Michael Lind, New America Foundation
Oxford University Press, October 2006

In *The American Way of Strategy*, Lind argues that the goal of U.S. foreign policy has always been the preservation of the American way of life -- embodied in civilian government, checks and balances, a commercial economy, and individual freedom. Lind describes how successive American statesmen -- from George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Alexander Hamilton to Franklin Roosevelt, Dwight Eisenhower, and Ronald Reagan -- have pursued an American way of strategy that minimizes the dangers of empire and anarchy by two means: liberal internationalism and realism.

Knopf, October 2006

From the author of the immensely influential and best-selling *Of Paradise and Power* comes a major reevaluation of America's place in the world from the colonial era to the turn of the twentieth century. In *Dangerous Nation*, Robert Kagan strips away the myth of America's isolationist tradition and reveals a more complicated reality: that Americans have been increasing their global power and influence steadily for the past four centuries.

Kurt M. Campbell, CSIS and Michael E. O'Hanlon, Brookings Institution
Basic Books, October 2006

In the past five years, national security has again become a political tool, a "wedge issue," a symbol of pride and fear. And yet the issue is often dominated by extremist ideology on one side and muted protest on the other -- when what America desperately needs is a vigorous, intelligent two-party debate that will give rise to workable solutions. In this hard-hitting call to arms, two of the nation's top security experts show the way with a smart, tough approach and bold new ideas.
State of Denial
Bush at War, Part III
Bob Woodward
Simon & Schuster, September 2006
State of Denial answers the core questions: What happened after the invasion of Iraq? Why? How does Bush make decisions and manage a war that he chose to define his presidency? And is there an achievable plan for victory? Bob Woodward's third book on President Bush is a sweeping narrative - from the first days George W. Bush thought seriously about running for president through the recruitment of his national security team, the war in Afghanistan, the invasion and occupation of Iraq, and the struggle for political I in the second term. After more than three decades of reporting on national security decision making, Woodward provides the fullest account, and explanation, of the road Bush, Cheney, Rumsfeld, Rice and the White House staff have walked.

Hubris
The Inside Story of Spin, Scandal, and the Telling of the Iraq War
Michael Isikoff and David Corn
Crown Publishing Group, September 2006
What was really behind the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq? As George W. Bush steered the nation to war, who spoke the truth and who tried to hide it? Hubris takes us behind the scenes at the Bush White House, the CIA, the Pentagon, the State Department, and Congress to answer all the vital questions about how the Bush administration came to invade Iraq. Written by veteran reporters Michael Isikoff and David Corn, this is the inside story of how President Bush took the nation to war using faulty and fraudulent intelligence. It is a news-making account of conspiracy, backstabbing, bureaucratic ineptitude, journalistic malfeasance, and, especially, arrogance.

Circle in the Sand
Why We Went Back to Iraq
Christian Alfonsi
Doubleday, October 2006
Through interviews with the Bush team's principal decision-makers -- including President George H.W. Bush, Dick Cheney, Brent Scowcroft, and Paul Wolfowitz -- as well as hundreds of never-before-revealed White House documents, Christian Alfonsi shows how Saddam's survival was the result of a calculated decision, albeit one with disastrous consequences, which had settled the issue of how the first Iraq war would end long before it even began. Circle in the Sand also provides the definitive account of the collapse of the first Bush Administration's Iraq policy in the aftermath of Desert Storm. Unprecedented in its detail about the decision-making inside the Bush White House during the first Gulf War, Circle in the Sand provides not only a dramatic portrait of history in the making, but also a compelling rationale for the United States's mishandling of the current situation in Iraq.
**Imperial Life in the Emerald City**  
*Inside Iraq's Green Zone*  
Rajiv Chandrasekaran  
Knopf Publishing Group, September 2006  
Books about Iraq almost invariably slip into one of two niches; battlefield narratives or accounts of Washington-based policymaking. *Imperial Life in the Emerald City* creates a whole new path. Rajiv Chandraskaran, the former Baghdad bureau chief of The Washington Post, has composed a brilliantly perceptive chronicle of life inside the Green Zone, the insulated American bubble that housed the occupation leadership. This well-upholstered realm seems far removed from the embattled world surrounding it; while war rages outside, Paul Bremer and his inexperienced team discuss implementing an Iraqi flat tax and national debit card system. Arguably the most readable Iraq book yet.

