even larger financial empire. Other big money interests, among the most prominent today being the Koch brothers, recognizing how this constituency could act as cover, have added economic issues like less taxes, manipulating the tax code, and concepts like "balancing the budget," which is not as simplistically logical as it sounds, to the so-called "religious right" agenda. But by far the most important person, the one who wove all these threads together into a political juggernaut, is James Dobson, who, although he leads a Christian non-profit that has tens of millions of followers throughout the world, has no formal religious credentials. He is a child psychologist who, in the s, wrote about child-rearing that were the complete anti-thesis of Dr. Dobson equated this with what he interpreted as the chaos of the s, which included both the popular responses against the Vietnam War and the Civil Rights Movement. Their political arm, the Family Research Council, is among the most powerful lobbies in Washington, DC, which provides direction on social issues and Supreme Court nominations. Dobson has built such a strong following that Republican political careers can be made or broken on his word alone. Candidates from local levels to the presidency make regular pilgrimages to Colorado Springs to be on his show and get his approval. Blumenthal documents how Focus on the Family was integral to pushing anti-pornography policy during the Reagan administration. Lobbyist Jack Abramoff, who took tens of millions from Louisiana Indian tribes to lobby to create casinos, who funded think tanks and showered DeLay with gifts and travel, loved it when Perkins lobbied against the casinos. It meant he could get even more money to keep lobbying. Eventually Abramoff and DeLay went to prison in large part because of the illegalities of their operations. They embraced movies, for example, made by Mel Gibson because they

could have greater reach around the world to promote their agenda. At the police station, [arresting officer] Karsnia subjected Craig to a withering interrogation. And there was the infamous case of Louisiana senator David Vitter, another Dobson supporter, who after years of rumors in New Orleans, was found to have been a habitual client at two prominent brothels. Two episodes are telling. McCain disavowed the endorsement. Despite a debut at the Republican National Convention that energized the base, Palin soon proved to be a horrible candidate. Simple interviews showed her to have shallow ideas and no understanding of the duties the presidency entailed. Although she supported abstinence over sex education, her teenage daughter was pregnant and unmarried. Palin became a joke, but her supporters cited her bringing a baby with Downs Syndrome to term as a qualification. She attacked the personal religious convictions of Barack Obama and it turned uncovered a racism that had been, for years, unacceptable in public discourse. Instead of the suburban hockey moms the GOP hoped to attract by selecting Palin, those who filled swing-state fairgrounds and arenas to cheer the VP candidate were focused obsessively on issues and were sometimes openly racist. Not only was this not the portrait of a winning coalition—it was not much of a coalition at all—it became politically combustible. A few words of incitement were all it would take to turn the party base in a virtual lynch mob. As Blumenthal demonstrates over and over again, that resentment took decades to refine. The latter used the banner of Bible as a facade to hide behind. This is what now exists in the U. They must support Christianity above all other religions, demonize Islam, deny science to believe in a literal reading of the Bible—which means the world is 6, years old—to deny evolution, support the teaching of creationism and intelligent design, deny that humanity has had anything to do with climate change, and vilify racial and ethnic diversity. They must refute ideas that claim the U. The distillation of all of these ideas can be traced back to R. Rushdoony and Francis Schaeffer with the guiding hand of Jame Dobson. The rule of fifty percent plus one vote to determine winners in elections was meant to push as much political wrangling as possible into the electoral process and away from governing. In turn, political parties became the bodies to sift out and consolidate core political positions. In a parliamentary system, that sorting out of energy can seep—or dominate—governing itself. What the framers could not have foreseen is that the aggregating function of parties and partisanship could be dominated minorities of zealots. They felt that was place of the party system.

Republican Gomorrah is a frightening book because it is clear to all of us on the outside that the various Republican operatives who surround James Dobson and his ilk.

