



## Book Description

On September 6, 2016, the editors of the Dallas Morning News characterized Trump's success in 2016 as "inexplicable." In refusing to offer him an endorsement, they noted that "Trump is – or has been – at odds with nearly every GOP ideal this newspaper holds dear." This famously conservative paper is not alone. On both sides of the political aisle there is widespread confusion as to what the American Right stands for and how an authoritarian like Trump became the standard-bearer of the Republican Party. Moreover, the few explanations that have been offered are facile, improbable and politically convenient – e.g. Paul Krugman led to the rise of Trump.

In the *The Right's Road to Serfdom* first-time author Christopher Arndt takes a fresh look at nature of conservatism and the American ideal of Liberty. The book offers a readable, yet substantive account of the politics of the American Right and the rise of Donald Trump.

Arndt begins with an insight offered by the political philosopher Friedrich Hayek. Hayek argued that two different political traditions on the American Right have been lumped together and confused under the name "conservative." On the one hand, there are those who want to conserve the principles of political freedom on which our country was founded—ideals such as inalienable rights, religious tolerance, and limiting arbitrary power. On the other hand, there are conservatives by temperament who want to conserve traditional social structures—who fear change and the unknown more generally. Conservatives by temperament pose as heirs of the Founding Fathers when it helps them conserve traditional social structures, but disregard the principles of the Founding Fathers when they conflict with their vision of the right social order.

In playing to conservative temperament, but doing so under the false pretense of political freedom, the American Right has followed headlong down the dangerous path to which Hayek warned explicitly. Conservative pundits who just five years ago offered rousing support for Tea Party stars such as Michele Bachmann, but now oppose Trump, should ask how they really differ? Trump, like Bachmann, plays to the zeal of conservatism unbound—the raw fears of "otherness" and change. The biggest difference is that Trump dispenses with the rhetoric of freedom. This shift, more than any other single factor, explains the shock of his appeal and seemingly fast ascent to power.

*If you'd like more information about *The Right's Road to Serfdom*, or to schedule an interview with Christopher Arndt, contact Vinny Karn at [info@bulkingtongroup.com](mailto:info@bulkingtongroup.com)*