**Fiasco**  
*The American Military Adventure in Iraq*  
Thomas E. Ricks  
Penguin Group, July 2006  
The definitive military chronicle of the Iraq war and a searing judgment on the strategic blindness with which America has conducted it, drawing on the accounts of senior military officers giving voice to their anger for the first time. Pulitzer Prize-winning Washington Post senior Pentagon correspondant Thomas E. Ricks's *Fiasco* is masterful and explosive reckoning with the planning and execution of the American military invasion and occupation of Iraq, based on the unprecedented candor of key participants.

**The Looming Tower**  
*Al-Qaeda and the Road to 9/11*  
Lawrence Wright  
Knopf Publishing Group, August 2006  
For most Americans, al Qaeda began to exist on September 11, 2001. Since then, we've been frantically piecing together shards of information about this secretive extremist movement. But connecting the dots isn't always easy. Lawrence Wright's *The Looming Tower* translates data into meaning by tracing the rise of the group through the lives of four men: two terrorists and two men who tracked them. Wright explores the complex relationship of the bin Laden family and Saudi Arabia's royal family. Perhaps even more significantly, he reveals the agency insularity that almost certainly prevented the thwarting of the 9/11 plot.
Soldier: The Life of Colin Powell
Karen DeYoung
Knopf Publishing Group, October 2006

Over the course of a lifetime of service to his country, Colin Powell became a national hero, a beacon of wise leadership and, according to polls, "the most trusted man in America." From his humble origins as the son of Jamaican immigrants to the highest levels of government in four administrations, he helped guide the nation through some of its most heart-wrenching hours. Now, in the first full biography of one of the most admired men of our time, award-winning Washington Post journalist Karen DeYoung takes us from Powell's Bronx childhood and meteoric rise through the military ranks to his formative roles in Washington's corridors of power and his controversial tenure as secretary of state.

U.S. Nuclear Weapons Policy
Confronting Today's Threats

George Bunn and Christopher F. Chyba, eds. Foreword by William J. Perry
Brookings Institution Press and the Center for International Security and Cooperation, September 2006

What role should nuclear weapons play in today's world? How can the United States promote international security while safeguarding its own interests? U.S. Nuclear Weapons Policy informs this debate with an analysis of current nuclear weapons policies and strategies, including those for deterring, preventing, or preempting nuclear attack; preventing further proliferation, to nations and terrorists; modifying weapons designs; and revising the U.S. nuclear posture.

Finding The Target
The Transformation of American Military Policy

Frederick W. Kagan, American Enterprise Institute
Encounter Books, October 2006

In this important work, Kagan's focus is the post-Vietnam development of America's armed forces—not merely in policy contexts, as his book title modestly states, but also in structure and mentality. With unusual clarity and understanding, Kagan describes the individual and collective dynamics of the four armed services in the two decades after Vietnam, when the military saw a series of definable threats demanding specific responses.
In the Line of Fire
A Memoir

Pervez Musharraf
Simon & Schuster, September 2006

It is almost unprecedented for a head of state to publish a memoir while still in office. But Pervez Musharraf is no ordinary head of state. As President of Pakistan since 1999, his is one of the most dangerous jobs in the world, and he continues to play a crucial role in the global war on terror. In the Line of Fire is astonishingly revealing and honest about dozens of topics of intense interest to the world. Among its many revelations: exactly how Pakistani authorities tracked down and smashed three major al-Qaeda control centres in the mountains; how al-Qaeda’s many-layered structure was revealed after the assassination attempts; Bin Laden’s current position within the al-Qaeda hierarchy; what it has been like to deal with Bush and Blair; how Pakistan and India have avoided nuclear confrontation; and much more. The terrible earthquake of 2005, killing nearly 40,000 Pakistanis, is just one chapter in a life and career that has been filled with danger and drama.

Hidden Iran
Paradox and Power in the Islamic Republic

Ray Takeyh, Council on Foreign Relations
Times Books/ Henry Holt, October 2006

For more than a quarter of a century, few countries have been as resistant to American influence or understanding as Iran. The United States and Iran have long eyed each other with suspicion, all too eager to jump to conclusions and slam the door. With the new hard-line Iranian president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, making incendiary pronouncements and pressing for nuclear development, the consequences of not understanding Iran have never been higher. In Hidden Iran, Ray Takeyh has written a groundbreaking book that reveals how the underappreciated domestic political rivalries within Iran serve to explain the country’s behavior on the world stage.

