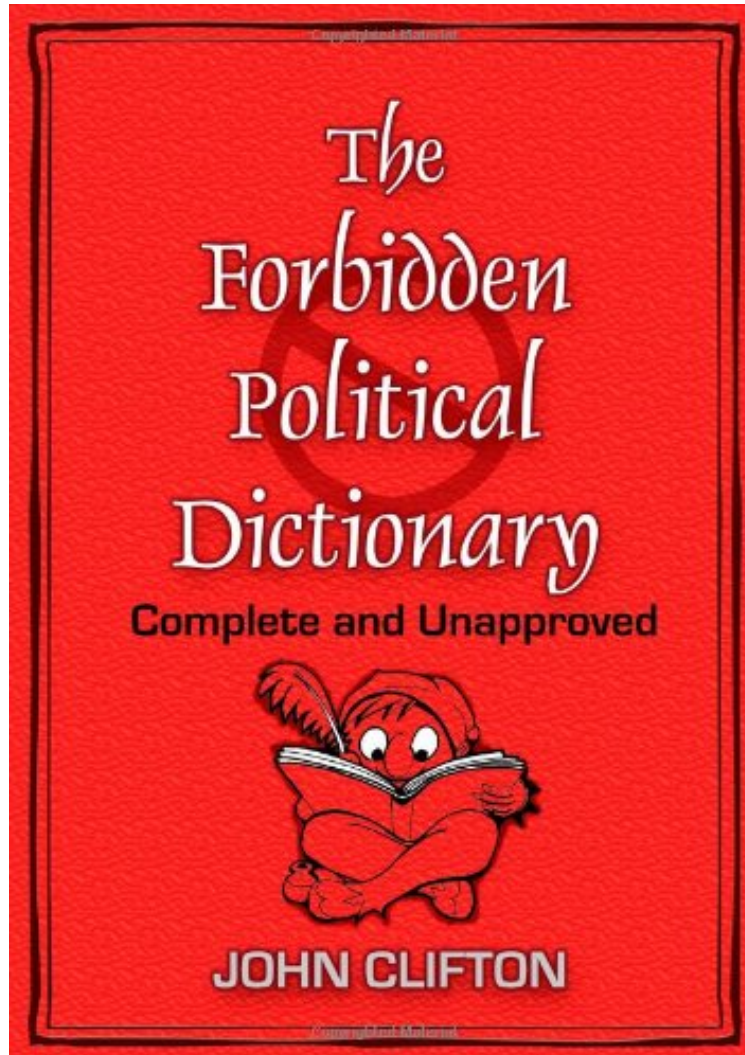


[Free read ebook] The Forbidden Political Dictionary: Complete and Unapproved

The Forbidden Political Dictionary: Complete and Unapproved

John Clifton

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John Clifton : The Forbidden Political Dictionary: Complete and Unapproved before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Forbidden Political Dictionary: Complete and Unapproved:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A Guide To What Politicians Are Really Saying - Highly Recommended!By C. Hill"The Forbidden Political Dictionary" is a very clever collection of terms used by our elected officials, all clearly defined so we will know they really mean. This is a fairly thin book at 88 pages of actual content, but does contain just about every political term and phrase I though worthwhile to look up.The author, John Clifton, did a very good job at masking his political leanings and mostly avoided definitions that would overly offend any specific ideology. While most of the entries are what we all *think* when we hear the terms, there are a few really