The way the murder was presented by the man on death row was mysterious--his hand just rose up and the gun went off. He never said, "I shot a man. Things happen--God does it. No Republican is an agent of his or her own success or failure, sin or redemption. Because that was the thing that struck me about the murderer in the he had the power and in his own last moments, the clerk knew it. But the killer, no matter how well armed, never felt it. Republican Gomorrah is a frightening book because it is clear to all of us on the outside that the various Republican operatives who surround James Dobson and his ilk have no consciences and will stop at nothing. Of course that is frightening. Each of these qualities is destructive in and of itself. The combination is turning out to be coercive. Even those of us who are immune to the emotions these people play upon are getting more and more nervous about the power that they wish to exert. Blumenthal does two things that no one else I have read manages to do--the first of these is that he organizes the network. He shows how Ted Bundy is connected to James Dobson is connected to Gary Bauer is connected to Erik Prince is connected to Ralph Reed is connected to Jack Abramoff is connected to Tom Delay is connected to Tony Perkins is connected to David Duke is connected to Mel Gibson, and so forth, and in the course of tracing these connections, he informs us, or reminds us, of the crimes and misdemeanors these people have committed. Or did he discipline too much? This aspect of the book reminds me of a Scottish novel called *The Private Memoirs And Confessions Of A Justified Sinner* by James Hogg, in which, once a man believes he is among the saved, he can commit any sin he wants to and be sure he will go to heaven. Once Davis was "saved," for example, he said, "My goal is to get to heaven. And power plays are the key to right wing psychology. Right wing psychology is the other thing that Blumenthal has to offer. At the periphery of this world is your run-of-the-mill bully, a man like Jack Abramoff, whose brutality is well remembered by his high school classmates, but who sang like a bird once he was caught. At the center of is James Dobson, a much more destructive figure than Abramoff, who advocates, in the strongest terms, child beating, and not only child-beating, but dog-beating. At one point he brags about going after the family canine who weighed twelve pounds and engaging in "the most vicious fight ever staged between man and beast. Insofar as he finds the documentation, Blumenthal points out how many of these powerful Evangelical Christians were beaten and abused as children including Dobson. The beatings, often arbitrary, cruel, and frequent, were then, in many cases, backed up with constant lessons about God--that he is arbitrary, that he is cruel, that he demands obedience above all things, and that he surpasseth understanding. The point of these exercises is to establish the powerlessness of the child, his shame and guilt as a worthless sinner, and his absolute fear of thinking for himself. He will then take his place in the hierarchy and thereby reinforce the existence of the hierarchy. Blumenthal goes pretty far with this psychology, but, in my view, not far enough. But a child who is beaten enough eventually comes to understand two things above all--that the world makes no sense and so why try to make sense of it? There is safety only in two things--conforming to a group and, as a part of that group, dominating and even destroying other groups. The rules of the group can be anything at all, as long as the members of the group abide by them. And other groups have to abide by them, too, or the painful and arbitrary rules that group abides by are meaningless. Many of the Evangelicals Blumenthal discusses are Christian Dominionists--that is, they differ from the Taliban only in their choice of doctrine. Their uses of that doctrine to dehumanize women and other groups, to never share power, to control every aspect of every life within their power, and to create society as a steeply hierarchical structure with them at the top are those of the Taliban. Rushdoony, son of Armenian immigrants who fled the Armenian genocide of You would think that a man whose family escaped mass murder would go on to espouse peace, love, and understanding, but Rushdoony went the other way, taking literally the laws in the Book of Leviticus. In his book, *The Institutes of Biblical Law*, he advocates capital punishment for "disobedient children, unchaste women, apostates, blasphemers, practitioners of witchcraft, adulterers," and homosexuals. Gary North, the Presbyterian Christian