Iran’s Nuclear Ambitions

Sharam Chubin, Geneva Centre for Security Policy

In Iran’s Nuclear Ambitions, Iranian-born security expert Shahram Chubin provides a rare look into the motivations, perceptions, and domestic politics swirling around Iran. Chubin narrates the recent history of Iran’s nuclear program and diplomacy, and argues that the central problem is not nuclear technology but rather Iran’s behavior as a revolutionary state with ambitions that collide with the interests of its neighbors and the West.
AUSSENPOLITIK

Arab-Israeli Military Forces in an Era of Asymmetric Wars

Anthony H. Cordesman, CSIS
Praeger, September 2006

The reality of the Arab-Israeli balance now consists of two subordinate balances: Israel versus Syria and Israel versus the Palestinians. This book analyzes these two balances in detail, as well as their impact on defense planning in each country and on the overall strategic risk to the region as a whole. It covers military developments in each of six states—Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, and Palestine—and provides an analytical view with charts and tables of how the changing natures of the military and political threats faced by each is impacting its military force readiness and development. The book has the most comprehensive data on past, current, and future military force structure currently available, drawn from the widest range of sources.

War Made New
Technology, Warfare, and the Course of History

Max Boot, Council on Foreign Relations
Gotham Books, October 2006

A sweeping, epic history that ranges from the defeat of the Spanish Armada to the War on Terrorism, War Made New is a provocative new vision of the rise of the modern world through the lens of warfare. Acclaimed author Max Boot explores how innovations in weaponry and tactics have not only transformed how wars are fought and won but also have guided the course of human events, from the formation of the first modern states, to the collapse of the Soviet Union, to the coming of al-Qaeda.

Endgame in the Balkans
Regime Change, European Style

Elizabeth Pond
Brookings Institution Press, September 2006

Can Europe tame the Balkans? This is the question that veteran journalist Elizabeth Pond poses in her timely and absorbing book. With rich detail and penetrating analysis, Pond first sets the scene of the 1990s' wars of Yugoslav succession and the region's yearning to join the European Union zone of peace and prosperity. Exploring the premise that the Balkans should be seen and treated as an integral part of today's Europe, she describes how the lure of EU membership is shaping the Balkans - and how Balkan developments are reshaping the EU.
**INNENPOLITIK**

**The Way to Win: Taking the White House in 2008**

*Mark Halperin and John F. Harris*

Random House Publishing Group, October 2006

In *The Way to Win*, two of the country’s most accomplished political reporters explain what separates the victors from the victims in the unforgiving environment of modern presidential campaigns. Mark Halperin, political director of ABC News, and John F. Harris, the national politics editor of The Washington Post, tell the story of how two families—the Bushes and the Clintons—have held the White House for nearly a generation and examine Hillary Clinton’s prospects for extending this record in 2008. Based on years of research, including private campaign memos and White House communications, *The Way to Win* reveals the surprising details of how the Bushes and Clintons have closely studied each other’s successes and failures and used these lessons to shape their own strategies for winning elections and wielding power.

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**The Audacity of Hope**

*Barack Obama*

Random House Publishing Group, November 2006

In July 2004, Barack Obama electrified the Democratic National Convention with an address that spoke to Americans across the political spectrum. One phrase in particular anchored itself in listeners’ minds, a reminder that for all the discord and struggle to be found in our history as a nation, we have always been guided by a dogged optimism in the future, or what Senator Obama called “the audacity of hope.” Now, in *The Audacity of Hope*, Senator Obama calls for a different brand of politics—a politics for those weary of bitter partisanship and alienated by the “endless clash of armies” we see in congress and on the campaign trail; a politics rooted in the faith, inclusiveness, and nobility of spirit at the heart of “our improbable experiment in democracy.”

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**The Greatest Story Ever Sold: The Decline and Fall of Truth from 9/11 to Katrina**

*Frank Rich*

Penguin Group, September 2006

New York Times op-ed columnist Frank Rich examines the trail of fictions manufactured by the Bush administration from 9/11 to Hurricane Katrina, exposing the most brilliant spin campaign ever waged. When America was attacked on 9/11, its citizens almost unanimously rallied behind its new, untested president as he went to war. What they didn't know at the time was that the Bush administration’s highest priority was not to vanquish Al Qaeda but to consolidate its own power at any cost. It was a mission that could be accomplished only by a propaganda presidency in which reality was steadily replaced by a scenario of the White House’s own invention.
Vice: Dick Cheney and the Hijacking of the American Presidency

Lou DuBose and Jake Bernstein
Random House Publishing Group, October 2006

Dick Cheney is the most powerful yet most unpopular vice president in U.S. history. He has thrived alongside a president who from day one had little interest in policy and limited experience in the ways of Washington. Yet Cheney’s quiet, steady rise to prominence over a span of three decades occurred largely behind the scenes. Now veteran reporters Lou DuBose and Jake Bernstein reveal the disturbing truth about the man who has successfully co-opted executive control over the U.S. government, serving as the de facto “shadow president” of the most dominant White House in a generation.