insightful definitions as well. I particularly liked the very first entry, "Academia", and the one for "Death Penalty". This is a good "bathroom book" or as a gift for the overly political friend (you know, the ones who forward all of the emails or posts endless Facebook links on why the "other" party is evil). Highly Recommended! CFH (Note: I was sent a review copy of this book, but that does not influence my rating in any way) 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. I Love this Book! It's politics for the apolitical. By Kathryn E. Etier Have you ever read The Devil's Dictionary by Ambrose Bierce? When I was in my late teens I went through a stage where I was reading whatever I could get my hands on about witchcraft. Many girls go through this, probably because when you're a teenager you feel like a witch--misunderstood, alienated, and persecuted. I added The Devil's Dictionary to my small collection, bought only on the strength of the front cover which was red and featured tiny demons. If you've read The Devil's Dictionary you know that it is not a book about demonology or witchcraft. Instead, it's a small dictionary that offers perverse, ironic definitions of a selection of terms. It translates what people say into what they mean. For example, Bierce defined "lawyer" as "one skilled in the circumvention of the law." I was not disappointed in this little volume; I found it amusing and accurate. Even as an adolescent, I was cynical (as defined by Bierce, a cynic is "a blackguard whose faulty vision sees things as they are, not as they ought to be.") Many years have passed, and another slim volume with a red cover has been published, The Forbidden Political Dictionary- Complete and Unapproved. Again, it is a dictionary of terms, many of which did not exist when Ambrose Bierce wrote, with their true meanings. Written by John Clifton, The Forbidden Political Dictionary defines "lawyer" as "One versed in litigation and skilled in prevarication who represents clients and misrepresents facts in order to beat the law." Like me, John Clifton is an admirer of Ambrose Bierce. I know this because I read the forward to his book, something he thinks no one will do. Clifton is also a cynic, which he defines as "Perceptive person who sees falsity where others see truth and truth where others see falsity. Cynics are often deemed perverse, nasty souls, but are actually honest, nasty souls." His definitions will strike a chord of familiarity ("interim appointment, n. Sale of a vacated office") to those who are exposed to politics, even by accident. I was delighted that one of the terms he includes is "yellow dog Democrat," one which my father applied to himself until he became a Republican. My southern husband had never heard that term until he met me, which I found odd because my father was from Nebraska, my mother from New York, and I from New Jersey, and we all used it. Clifton defines "yellow dog Democrats" as "traditional Democrats, identified with the old South, originally so-named because they `would rather vote for a yellow dog than a Republican.' Ironically they eventually became Republicans, presumably even worse than yellow dogs." From "academia" to "zoo," Clifton boldly dares to cleverly define words of mass disinformation. Yes, he is taking shots at our political morass, but with a target that big, who could fault him? The Forbidden Political Dictionary is a perfect book to browse through, reading a little bit at a time, but I defy you to do that. Once you start, it's hard to put down. Bottom Line: Would I buy The Forbidden Political Dictionary? Of course. I'm a sucker for books with red covers (and this one would make a great gift for birthdays, graduates, Father's Day, etc.).

Ever wonder what politicians mean by words like "transparency," "reform," "diversity," "nation-building?" Award-finalist author John Clifton shows you in this handy guide that it's never what you think! It's all here, from "academia" to "Zionism," insightfully and perversely defined for you in terms that leave the language laid bare, and, occasionally, laid in ruins. Here is a "Devil's Dictionary" of political words and phrases, illustrated with cartoons by the author, that will have conservatives and liberals laughing and thinking at the same time.

Whatever your political stripe (red, blue, purple or any hue between) you will get a hearty chuckle (and maybe emit a loud guffaw) at John Clifton's wittily barbed definitions. So many of them hit their targets with dagger-like accuracy that you'll gasp with delight. Be the first to share Clifton's sharp and funny words via e-mail or at the water cooler. These will travel fast. --Marvin Terban, award-winning, best-selling author of many books on the English language and wordplay. As a standup comic, I tend to avoid doing material about politics. However, after reading this book I am certain John Clifton could have a great career as a comedian and would do quite well going up against any other sharp witted political satirists. Nothing is off limits in this awesome little page turner. I wish all dictionaries were this entertaining! And I am not just saying this because I am a `celebrity' (see pages 9 and 10). -- Kim Cea, award-winning comic and Broadway actress. Politics is so offensive today that we need an antidote, and John Clifton's The Forbidden Political Dictionary offers one of the best -- laughter! Along the way it offers insight into how politicians avoid real debate by using obfuscating verbiage and encourages us to see through their rhetoric and speak truth to power! --Mark Bruce Rosin, co-author of "My Mind Is Not Always My Friend: A Guide For How To Not Get In Your Own Way" From the Publisher Just when the nation couldn't seem more politically polarized, when the rhetoric from both left and right is often at best divisive and at worst downright nasty, comes this wickedly funny book that paints a moustache on the whole political scene, left, right, and in between. But perhaps describing The Forbidden Political Dictionary as simple moustache-painting does it an injustice, for there is much wit, and even wisdom, in its pages. Owing more than a casual nod to the Ambrose Bierce classic, "The Devil's Dictionary," John Clifton's "handy guide" is full of perverse definitions of common words daily bandied about by politicians and pundits, and manages to

strike the funny bone and the truth bone simultaneously. Pervading the definitions (all alphabetically ordered, like any typical dictionary) is the sense of cutthroat rivalry among political figures, operating in the context of polished public images and devious private actions. A simple word like "gift" becomes "A self-damaging error made by a rival." The verb "smear" is merely defined as "Describe" in Clifton's political paradigm. How is a reader supposed to react to that? The first response is laughter; the second is realization that maybe someone is onto something here. The author observes in his foreword that the left, right and center "all use the same words and phrases with which to excoriate each other and congratulate themselves. So words become the glue of politics." Indeed. Could their commonality of vocabularies ultimately reunite Democrats, Republicans and Independents? Is there a possibility that our leaders of every stripe will one day see each other as (at least) verbal brothers and unite in a cathartic hug of recognition of their similarities despite their disparate partisanship? Nah... But it's fun to catch a peek into their unique minds to see what nefarious thoughts lie behind their congenial smiles. Liberally peppered with cartoon illustrations by the author, this book is as much fun to read cover to cover as it is by skipping around at random.