Reconstructionist, is his son-in-law, and, while not backing down on the mass death penalty, advocates stoning rather than burning at the stake, because stoning is cheaper and of course that is a factor, because there would be a lot of people to exterminate. As for who would be doing the killing of you and me, if they could catch us, well, Christians would, but not because they wanted to. Ever unable to accept responsibility, they assign agency to God, who wants us killed, who will beat us until we "crumple" on his "loving" breast, a God who has given us all sorts of talents, skills, and interests, but is, like these Christian Dominionists, interested only in power. I believe his motto is "Adore me or I will hurt you. When I was a parent of young children, I, too, got frustrated, and I, too, thought a spanking might be a good thing. I soon realized that my motives for administering physical punishment were highly suspect--more anger and frustration than care for the child or knowledge about effective methods. I then saw a show about child-rearing, in which a woman who firmly believed in child-beating aroused far more resistance in her beaten daughter, and had much more family disruption, than the parents who ignored the tantrum and then used the technique of redirection to train their toddlers. Works with horses, dogs, and other animals, too. It was then I decided that if I, in my human weakness, could put two and two together concerning free will and proper behavior, surely God could, also. But they have numbers. The bad thing about that is that they could take control. But only back from the brink. The good thing is that they would not be able to maintain what we call a government for very long see George W. The bad thing is that they would destroy the country as we know it while they were trying. If I take the long view, well, I think, Stalinism lasted about 25 years, Nazism The Iranian Mullahs have been at it for 30 years. Russia and Germany survived, Iran might, as well. But generations were lost in all these places. I think about the year-old clerk in that convenience store, looking down the barrel of that pistol. He probably had no idea that his killer had no sense of agency, hardly even knew what he was doing, was seeing his hand as separate from himself. But I have to feel sorry for the killer, too, subject to feelings that he could not label that were terrifying and overpowering. I bet he was beaten, shamed, and neglected as a child. I bet, afterward, he wished someone, somehow, had stopped him. Max Blumenthal, Republican Gomorrah, Nationbooks, available at your local bookstore and anywhere else that books are sold.

Chapter 4 : Republican Gomorrah : Max Blumenthal :

Republican Gomorrah is a bestiary of dysfunction, scandal and sordidness from the dark heart of the forces that now have a leash on the party. It shows how those forces are the ones that establishment Republicans-like John McCain-have to bow to if they have any hope of running for President.

He has one brother. He graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in with a B. He focuses on the crisis in the Middle East and its role in shaping political dynamics and public opinion in the US, particularly the special relationship with Israel. He occasionally covers domestic issues such as corporate media consolidation, the influence of the Christian right and police brutality. Ruin and Resistance in Gaza. He posits that the massive West Bank operation that followed it was not aimed at rescuing the teens, who were known to be dead, or to capture their killers, but to destroy a political agreement between Hamas and the Palestinian National Authority by targeting the Palestinian Unity Government. On Friday morning, when the IDF still believed that Lieutenant Hadar Goldin may have been taken alive by Hamas into an attack tunnel beneath Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip, the Hannibal Directive was activated to its most devastating extent yet – including massive artillery bombardments and air strikes on possible escape routes. Only partial remains of the three Israelis were found. An IDF inquiry concluded Lt. Hadar Goldin probably was killed during the initial battle. Goldin, was taken captive by an ambush team from the Hamas military wing known as the Qassam Brigades , [30] According to an IDF investigation of the incident, while the phrase "Hannibal Procedure" was mentioned on the IDF field radios, the procedure was not implemented nor was there indiscriminate fire towards Rafah homes. The IDF investigation concluded that 41 people were killed, 12 of whom were Hamas combatants. I recorded testimonies from scores of residents of these areas, documenting war crimes committed by the Israeli armed forces. The atrocities formed an undeniable pattern, suggesting that the crimes committed by Israeli forces in Gaza during Operation Protective Edge were the product of stated military policies, or at least rules of engagement that enabled massacres, summary executions, wholesale residential destruction, the use of civilians as human shields, and abductions. Hadar Goldin had been killed along with two comrades by a suicide bomb one of the militants exploded, or later by friendly fire in the Israeli assault on the area to hunt for him, nor is it known if his remains were recovered. Blumenthal hypothesized the goal may have been to "den[y] Hamas the leverage it might have gained at the negotiating table with a live soldier in its possession. Ayatollah Khomeini was number one. He entered a stall but the journalists refused to leave. After this event, Blumenthal and Sheen were banned from ever setting foot in the Bundestag again. In an e-mail explaining the ban, Bundestag president, Norbert Lammert stated: In TomDispatch , he attributed an alleged trans-Atlantic Islamophobic political network that "spans continents, extending from Tea Party activists here to the European far right. It brings together in common cause right-wing ultra-Zionists, Christian evangelicals, and racist British soccer hooligans. Zuhdi Jasser , founder and president of the American Islamic Forum for Democracy , said, "It goes without saying, but to those who may not know Nina, and having known her now for many years, it is clear to me that she has the highest respect for Muslims who love their faith, love God, and take seriously our Islamic responsibility to defeat the global jihad and its Islamist inspiration. Blumenthal says that conference organizers were angered by the video, and refused to air it. The youths used expletives and racist rhetoric about President Barack Obama and Arabs , which included referring to Obama as a " nigger " and "like a terrorist". Inside the Movement That Shattered the Party, was inspired by the work of psychologist Erich Fromm , who asserted that "the fear of freedom propels anxiety-ridden people into authoritarian settings. Thus, as if from a bas relief, details are raised to which the local eye has become so accustomed that it no longer notices their existence. Ruin and Resistance in Gaza [82] Controversies This section may lend undue weight to certain ideas, incidents, or controversies. Please help to create a more balanced presentation. Discuss and resolve this issue before removing this message. Please help improve this section by clarifying or removing superfluous information. If importance cannot be established, the section is likely to be moved to another article, pseudo-redirected , or removed.