Running Alone

Presidential Leadership – JFK to Bush II: Why It has Failed and How We Can Fix it

James MacGregor Burns
Basic Books, September 2006

Since mid-century, America has witnessed an ominous decline in presidential leadership, culminating in the failing presidency of George W. Bush today. How did this happen? In Running Alone the political scientist and leadership expert James MacGregor Burns finds the origin of the problem in John F. Kennedy's presidential style and charts its influence on his successors in the Oval Office.

The Architect

Karl Rove and the Masterplan for Absolute Power

James Moore and Wayne Slater
Crown Publishing Group, September 2006

In The Architect, James Moore and Wayne Slater, the bestselling authors of Bush's Brain, return with an even more penetrating examination of Rove, his sweeping agenda, and the price he may have to pay for his audacity. Drawing on their decades-long study of Rove, they provide a rarely seen view of the politics of absolute power in Washington-how it is acquired, expanded, and turned to startling ends.
**INNENPOLITIK**

**The People's Machine:**
**Arnold Schwarzenegger and the Rise of Blockbuster Democracy**

*Joe Mathews*
Public Affairs, August 2006

A vivid, incisive account of Governor Schwarzenegger and his tenure in California politics, by the *Los Angeles Times* political reporter whose unique access and insight into Arnold has led to newsbreaking revelations. Over the past quarter century, the twin arts of direct democracy (through ballot initiatives designed to push the public to the polls on election day) and blockbuster moviemaking (through movies designed to push the public to the theaters on opening weekend) grew up together, at home in California. With the state's recall election in 2003, direct democracy and blockbuster movies officially merged. The result: Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

**The Conservative Soul:**
**how we lost it, how to get it back**

*Andrew Sullivan*
HarperCollins Publishers, October 2006

In *The Conservative Soul*, Andrew Sullivan, one of the nation's leading political commentators, makes an impassioned call to rescue conservatism from the corruption of the Republican far right, which has become the first fundamentally religious political party in America. Through an incisive look at the rise of Western fundamentalism, Sullivan argues that conservatives cannot in good conscience keep supporting a party that believes in its own God-given mission to change people's souls, instead of protecting their liberties. He carefully charts the arguments of the new conservatism, showing why they cannot work in today's America, why they fail the test of logic and pragmatism, and why they betray the conservative tradition from Edmund Burke to Ronald Reagan.

**Active Liberty**
**Interpreting Our Democratic Constitution**

*Stephen Breyer*
Knopf Publishing Group, October 2006 (Paperback Edition)

This book, based on the Tanner lectures on Human Values that Justice Stephen Breyer delivered at Harvard University in November 2004, defines the term "active liberty" as a sharing of the nation's sovereign authority with its citizens. Regarding the Constitution as a guide for the application of basic American principles to a living and changing society rather than as an arsenal of rigid legal means for binding and restricting it, Justice Breyer argues that the genius of the Constitution rests not in any static meaning it might have had in a world that is dead and gone, but in the adaptability of its great principles to cope with current problems.
Faith and Politics:
How the 'Moral Values' Debate Divides America and How to Move Together

Senator John Danforth
Penguin Group, September 2006

We'd be hard pressed to find anyone better qualified than John C. Danforth to assess the current debate over the role of religion in American politics. Throughout a lifetime of public service, this ordained Episcopal priest and former three-term Republican senator has advocated for reason, moderation, and reconciliation in all matters political. Now, in this eloquent critique, Danforth deplores the identification of his party with the religious right and castigates both liberal and conservative extremists for using "wedge issues" like gay marriage and stem cell research for political gain. He admits his personal failings, explains the ways faith has influenced his political decisions, and offers a practical blueprint for returning the focus of government to the crucial matter of finding common ground.

