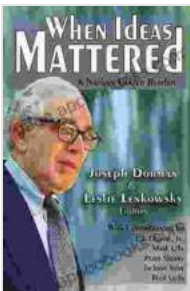


# When Ideas Mattered: A Nathan Glazer Reader

Nathan Glazer was one of the most important public intellectuals of the twentieth century. A sociologist by training, Glazer wrote extensively on a wide range of topics, including the decline of the American middle class, the rise of identity politics, and the challenges facing American democracy. Glazer's writing was always incisive, provocative, and thought-provoking. He was not afraid to challenge conventional wisdom, and he was always willing to engage with those who disagreed with him.



## When Ideas Mattered: A Nathan Glazer Reader

by Scott Conroy

★★★★☆ 4.2 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 734 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled

Print length : 342 pages

Paperback : 1 pages

Item Weight : 1.25 pounds

Dimensions : 8.51 x 0.5 x 11.04 inches



*When Ideas Mattered: A Nathan Glazer Reader* is a collection of Glazer's most important essays. The essays in this volume cover a wide range of topics, but they are all united by Glazer's commitment to intellectual honesty and his deep concern for the future of American society. This, by some, is often considered Nathan Glazer's Magnum Opus due to the

widespread positive reviews. It is a powerful reminder of the importance of ideas in shaping the course of history.

## **The Decline of the American Middle Class**

One of the most important themes in Glazer's work is the decline of the American middle class. Glazer argued that the middle class was the backbone of American society, and that its decline was a serious threat to the nation's future. Glazer identified a number of factors that contributed to the decline of the middle class, including the loss of manufacturing jobs, the rise of income inequality, and the increasing cost of housing and education.

Glazer's analysis of the decline of the middle class was prescient. In the years since Glazer wrote his essays, the middle class has continued to shrink, and income inequality has continued to grow. This has led to a number of social and economic problems, including the rise of populism and the decline of social mobility.

## **The Rise of Identity Politics**

Another important theme in Glazer's work is the rise of identity politics. Glazer argued that identity politics was a divisive force in American society, and that it was undermining the nation's commitment to equality. Glazer believed that people should be judged as individuals, not as members of groups. He also believed that the focus on identity politics was distracting from the real problems facing the country.

Glazer's critique of identity politics is still relevant today. In the years since Glazer wrote his essays, identity politics has become even more prevalent in American society. This has led to a number of social and political

conflicts, including the rise of the alt-right and the Black Lives Matter movement.

## **The Challenges Facing American Democracy**

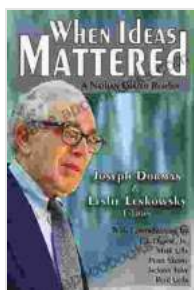
Glazer was also deeply concerned about the challenges facing American democracy. He argued that the nation's democratic institutions were under threat from a number of forces, including the rise of populism, the decline of trust in government, and the increasing influence of money in politics.

Glazer's concerns about the future of American democracy are well-founded. In the years since Glazer wrote his essays, the nation's democratic institutions have been tested by a number of crises, including the Great Recession, the rise of Donald Trump, and the COVID-19 pandemic. These crises have exposed the weaknesses in the nation's democratic system, and they have raised serious questions about the future of American democracy.

Nathan Glazer was one of the most important public intellectuals of the twentieth century. His writing was incisive, provocative, and thought-provoking. He was not afraid to challenge conventional wisdom, and he was always willing to engage with those who disagreed with him. *When Ideas Mattered: A Nathan Glazer Reader* is a collection of Glazer's most important essays. The essays in this volume cover a wide range of topics, but they are all united by Glazer's commitment to intellectual honesty and his deep concern for the future of American society. This book is a powerful reminder of the importance of ideas in shaping the course of history.

## **Further Reading**

- Nathan Glazer, *The Limits of Social Policy* (Harvard University Press, 1988).
- Nathan Glazer, *We Are All Multiculturalists Now* (Harvard University Press, 1997).
- Nathan Glazer, *From a Cause to a Style: Modernist Architecture's Encounter with the Market* (Princeton University Press, 2018).



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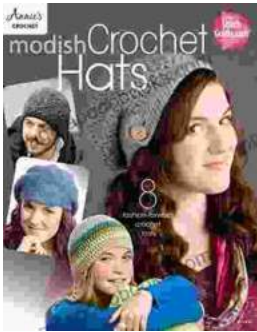
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