

(Download) Road to Air America: Breaking the Right Wing Stranglehold on Our Nation's Airwaves

Road to Air America: Breaking the Right Wing Stranglehold on Our Nation's Airwaves

Sheldon Drobny

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#6017563 in Books SelectBooks 2010-01-01Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.00 x 6.00 x .50l, .80 #File Name: 1590790650144 pages | File size: 16.Mb

Sheldon Drobny : Road to Air America: Breaking the Right Wing Stranglehold on Our Nation's Airwaves before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Road to Air America: Breaking the Right Wing Stranglehold on Our Nation's Airwaves:

22 of 25 people found the following review helpful. interesting tale of Air America Radio's beginningBy audrey

francesI would give this book 3 stars for writing quality and 3.5 stars for content, but I was extremely interested in the story, so I'm rounding it up to 4 stars anyway. The author and his wife are venture capitalists who were convinced that corporate-owned media were unwilling to cover stories such as Prescott Bush's (W's grandfather) collaboration with the Nazis, and they were inspired to respond to the stranglehold of right-wing radio after Al Gore's "defeat" in the 2000 fiasco. The story of the beginning of Air America Radio is quite compelling, though the book suffers from repetitiveness and a lack of detail. This is definitely the story from Drobny's point-of-view, and it lacks interesting information that he was either not privy to or chose not to share. For instance, I was interested to know how and why the station started, but when it came to learning about how they found and negotiated with on-air talent, we get only a little information about Al Franken and nothing about anybody else! Also, there was a bit of a fiasco with early financial dealing, but we get only sketchy details from Drobny. As for content, while Mr. Drobny seems like a very nice fellow and an angel for the left, the book was unintentionally revealing regarding some of his weaknesses. On several occasions, we learn, the Drobny's were asked to give interviews to various networks about the new station, but they declined to do so, fearing that the story would get negative spin!! No wonder they had trouble getting initial investors, when they were perpetually declining free publicity! Drobny spends a lot of time lamenting the difficulty in finding financial backers, but it never seems to have occurred to him to have the station be a non-profit organization funded by contributors. I think a lot of people, myself included, would have donated generously to have a liberal radio station. Later, the management spent a fair amount of money having a PR firm decide on a name -- why not ask potential listeners to try their hand? Despite the flaws of the people who started the station and the weaknesses of the book, I fully support AAR and bless the Drobny's for getting it on the air. It's a terrific radio alternative, and it has kept me sane through the mire that is politics today. Thank you, Mr. and Mrs. Drobny!

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A Decent Book on My Favorite Radio Network
By Customer
This is a fairly dry and factual account of the forming of Air America. It's interesting because it was written by one of the founders of Air America. I would have given it five stars, however the text is slightly dry. I would recommend this book to Air America fans, or folks who are merely curious as to how it all started.

14 of 18 people found the following review helpful. Thank God for Air America
By Patrick
I've been listening to Air America since day one. I tuned in for Al Franken but kept coming back for Randi Rhodes. She is the true star of Air America and probably the most brilliant commentator in the country. I listen in Los Angeles on KTLK AM-1150 every single day. If you want to know how this whole thing started pick up the book.

Road to Air America by Sheldon Drobny, is a candid look behind the scenes of the politics, wealth, and news media that inspired Mr. Drobny's vision and nearly derailed his ability to get America's first all liberal talk-radio network going. From his meetings with President Bill Clinton to his hiring of Al Franken as his marquee on-air talent, Drobny has plenty to say about where our nation's government is heading - and why the news media must stop being a slave to its corporate-owned puppeteers. This book shares numerous anecdotes of what it's like to be a player in the Democratic Party, including his meetings with Bill Clinton, Al Gore, Hillary Clinton, and presidential candidates John Kerry, Howard Dean and Dick Gephardt. I'm here to show the nay-sayers are wrong, says Drobny. You can launch a radio network successfully despite the challenges to get funding, despite the right-wing media's slanted coverage and despite getting no cooperation from major distributors or station groups. The liberal voice needs to be heard and here it is.

"(The Drobny's) want to do something good for our country by working to restore a sense of balance..." -- Bill Clinton, Chicago magazine, December 2003
From the Publisher
This very timely book gives an eye-opening perspective on what it is like to be a mover and shaker in liberal politics. Provides first-hand, behind-the-scenes accounts of Air America Radio's origins and how it almost didn't make it off the ground. And, perhaps most important, it explains media bias, i.e. how the media serves the agenda of its corporate ownership and why this "corporatocracy" poses a danger to having an informed public.
From the Author
"I'm here to show you can launch a radio network despite the challenges of getting funding, resistance and distortion from the right wing media, and a lack of cooperation from major distributors. The liberal voice needs to be heard. Air America Radio is here to change the political landscape and hopefully, become a counterforce to conservative and talk radio dominance." SHELDON DROBNY