

The Bookshelf

by William Frey



**GRAY LADY DOWN:
WHAT THE DECLINE AND FALL OF THE
NEW YORK TIMES MEANS FOR AMERICA**
William McGowan
[Encounter]

The Rise and Fall of the *New York Times*

What does the state of the “newspaper of record” tell us about the state of American journalism?

The *New York Times*, once seen as the gold standard in American journalism and the most trusted news organization in the country, is spiraling into irrelevance. A harbinger of the *Times*' demise: circulation has decreased sharply over the past two years.

What is killing the *Times*? Ideological bias or the Internet?

William McGowan argues in “Gray Lady Down: What the Decline and Fall of the *New York Times* Means for America” that liberal bias combined with Sulzberger’s ownership incompetence is leading to the downfall of the once mighty media empire.

For McGowan, the *Times*' complete misreading of the Tea Party movement and embrace of Obama’s vacuous hope-and-change campaign message are indicative of a warped worldview. Such arrogance and blind political bias are also to blame for the troubles of even the most revered newspapers.

Furthermore, the *Times* and other newspapers face a larger economic problem. Why pay for news? These days, you can access everything in the deadwood edition of the *Times* online and for free.

Indeed, print is a dying medium for accessing breaking news as readers demand more multimedia and more instant content. That said, there will always be a market for a good newspaper—even if it comes only in electronic form.

In this highly volatile media environment, the *Times* will have to change its strategy in order to stay afloat.

The fate of the *Times* could portend the fate of journalism as we know it.

OTHER TITLES TO BOOKMARK

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1 | FREEDOM AT RISK
James L. Buckley
[Encounter]

The principle of federalism—one of the core founding ideas—is in danger. At a time when public anger at our elected representatives has reached unprecedented heights, the government has lost its way and is devoid of solutions. America faces a key question: Should we return to the founding principles or abandon the greatness that these principles brought our country? Having served in all three branches of the federal government, James Buckley is well-equipped to answer that question. After all, as Buckley argues, the role of government is to serve, not to rule.

2 | LIBERTY OF CONTRACT
David N. Mayer
[Cato]

What freedoms do you have to bargain over the terms of your own contracts? Very few, it turns out. This right has been diminished by the country’s emerging nanny state. Is an employee allowed to work as many hours as he and his employer agree to? Is an entrepreneur free to enter a market and compete with

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established companies? Those questions can no longer be answered with a simple “yes.” But since the freedom of the individual can’t be broken down into economic and non-economic categories, such encroachments could be more far-reaching than they were intended.

3 | RESURRECTION OF A NATION
Kris Axhoj & John P. Walker
[AuthorHouse]

In “Resurrection of a Nation,” Kris Axhoj and John P. Walker seek to educate the American public about the current energy, environmental financial and political situations and identify practical solutions to restore America to prosperity and greatness.

Endless political maneuvering and a tight grip on the nation’s policies by special interest groups have left our nation politically crippled. A call to action for those who are interested in correcting the course of our nation’s energy and financial policies, this is a clear understanding of the issues and a vivid picture of just how high the political stakes are for our nation.