Chapter 5 : Republican Gomorrah | Max Blumenthal

An explosive bestseller, Max Blumenthal's Republican Gomorrah is a bestiary of dysfunction, scandal, and crime from the movement that runs the Republican Party.

Inside the Movement that Shattered the Party. The book traces the rise of the radical right in the US and how it used the concept of personal crisis to grow as a movement and eventually capture control of the GOP to transform it from the party of Dwight Eisenhower to the party of Sarah Palin. Max Blumenthal is an award-winning journalist and author of Republican Gomorrah: He is a Puffin Foundation writing fellow at the Nation Institute. Fifty years ago, Republican President Dwight Eisenhower issued a warning against the rise of extremist movements within his own party. In a letter to a World War II veteran, Eisenhower wrote, quote, "Many prominent officials, possessing no standing or expertness as they themselves claim it, attempt to further their own ideas or interests by resorting to statements more distinguished by stridency than by accuracy. The book examines the transformation of the GOP from the party of Dwight Eisenhower to the party of Sarah Palin and how this sets the stage for the future of American politics. He joins us today for his first extended interview about his book, Republican Gomorrah. Welcome to Democracy Now! Thanks for having me on. Well, you had an op-ed piece in the Times this week citing that Eisenhower quote. Can you talk about that warning of Eisenhower and your sense of how true it rings today? I actually discovered that Eisenhower letter while doing some research for my book, Republican Gomorrah. I think that his warning about the rise of extremist movements should be as memorable in history as his warning about the military-industrial complex, because he saw what was happening to his Republican Party. Eisenhower really believed in the big tent philosophy of the Republican Party, that in order to be a national party, you had to have a broad constituency. Newt Gingrich said, "I think you can write a psychological profile of me that says I found a way to immerse my insecurities in a cause large enough to justify whatever I wanted it to. Well, what I found riveting in your book was the -- most people associate the rise of the modern radical right in the Republican Party with Barry Goldwater and the elections of But you actually trace it much further back to a bunch of people that few Americans have ever heard of: Francis Schaeffer or R. Could you talk about these individuals and their enormous impact on the current crop of radical right leaders? But I talk about R. He advocated substituting theocracy for the Constitution, wrote, you know, thousand-word tomes explaining how this would work out during the s, during the battles for desegregation, and influenced people like Jerry Falwell. As extreme as it sounds, it had an enormous impact on the right-wing evangelical movement as it moved from the pews into the political realm, because it gave them something to campaign for, even if what they were going to get was going to be more along the lines of a Republican Gomorrah than what they saw as, you know, a theocratic Canaan. Francis Schaeffer is the guy who really gave them the tactics to make this happen. They were still upset that their Christian schools had to accept African American children. And Francis Schaeffer told them, "No, we have to campaign on abortion. Abortion is the issue. Yeah, but who was Schaeffer? And Schaeffer is a really fascinating and tragic character. He was an iconoclastic theologian who set up a hippy -- Christian hippy commune in the Swiss Alps. And I write about, you know, how this commune -- in my book, Republican Gomorrah, I write about how this commune accepted lesbians and African Americans and all kinds of people, as long as they, you know, believed in Christ. Timothy Leary visited this commune. So he was sort of a tolerant character. But when Roe v. Wade happened, something snapped inside Francis Schaeffer, and he became concerned that the United States government would eventually legalize infanticide and inspired this evangelical movement to take up the cause of abortion, when they were preoccupied with segregation, and eventually helped create the moral majority with Jerry Falwell. He helped convince Jack Kemp and Gerald Ford that abortion was an important issue. And, you know, from the Swiss Alps to Washington, he became an evangelist in the truest sense of the word. The tragic part is that Francis Schaeffer despised so many of the evangelical, you know, Southern Baptists who had converged around him. He thought Pat Robertson was a pathological lunatic after Pat Robertson told him at dinner, as I write in my book, that he burned a Modigliani painting in his fireplace. He thought Jerry Falwell was a charlatan. He thought James

