



An Inconvenient Book: Real Solutions to the World's Biggest Problems

Glenn Beck , Kevin Balfe , Steve Burguiere , Dan Andros , Paul Starke , Virginia Leahy (Contributor) , Evan Cutler (Contributor) , Patricia Balfe (Contributor) , more... Carol Lynne (Contributor) ...less

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The world is a mess - Iran is developing nuclear capabilities, obesity is reaching epidemic proportions, the divorce rate is rising faster than petrol prices. The solutions to these problems aren't convenient, but radio and TV host Glenn Beck doesn't care about being convenient.

An Inconvenient Book: Real Solutions to the World's Biggest Problems Details

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From Reader Review An Inconvenient Book: Real Solutions to the World's Biggest Problems for online ebook

Brian Hodges says

I have been a huge fan of Glenn Beck's radio show ever since he became syndicated back in 2002. If you actually take the time to LISTEN to his radio show for an extended period of time you realize that he is in a constant state of analyzing his choices, his philosophies and his political alignments. He is not, despite what his detractors think, a mindless republican stooge... or even a mindless CONSERVATIVE stooge. He's just a regular guy who has made it big but who stays close to his values and never EVER lets anyone in politics or the media tell him what to think. And he is, quite simply, a radar detector for hypocrisy and bullsh***, which is what I think I love about his show the most.

(EDIT: I wrote this review in 2008, literally months before ole Glenn went from being a very cool, if a bit eccentric, personality with genuinely provocative insights, to becoming a complete and raving lunatic. It's almost not possible for people now to appreciate how awesome he used to be.)

That being said, every time Glenn tries to branch out into a different medium, it simply reaffirms to me that RADIO is where he truly belongs. His first book was simplistic drivel. His TV show is, I find, pretty much unwatchable. I haven't read his magazine but I imagine it's equally bad. And "An Inconvenient Book" pretty much continues that trend.

The book isn't exactly HORRIBLE. In fact it does raise some interesting points about the major issues that are affecting us today. True to form, Beck comes at these issues (Global Warming, Terrorism, Political Correctness, Illegal Immigration) from a questioning standpoint, pointing out the inconsistencies in logic that a lot of politicians and special interest groups seem to wallow in. He tries to infuse all his arguments with a heavy dose of wit, sarcasm and self-deprecating humor, which never really comes off as all that funny. He also tries to break up the heavier chapters with chapters that deal with such innocuous topics as how to rent a movie with a spouse and how to deal with your daughter's first boyfriend. Again, it's obvious that these chapters were intended to be comic relief... I tended to skim or skip them altogether since they weren't really all that funny.

So do I recommend this book? Actually yes. If you can find it at the library, pick it up for a quick read. Whether you are rightly or leftly slanted Beck DOES make some good points and does so by avoiding the clichéd arguments that each side tends to fall back on. You may or may not agree with everything he says, but I find Beck, whether you agree with him or not, does present the issues in a way that at least makes you think. His prose ain't Howard Zinn, but it's mildly interesting nonetheless. Still, I stand by my original statement which is to say that if you REALLY want to see what Glenn is REALLY about, you should spend a couple weeks listening to his radio show.

Alan says

WARNING: If you are a liberal whose sensitivities are easily upset, you may be offended by this book. This is not politically correct. However, Glenn's highly slanted, sometimes abrasive observations more often than not fit with my own. I think that much of the material is presented in a humorous way; Al Gore probably

would not. It's also chock full of warnings about the dangerous path on which our nation is heading.

Walter says

This book made me, laugh, think, and laugh some more. While I don't agree with everything that Glenn Beck says, I must admit that he more on the ball than any other political commentator I have listened to. He has this novel approach with stories, he actually investigates them! Whereas most "conservative" political commentators are merely spokespeople for the Republican Party, Glenn is a spokesman for actual conservative family values.

In other words, he tests to see if those who talk the talk also walk the walk.

I highly recommend his book, which is really a combination of his views on most political topics, from the North American Union to the Global Warming charade. From Islamic Extremism to the evil of fashion magazines.

Don't forget to look on the back of the book. Most books these days have little blurbs from the New York Times and critics to the effect of, "This author is awesome! This is the most incredible peice of literature since the Declaration of Independance."