Is There a Culture War?
A Dialogue on Values and American Public Life

James Davison Hunter and Alan Wolfe
Brookings Institution Press, October 2006

Is America clearly and bitterly divided? Are today's social and political differences truly worrisome, or are the unavoidable products of a diverse democracy? In Is There a Culture War? two leading authorities on political culture lead a provocative examination of division and unity within America. Long before most pundits and analysts considered the notion of a "culture war," James Davison Hunter and Alan Wolfe were laying the groundwork for the debate. Now, for the first time, these two important thinkers join in dialogue to search for the truth about America's cultural condition.

Tempting Faith
An Inside Story of Political Seduction

David Kuo
The Free Press, October 2006

A memoir of politics and faith, by a rising Christian conservative star, up to and including his years working at the Bush White House. Kuo spent nearly three years as second in command at the president's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives. Yet his experience was deeply troubling. It took both the Bush White House and a severe health crisis to show him how his Christian values, and those of millions of Americans, were being corrupted by politics. Instead of following the teachings of Jesus to serve the needy, Kuo found himself helping to manipulate religious faith for political gain.
In Defense of the Religious Right:
Taking the White House in 2008

Patrick Hynes
Thomas Nelson, July 2006

Political consultant and commentator Patrick Hynes dispels common stereotypes and misapprehensions about the most powerful political constituency in the country while undertaking the most exhaustive effort yet to define what the Religious Right is, what its members believe, and why they are right. He takes on the Religious Left, with its "absurd declarations of piety and...flagrant distortions of Scripture." As he chronicles the history of faith in U.S. politics and examines the issues that motivate the Religious Right (traditional marriage, intelligent design, the Ten Commandments, etc.), he dissects the writings and comments of "the fakers, the secularites, and the leftwing theocrats".

The Culture Warrior

Bill O'Reilly
Broadway Books, September 2006

Bill O'Reilly is the very embodiment of the idea of a Culture Warrior—and in this book he lives up to the title brilliantly with all the brashness and forthrightness at his command. O'Reilly defines this war and breaks down the U.S. population into three camps: the apathetic, the ideologues, and the persuadables. He examines why the nation's motto, E Pluribus Unum ("From Many, One") might change to "What About Me?" He dissects the forces in the media behind the secular-progressive camp and their counterparts on the right, and dives into matters of race, education, and the war on terror. He also shows how the culture war has played out in such high-profile instances as The Passion of the Christ, Fahrenheit 9/11, the porn epidemic (child and otherwise), and the embattled place of religion in public life.

Freakonomics
A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything

Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner
HarperCollins, October 2006 (Revised and Expanded Edition)

Levitt (economics, U. of Chicago) and writing collaborator Dubner (a writer for the New York Times and The New Yorker) dub the material in this work "freakonomics" because Levitt uses analytical tools from economics to address a range of questions that, at first glance, might seem to be far removed from the discipline of the "dismal science." They consider questions such as how to determine if teachers are aiding in students' cheating on standardized tests, the impact of information asymmetry on the operation of the Ku Klux Klan, how the organizational structure of crack gangs resemble other businesses, and the influence of parents on child development.
OF INTEREST

Five Germanys I have Known

Fritz Stern
Farrar, Straus and Girroux, August 2006

The "German question" haunts the modern world: How could so civilized a nation be responsible for the greatest horror in Western history? In this unusual fusion of personal memoir and history, the celebrated scholar Fritz Stern refracts the question through the prism of his own life. Born in the Weimar Republic, exposed to five years of National Socialism before being forced into exile in 1938 in America, he became a world-renowned historian whose work opened new perspectives on the German past. Stern brings to life the five Germanys he has experienced: Weimar, the Third Reich, postwar West and East Germanys, and the unified country after 1990.

The Female Brain

Louann Brizendine, M.D.
Morgan Road Books, August 2006

This comprehensive new look at the hormonal roller coaster that rules women's lives down to the cellular level, "a user's guide to new research about the female brain and the neurobehavioral systems that make us women," offers a trove of information, as well as some stunning insights. Though referenced like a work of research, Brizedine's writing style is fully accessible. Brizendine provides a fascinating look at the life cycle of the female brain from birth ("baby girls will connect emotionally in ways that baby boys don't") to birthing ("Motherhood changes you because it literally alters a woman's brain-structurally, functionally, and in many ways, irreversibly") to menopause (when "the female brain is nowhere near ready to retire") and beyond. At the same time, Brizedine is not above reviewing the basics: "We may think we're a lot more sophisticated than Fred or Wilma Flintstone, but our basic mental outlook and equipment are the same." While this book will be of interest to anyone who wonders why men and women are so different, it will be particularly useful for women and parents of girls.