Dobson, who was studying him very closely, was power mad. But at the same time, Francis Schaeffer was giving -- creating tactics and urging evangelicals to get out in the streets and fight even a violent war to stop abortion. Tiller recently in Kansas. And his son is out there, and his son Frank Schaeffer has been on your show. And his son says, you know, "My father would have been so upset to see what the Christian right and the Republican Party has become today. He despised the homophobia of the movement. We needed a crisis to keep occurring in American society in order for us to stay in business. The book is Republican Gomorrah: Ahmanson, he, as you point out in the book, is the angel of much of the conservative causes, a financial angel. Talk about his influence. Well, I was the first journalist in fifteen years to get an interview with Howard F. And, you know, your listeners and viewers in California might recognize the name Ahmanson, because of so many philanthropic entities that have been donated by his father, who was the great man of California. He was the man behind Proposition 8 in California, which banned same-sex marriage. Countless right-wing Christian right causes across the country that have been successful have been funded by Howard F. At age eighteen, Howard F. His mother died soon after. And he basically went crazy. He literally went crazy and wound up in a mental institution. When he came out of the mental institution, he found, as so many people do who have had a personal crisis and are seeking some kind of means of transcending it, evangelical religion. And he found R. Rushdoony, who I talked about earlier. And he helped -- and he declared, Howard F. And what it really is about is about creating this, what they see as this theocratic utopia, which is actually becoming a Republican Gomorrah. You have a whole chapter on James Dobson, and calling him perhaps the most influential and respected member of the radical Christian right in America today. And Dobson was, you know, a key acolyte of Francis Schaeffer. He has no theological credentials. People write in with their personal problems. He sends them -- his workers send them Dobson-approved advice. After they get into the database that Dobson maintains, he bombards them with political mailings and slowly cultivates them into Republican shock troops. So Dobson has, you know, turned personal crisis into political resentment. How did he erect this empire? It came mainly from one book, which I quote from extensively in my book, Republican Gomorrah -- Dare to Discipline, which is essentially a manual for corporal punishment, for beating your child. In this book, he says pain is a marvelous purifier that a child should be -- that pain goes a long way with a child, that pain should be dispensed sufficiently enough to make a child cry, but then the child will crumple to your breast, and you should welcome the child with warm, open arms. This is a recipe for sadomasochism. And he saw himself originally as the antithesis to Benjamin -- Dr. Benjamin Spock, who tells you to basically pick your child up and cradle it. By creating a belt-wielding army of millions, Dobson created the next generation of Republican shock troops, who are more radical than before. They are followers of a higher cause, of a strong leader, a magic helper like Dobson or George W. Bush or the macho Jesus archetype that they worship. And this is what defines this movement. So many of the people that Dobson has been able to get close to and work with in the Republican Congress and in American culture have been viciously abused as children. And he understood that by advocating violence against children, deliberate violence, he was creating this sensibility, which would produce a radical generation of political followers. Tom DeLay, for example, who Dobson converted from Hot Tub Tommy, a dallying, philandering, no-name legislator in Texas, you know, who lived in a house that was nicknamed "Macho Manor," Dobson converted him into this hardcore -- you know, into "The Hammer," the man who whipped the Republican Congress into shape and turned it into one of the most radical congresses in history. Ted Bundy, who I write about extensively in my book, Republican Gomorrah, who is the most notorious serial killer in American history, Dobson helped convert Ted Bundy on death row into a born-again Christian and then got the final interview before Ted Bundy was executed and sold tapes of this interview to raise a million dollars for his political empire and to generate national renown. Well, Newt Gingrich, for example, another person who was viciously abused as a child, Dobson led the coup against Gingrich that helped remove him as Speaker of House -- as Speaker of the House when a lot of Republicans were concerned that his leadership was weakening when they were trying to impeach Clinton, because Gingrich was carrying on an affair with a woman twenty years younger than him who was on the congressional payroll at the same time. When Gingrich decided to resurrect his political career, he decided -- the Republican Party is controlled by the Christian right. He basically prostrated himself before Dobson, who has, you know, no political --