On the Back cover of this book, the critics are raving--about how much they hate Glenn Beck. Anyway, this is a sure read for anyone who supports family values.

Shannon says

A friend mentioned that she thought this book was really quite funny, but I had a very hard time with it. For someone who professes to land in the middle of a lot of issues, I didn't see that. Perhaps the "humor" comes across better in a radio show than in a book. I must admit I've never listened to him.

I agree with other readers who felt that the better parts of the book were where he stopped trying to be funny and just expressed his views.

The other thing that bothered me was the joking that those who don't hold his views are unintelligent and conspiring to bring down the United States, and I'm not talking about his views on terrorists.

I was unimpressed.

Anthony says

If you have a sense of humor, don't take yourself too seriously, and can take off the kaleidoscope glasses of contemporary liberal thought long enough to take an honest look at the world, you have to love Glenn Beck. Glenn is a funny guy, a smart guy, and sometimes a scary guy. Glenn frequently, self-depreciatingly, refers to himself as a rodeo clown. If you know what the rodeo clowns are really doing down there in the arena you may agree that this reference is actually a pretty accurate allegory for what Glenn does. A rodeo Clown is more remarkable than most know. He dresses up like a fool and goes out to taunt terrifying creatures of volatile ferocity, with horn and hooves like iron, dangerous animals which can run forty miles per hour, and weigh more than ten times what the clown does. He routinely puts himself in peril in order to protect the

riders once they hit the ground. However, because he looks and acts, well, like a clown, and makes us laugh, we may not appreciate just how important what he does really is.

That said, I still have given An Inconvenient Book an over-all rating of three stars. On the whole it was informative and entertaining. As Glenn says "...the fusion of entertainment and enlightenment..." There were several chapters that were STRONG five star efforts; Global Warming, The Income Gap, Education, Media Bias, Political Correctness, to name a few. Unfortunately, there were other chapters that just seemed irrelevant, inconsequential, and out of place, garnering two star ratings at best; Body Image, Blind Dating, Movie Rentals, How to Remember Names. I guess the intent was comedy, but it seemed like such a waste given the other significant topics he articulately, and humorously, addressed throughout the balance of the book. It's still a good read, and contains a wealth of important information, but you can comfortably skip the two star chapters, study the fives, and get on to your next book.

Emily says

I'm a Glenn Beck fan, so I enjoyed this book, though not as much as his other (The Real America), which I really recommend. The book is a lot like his show with side notes, humor, and random thoughts. It is an easy read, as it is broken up in many sections, and looks like a junior high school textbook with all sorts of charts, and graphics. He is a funny guy with some good ideas (and some crazy ones, that just might work).

Elaine Moore says

I found myself laughing, thinking, and being down right scared at times as I read this book. It took me a while to get used to the change in subject and the off shoots(ADD moments), but it would not be Glenn Beck without them. Overall, this book gives what it promises, political issues from a perspective you just don't hear.

My favorite quote is, "As a parent of a toddler your mission is clear: Keep Them Alive."

Vernon says

This book was slightly amusing, and while some of the "world's biggest problems" that it covered are real problems, some of them really are not problems at all, but just something to fill up the pages.

I think that Glenn Beck is your average conservative windbag that wants to get heard. His tactic for getting heard is by spouting off crazy ideas and shocking you. He says in one chapter that people use statistics to lie to you all the time and that you can't trust statistics, yet he does the very same thing.

While the content matter is mostly garbage, it is a somewhat amusing read, thus the two stars instead of one.

Jared says

I rated this at 5 stars just to counter the mandatory 1 star I had to give Al Gore's book. This book is by no means just a counter to Gore's book but includes other issues as well. Some are deserving of this rating and others are just meant to be humorous.

The chapters on global warming, marriage, radical islam, political correctness, income gap, minimum wage, UN and others have good ideas and counter so much of the crap that we hear from so many sides in the media today.

Some of these chapters have very real solutions that should be explored but probably won't. Too many of them are held up by politicians and will never see any change until something radical happens. I would have thought something radical had been done already on many of these problems. Obviously not radical enough to evoke change by our politicians and not enough for us to change things at the polls or ballot boxes.

