



# Strangers in Their Own Land: Anger and Mourning on the American Right

By Arlie Russell Hochschild

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By Arlie Russell Hochschild

**2016 NATIONAL BOOK AWARD FINALIST FOR NONFICTION**

**A 2016 *NEW YORK TIMES* NOTABLE BOOK**

***NEW YORK TIMES* BESTSELLER**

**A *NEWSDAY* TOP 10 BOOK OF THE YEAR**

**A *KIRKUS* BEST BOOK OF 2016**

**One of “6 Books to Understand Trump’s Win” according to the *New York Times* the day after the election**

**“This is a smart, respectful and compelling book.”**

—*The New York Times Book Review*

**“Satisfying... [Hochschild’s] analysis is overdue at a time when questions of policy and legislation and even fact have all but vanished from the public discourse.”**

—*The New York Review of Books*

**“Hochschild moves beyond the truism that less affluent voters who support small government and tax cuts are voting against their own economic interest.”**

—*O Magazine*

In *Strangers in Their Own Land*, the renowned sociologist Arlie Hochschild embarks on a thought-provoking journey from her liberal hometown of Berkeley, California, deep into Louisiana bayou country—a stronghold of the conservative right. As she gets to know people who strongly oppose many of the ideas she famously champions, Hochschild nevertheless finds common ground and quickly warms to the people she meets—among them a Tea Party activist whose town

has been swallowed by a sinkhole caused by a drilling accident—people whose concerns are actually ones that all Americans share: the desire for community, the embrace of family, and hopes for their children.

*Strangers in Their Own Land* goes beyond the commonplace liberal idea that these are people who have been duped into voting against their own interests. Instead, Hochschild finds lives ripped apart by stagnant wages, a loss of home, an elusive American dream—and political choices and views that make sense in the context of their lives. Hochschild draws on her expert knowledge of the sociology of emotion to help us understand what it *feels* like to live in “red” America. Along the way she finds answers to one of the crucial questions of contemporary American politics: why do the people who would seem to benefit most from “liberal” government intervention abhor the very idea?

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**Strangers in Their Own Land: Anger and Mourning on the American Right By Arlie Russell  
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**Editorial Review**

Review

**Praise for Arlie Hochschild's *Strangers in Their Own Land*:**

"This is a smart, respectful and compelling book."

—Jason DeParle, *The New York Times Book Review*

"Hochschild comes to know people—and her own nation—better than they know themselves"

—Heather Mallick, *The Toronto Star*

"Satisfying...[Hochschild's] analysis is overdue at a time when questions of policy and legislation and even fact have all but vanished from the public discourse."

—Nathaniel Rich, *The New York Review of Books*

"Up close there is a depth to the concerns of Hochschild's subjects...They are concerned about pollution, and about the social decay that we see most vividly in the opioid epidemic. They are aware...of facts on the ground."

—Benjamin Wallace-Wells, *The New Yorker*

"*Strangers in Their Own Land* is extraordinary for its consistent empathy and the attention it pays to the emotional terrain of politics. It is billed as a book for this moment, but it will endure."

—Gabriel Thompson, *Newsday*

[Hochschild's] connection and kindness to the people she meets is what makes this book so powerful.

—Marion Winik, *Minneapolis Star Tribune*

"Hochschild is fascinated by how people make sense of their lives...[She] conveys that she genuinely likes the people she meets, communicating their dignity and values...These attentive, detailed portraits...reveal a gulf between Hochschild's *Strangers in Their Own Land* and a new elite."

—Jedediah Purdy, *The New Republic*

"The importance of emotion in politics, not just facts and figures, [Hochschild] writes convincingly, is critical to understand...a point politicians of all stripes would be smart to remember."

—Felice Belman, *The Boston Globe*

"The anger and hurt of the author's interviewees is intelligible to all. In today's political climate, this may be invaluable."

—*The Economist*

"Arlie Russell Hochschild's *Strangers in Their Own Land* will certainly be among the most timely of books in this moment of seeming near apocalypse...remarkable."