supposedly has no political standing. You can see him on Fox News now. So, that shows, you know, how powerful Dobson is. And the connection between Dobson and Sarah Palin? Well, Dobson, you know, and a lot of his allies, many of his allies, had known about Sarah Palin before any of us did. And so, when John McCain won the nomination, he knew that he needed to bring the Christian right around. I mean, there was no way, other way, that he was going to win the Republican base, considering how loathed he was for denouncing Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson as agents of intolerance. So his advisers realized that Dobson was very favorable to Sarah Palin, because whatever her qualifications were, however experienced she was, however articulate or inarticulate she was, she embodied the culture of personal crisis that I talk about in my book, *Republican Gomorrah*, that so many, you know, people in the Christian right identify with. She was given millions in federal funding to create textbooks for public schools that warned children that you could spread AIDS through sweat and tears. Henry Waxman reviewed these textbooks and found that 80 percent of the information was inaccurate. But I started to understand, through my research, what the right-wing archetypal woman was like. This is someone who had had an abortion, who had had a personal crisis, and became one of the leading anti-abortion activists in South Dakota. And so, I started to understand this mentality.

Chapter 6 : Max Blumenthal - Wikipedia

In his new book Republican Gomorrah: Inside the Movement that Shattered the Party, investigative reporter Max Blumenthal theorizes that a culture of "personal crisis" has transformed the Grand Old.