I personally think that Beck has hashed out these issues and is trying to take a reasonable look at what can be done with some of these issues. Logic plays an important part in any decision we make in life and I believe he is trying to find logical answers to the tough questions that we all face as a whole and also on personal levels.

Take it with a grain of salt as you would any talk show host or any political figure. But read it with an open mind and check out his claims. Do your homework and don't just follow along like so many sheep that already make up the US populace.

Doran Barton says

Oh, you were really surprised when you came across this book review, weren't you? Yeah, I'm a big Glenn Beck fan. Proof of just how nuts I am about Glenn Beck: I wrote a Perl script to convert the live streams on the Glenn Beck Insider site (which include bumper music and other types of material not fit for the "podcast" MP3s) into MP3 or Ogg files I can listen to when I want. Yeah. I'm a fan... a geeky fan.

Okay, so about this book... It is very, very good. In my opinion, this is how all conservative pundits and talk radio jocks should write their books. While a significant chunk of the book is about hot political issues like illegal immigration and global warming, there are chapters about less political topics... like going to the video store or tipping service staff. It's a pretty well-rounded capture of what goes on in the mind of the third-most listened-to talk radio host in all of America.

The layout of the book is also impressive: Every page is printed in 4-color process and the text is accompanied by charts, graphs, and humorous drawings/pictures that go along with the topic at hand. The designers also gave each page a seemingly unique watermark, or background, that gives it a well-handled, worn look- like maybe you've spilled a cup of coffee, or in the case of Glenn, a can of Coke Zero, on it, by accident.

From my perspective, as a rabid fan of Glenn's, I found the book a bit lacking in detail. That is, aside from the packaging of the book itself, there really wasn't much new here for me, content-wise, that I hadn't already read on Glenn's site, heard on his radio program, seen on his television program, or experienced myself at

one of his stage shows. But... hey... I'm the exception here. If you've had some exposure to Glenn Beck or none at all, this book is an excellent way to jump in and find out what he's about.

Want to buy the book? Head over to Amazon and get it. It may be hard to find at your smaller local bookstore as it has been one of the top New York Times bestsellers since its release in November of 2007.

Donald says

Glenn Beck is a funny guy with good common sense and realistic viewpoints on the world's "problems." Funny as heck in certain places and serious in others, it's a good read.

DeLaina says

I started reading this book late one night because I didn't have any other books to read. The first few pages produced some stifled giggles, but then I started howling w/laughter at the "global warming" section, to the point where Paul asked me to please go somewhere else so he could sleep.

I like Glenn Beck's writing and his self-deprecating sense of humor. He doesn't take himself too seriously but is able to convey some of the world's serious problems and offer some good solutions to them, all while making you laugh. The ultimate political book!

Marcus says

So far just a bunch of Republican rhetoric and unsupported "facts." Lots of "statistics" but Beck doesn't list a single authority for them. His brilliant solution to the problem of global warming is to do nothing. What a genius. His use of the English language is uninspiring to say the least and his pathetic attempts at humor fall far short of even a mild tickle (racism and bald-faced elitism are apparently not funny--who knew). I'm only reading it to force my brother into watching Al Gore's movie...and out of mild curiosity to peer briefly into a stubbornly ignorant mind. No, I did not pay for the book and no one should.

Update: Managed to finish the book while reading exclusively on the toilet, which is entirely appropriate. By far one of the worst, most worthless wastes of paper I have ever read.

Benjamin says

Wow. If you have ever had a desire to be simultaneously entertained, horrified, and informed this is the book for you. Glenn Beck offers his opinion on everything from global warming to illegal immigration, marriage and dating, minimum wage, child molesters and dozens of other topics.

It really got me thinking about a lot of things and because he is an entertainer as well as a commentator he does an excellent job at taking some topics that would be rather dry and making them fun. I loved the quotes from different people, and the ADD moments. I love his sense of humor, I laughed out loud a few times. But he also presents some cold hard facts that in spite of his levity really can be disturbing.

Glenn is an honest man asking honest questions, about a lot of things that are good for the rest of us know about. Whether or not you agree with him. The issues he raises shouldnt be ignored.

Teechbiz says

Glenn's ADD is really apparent in this book. It bounces from illegal immigration to his alcoholism, from how he met his wife to global warming.
