



FOREWORD

This book documents a moment in time when a tremendous and growing number of citizens meet in the virtual world every day and raise their collective voice to try to proactively influence their government. That group is broadly called the Netroots, and according to Wikipedia, “focuses on political activism organized through blogs and other online media. The word is a portmanteau of Internet and grassroots, reflecting the technological innovations that set Netroots techniques apart from other forms of political participation.” But we’d add to that summation the fact that the Netroots is made up of individuals—not corporations, not lobbyist groups, not any large money-infused machine that influences all that occurs inside the beltway. The most-visited blog of this movement is Daily Kos (www.dailykos.com), founded in 2002 by MarKOS Moulitsas.

People from Daily Kos talk about everything (including politics), all the time, and when you visit regularly you pick up on a strong sense of community. In June of 2006, “Kossacks” and bloggers from all over the world got together at the first annual YearlyKos convention and actually met each other. This book captures a snapshot of our mutiny at a particular moment in time when something new is happening to influence the powers that be in Washington and in your district / community / block.

In the following pages, you’ll note brilliant photography from the convention, portraits of progressive leaders and bloggers and candid essays as well. We asked some convention attendees to bring along pictures of themselves at an early age and to talk about—in essay form—how they became liberal. We hope you will come to know a little about this movement. And if you don’t already participate in this next wave of political activism, consider this book and invitation to do so.

All participation takes is an interest in improving this country and a desire to bring fresh ideas and creativity to the national debate.

Please, join us.

unConventional team

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