Transcript This is a rush transcript. Copy may not be in its final form. Fifty years ago, Republican President Dwight Eisenhower issued a warning against the rise of extremist movements within his own party. Inside the Movement that Shattered the Party. The book examines the transformation of the GOP from the party of Dwight Eisenhower to the party of Sarah Palin and how this sets the stage for the future of American politics. He joins us today for his first extended interview about his book, Republican Gomorrah. Welcome to Democracy Now! Thanks for having me on. Well, you had an op-ed piece in the Times this week citing that Eisenhower quote. Can you talk about that warning of Eisenhower and your sense of how true it rings today? I actually discovered that Eisenhower letter while doing some research for my book, Republican Gomorrah. I think that his warning about the rise of extremist movements should be as memorable in history as his warning about the military-industrial complex, because he saw what was happening to his Republican Party. Eisenhower really believed in the big tent philosophy of the Republican Party, that in order to be a national party, you had to have a broad constituency. Well, what I found riveting in your book was the "most people associate the rise of the modern radical right in the Republican Party with Barry Goldwater and the elections of But you actually trace it much further back to a bunch of people that few Americans have ever heard of: Francis Schaeffer or R. Could you talk about these individuals and their enormous impact on the current crop of radical right leaders? But I talk about R. He advocated substituting theocracy for the Constitution, wrote, you know, thousand-word tomes explaining how this would work out during the s, during the battles for desegregation, and influenced people like Jerry Falwell. As extreme as it sounds, it had an enormous impact on the right-wing evangelical movement as it moved from the pews into the political realm, because it gave them something to campaign for, even if what they were going to get was going to be more along the lines of a Republican Gomorrah than what they saw as, you know, a theocratic Canaan. Francis Schaeffer is the guy who really gave them the tactics to make this happen. They were still upset that their Christian schools had to accept African American children. Abortion is the issue. Yeah, but who was Schaeffer? And Schaeffer is a really fascinating and tragic character. He was an iconoclastic theologian who set up a hippy "Christian hippy commune in the Swiss Alps. And I write about, you know, how this commune "in my book, Republican Gomorrah, I write about how this commune accepted lesbians and African Americans and all kinds of people, as long as they, you know, believed in Christ. Timothy Leary visited this commune. So he was sort of a tolerant character. But when Roe v. Wade happened, something snapped inside Francis Schaeffer, and he became concerned that the United States government would eventually legalize infanticide and inspired this evangelical movement to take up the cause of abortion, when they were preoccupied with segregation, and eventually helped create the moral majority with Jerry Falwell. He helped convince Jack Kemp and Gerald Ford that abortion was an important issue. And, you know, from the Swiss Alps to Washington, he became an evangelist in the truest sense of the word. The tragic part is that Francis Schaeffer despised so many of the evangelical, you know, Southern Baptists who had converged around him. He thought Pat Robertson was a pathological lunatic after Pat Robertson told him at dinner, as I write in my book, that he burned a Modigliani painting in his fireplace. He thought Jerry Falwell was a charlatan. He thought James Dobson, who was studying him very closely, was power mad. But at the same time, Francis Schaeffer was giving "creating tactics and urging evangelicals to get out in the streets and fight even a violent war to stop abortion. Tiller recently in Kansas. And his son is out there, and his son Frank Schaeffer has been on your show. He despised the homophobia of the movement. We needed a crisis to keep occurring in American society in order for us to stay in business. The book is Republican Gomorrah: Ahmanson, he, as you point out in the book, is the angel of much of the conservative causes, a financial angel. Talk about his influence. Well, I was the first journalist in fifteen years to get an interview with Howard F. And, you know, your listeners and viewers in California might recognize the name Ahmanson, because of so many philanthropic entities that

