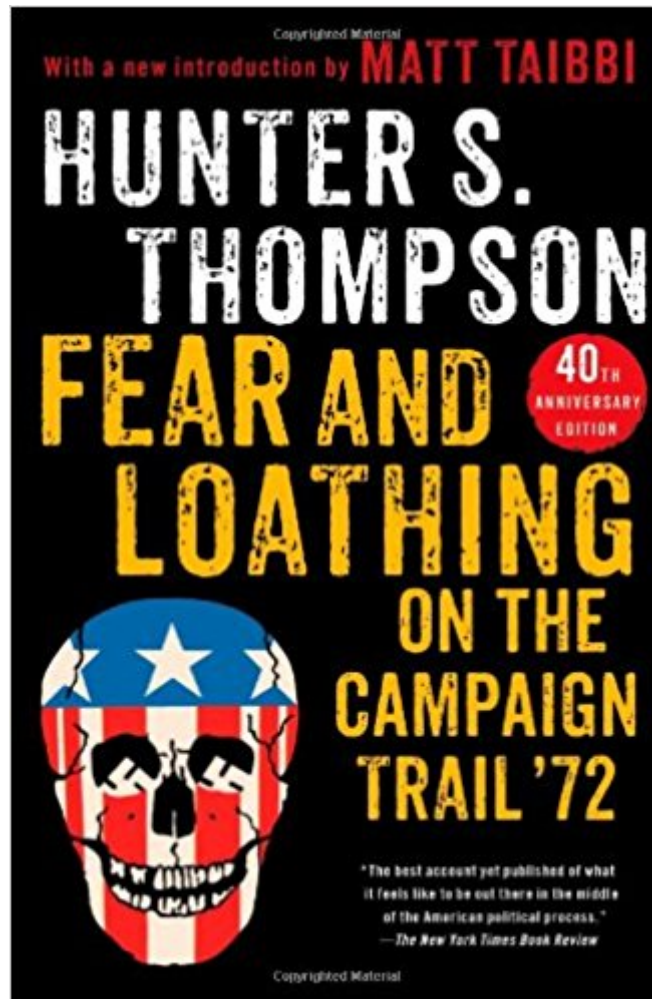


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Fear And Loathing On The Campaign Trail '72



Synopsis

From the legendary journalist and creator of "Gonzo" journalism Hunter S. Thompson comes the bestselling critical look at Nixon and McGovern's 1972 presidential election. Forty years after its original publication, *Fear and Loathing on the Campaign Trail '72* remains a cornerstone of American political journalism and one of the bestselling campaign books of all time. Hunter S. Thompson's searing account of the battle for the 1972 presidency "from the Democratic primaries to the eventual showdown between George McGovern and Richard Nixon" is infused with the characteristic wit, intensity, and emotional engagement that made Thompson "the flamboyant apostle and avatar of gonzo journalism" (The New York Times). Hilarious, terrifying, insightful, and compulsively readable, *Fear and Loathing on the Campaign Trail '72* is an epic political adventure that captures the feel of the American democratic process better than any other book ever written.

Book Information

Paperback: 512 pages

Publisher: Simon & Schuster; Reprint edition (June 26, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1451691572

ISBN-13: 978-1451691573

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 1.3 x 8.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.5 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (176 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #16,057 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #14 in [Books > Textbooks > Social Sciences > Political Science > Government](#) #17 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Elections & Political Process > General](#) #23 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Elections & Political Process > Political Parties](#)

Customer Reviews

There are certain books that help define the tumultuous era between JFK's election and Nixon's resignation. *Fear and Loathing* can be included in a list with *The Best and the Brightest*, *Armies of the Night*, *Nixon Agonistes* and *All the President's Men*. Just as importantly, each of these writers - Halberstam, Thompson, Mailer and Wills - infused their texts with a writing style that matched in virtuosity the events being covered. Gonzo Journalism was well suited to a sixties journey to Vegas but is even more illuminating covering the 1972 election. Thompson is insightful enough to read the

political currents of the campaigns and conventions while lending his own brand of craziness to an epoch of American electioneering that makes our rabid era look placid in comparison. He can start with an interesting observation such as: "Hubert (Humphrey) seems genuinely puzzled by the fast-rising tide of evidence that many once-sympathetic voters no longer believe anything he says." The author later stretches a bit to say that "Sending Muskie against Nixon would have been like sending a three-toed sloth out to seize turf from a wolverine." Soon, Thompson is describing Muskie's emotional collapse over the "Canuck letter" through a fantasy in which an Ibogaine induced candidate imagines that gila monsters are attacking his legs as he speaks from a train. The beauty of the text is that somehow, Thompson's nightmare version seems more real than what actually occurred. Not to be overlooked are Englishman Ralph Steadman's wonderful and embittered illustrations such as Nixon waving to supporters behind a police line.

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