have been donated by his father, who was the great man of California. He was the man behind Proposition 8 in California, which banned same-sex marriage. Countless right-wing Christian right causes across the country that have been successful have been funded by Howard F. At age eighteen, Howard F. His mother died soon after. And he basically went crazy. He literally went crazy and wound up in a mental institution. When he came out of the mental institution, he found, as so many people do who have had a personal crisis and are seeking some kind of means of transcending it, evangelical religion. And he found R. Rushdoony, who I talked about earlier. And he helped " and he declared, Howard F. And what it really is about is about creating this, what they see as this theocratic utopia, which is actually becoming a Republican Gomorrah. You have a whole chapter on James Dobson, and calling him perhaps the most influential and respected member of the radical Christian right in America today. And Dobson was, you know, a key acolyte of Francis Schaeffer. He has no theological credentials. People write in with their personal problems. He sends them " his workers send them Dobson-approved advice. After they get into the database that Dobson maintains, he bombards them with political mailings and slowly cultivates them into Republican shock troops. So Dobson has, you know, turned personal crisis into political resentment. How did he erect this empire? It came mainly from one book, which I quote from extensively in my book, Republican Gomorrah " Dare to Discipline, which is essentially a manual for corporal punishment, for beating your child. In this book, he says pain is a marvelous purifier that a child should be " that pain goes a long way with a child, that pain should be dispensed sufficiently enough to make a child cry, but then the child will crumple to your breast, and you should welcome the child with warm, open arms. This is a recipe for sadomasochism. And he saw himself originally as the antithesis to Benjamin -" Dr. Benjamin Spock, who tells you to basically pick your child up and cradle it. By creating a belt-wielding army of millions, Dobson created the next generation of Republican shock troops, who are more radical than before. They are followers of a higher cause, of a strong leader, a magic helper like Dobson or George W. Bush or the macho Jesus archetype that they worship. And this is what defines this movement. So many of the people that Dobson has been able to get close to and work with in the Republican Congress and in American culture have been viciously abused as children. And he understood that by advocating violence against children, deliberate violence, he was creating this sensibility, which would produce a radical generation of political followers. Ted Bundy, who I write about extensively in my book, Republican Gomorrah, who is the most notorious serial killer in American history, Dobson helped convert Ted Bundy on death row into a born-again Christian and then got the final interview before Ted Bundy was executed and sold tapes of this interview to raise a million dollars for his political empire and to generate national renown. Well, Newt Gingrich, for example, another person who was viciously abused as a child, Dobson led the coup against Gingrich that helped remove him as Speaker of House " as Speaker of the House when a lot of Republicans were concerned that his leadership was weakening when they were trying to impeach Clinton, because Gingrich was carrying on an affair with a woman twenty years younger than him who was on the congressional payroll at the same time. When Gingrich decided to resurrect his political career, he decided " the Republican Party is controlled by the Christian right. He basically prostrated himself before Dobson, who has, you know, no political " supposedly has no political standing. You can see him on Fox News now. So, that shows, you know, how powerful Dobson is. And the connection between Dobson and Sarah Palin? Well, Dobson, you know, and a lot of his allies, many of his allies, had known about Sarah Palin before any of us did. And so, when John McCain won the nomination, he knew that he needed to bring the Christian right around. I mean, there was no way, other way, that he was going to win the Republican base, considering how loathed he was for denouncing Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson as agents of intolerance. So his advisers realized that Dobson was very favorable to Sarah Palin, because whatever her qualifications were, however experienced she was, however articulate or inarticulate she was, she embodied the culture of personal crisis that I talk about in my book, Republican Gomorrah, that so many, you know, people in the Christian right identify with. She was given millions in federal funding to create textbooks for public schools that warned children that you could spread AIDS through sweat and tears. Henry Waxman reviewed these textbooks and found that 80 percent of the information was inaccurate. But I started to understand, through my research, what the right-wing archetypal woman was like. This is someone who had

had an abortion, who had had a personal crisis, and became one of the leading anti-abortion activists in South Dakota. And so, I started to understand this mentality. This is someone who wound up promoting Sarah Palin to the right-wing base, because she saw in Sarah Palin someone who also advocated abstinence, but at the same time her family was not practicing it. In Lubbock, Texas, for example, where abstinence has been mandated, you know, I mention in my book that the rate of gonorrhea there is twice the national rate. And so, the process of, you know, crisis and confession, and what a lot of people refer to as hypocrisy, was essential to the rise of Sarah Palin, because people could identify with her who are going through these struggles themselves. Let me ask you “ obviously, the subtitle of the book is Inside the Movement that Shattered the Party. How did it shatter the party? How did this movement shatter the party?

Chapter 7 : Max Blumenthal on “Goliath: Life and Loathing in Greater Israel” | Democracy Now!

"Republican Gomorrah is a powerful study of right-wing extremism, replete with perversions perpetrated on all Americans in the name of the Culture Wars. Blumenthal shines a klieg light on.

Chapter 8 : Republican Gomorrah: Inside the Movement that Shattered the Party by Max Blumenthal

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Chapter 9 : Republican Gomorrah | Open Library

Max Blumenthal talked about his book Republican Gomorrah: Inside the Movement that Shattered the Party (Nation Books; September 8, 2011). He related his perspective of the history of the.