—Sean McCann, *The Los Angeles Review of Books*

"Hochschild has gone about her investigation diligently and with an appealing humility."

—Karen Olsson, *Bookforum*

"*Strangers In Their Own Land* is by far the best book by an outsider to the Tea Party I have ever encountered.

—*Forbes*

"An important contribution to the understanding of our times... *Strangers in Their Own Land* describes in vivid detail a world that is often ignored or caricatured by the media and by many liberals."

—*The Nation*

"[Hochschild's] deeply humble approach is refreshing and strengthens her research.... She skillfully invites liberal readers into the lives of Americans whose views they may have never seriously considered. After evaluating her conclusions and meeting her informants in these pages, it's hard to disagree that empathy is the best solution to stymied political and social discourse."

—*Publishers Weekly*

"A well-told chronicle of an ambitious sociological project of significant current importance."

—*Kirkus Reviews*

"If the great political question of our time can be summarized in the two words, 'Donald Trump,' the answer is to be found in Arlie Russell Hochschild's brilliant new book, *Strangers in Their Own Land: Anger and Mourning on the American Right*. Hochschild, an eminent sociologist with a novelist's storytelling skill, has crafted an absorbing tale full of richly drawn, complicated characters who come bearing their own fascinating histories. Together, in Hochschild's authoritative hands, they offer a compelling and lucid portrait of what had seemed a bewildering political moment. A powerful, imaginative, necessary book, arriving not a moment too soon."

—Mark Danner, author of *Spiral: Trapped in the Forever War*

"Arlie Hochschild journeys into a far different world than her liberal academic enclave of Berkeley, into the heartland of the nation's political right, in order to understand how the conservative white working class sees America. With compassion and empathy, she discovers the narrative that gives meaning and expression to their lives—and which explains their political convictions, along with much else. Anyone who wants to understand modern America should read this captivating book."

—Robert B. Reich, Chancellor's Professor of Public Policy, University of California, Berkeley

"The celebrated sociologist Arlie Hochschild left Berkeley and went far outside her comfort zone to live among and report on Tea Party members in Louisiana over five years. With the clear-headed empathy she is famous for, she explored the central paradox of these political activists in the heart of 'cancer alley': they understand that the chemical and oil companies have destroyed their environment and sometimes their lives, but they remain ardent defenders of free market capitalism. Hochschild spent many hours—at church services, picnics and kitchen tables—probing the ways they struggle to reconcile their conflicting interests and loyalties. There could not be a more important topic in current American politics, nor a better person to dissect it. Every page—every story and individual—is fascinating, and the emerging analysis is revelatory."

—Barbara Ehrenreich

"In her attempt to climb over the 'empathy wall' and truly understand the emotional lives of her political adversaries, Arlie Hochschild gives us a vital roadmap to bridging the deep divides in our political landscape and renewing the promise of American democracy. A must-read for any political American who isn't ready to give up just yet."

—Joan Blades, co-founder of LivingRoomConversations.org, MomsRising.org, and MoveOn.org

"Arlie Russell Hochschild's work has never been more timely or more necessary, from the resurgence of interest in emotional labor to this deep, empathetic dive into the heart of the Right. *Strangers in Their Own Land* does what few dare to do—it takes seriously the role of feelings in politics."

—Sarah Jaffe, author of *Necessary Trouble: Americans in Revolt*

#### About the Author

**Arlie Russell Hochschild** is one of the most influential sociologists of her generation. She is the author of nine books, including *The Second Shift*, *The Time Bind*, *The Managed Heart*, and *The Outsourced Self*. Three of her books have been named as New York Times Notable Books of the Year and her work appears in sixteen languages. The winner of the Ulysses Medal as well as Guggenheim and Mellon grants, she lives in Berkeley, California.

#### Users Review

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##### **Sybil Davis:**

This *Strangers in Their Own Land: Anger and Mourning on the American Right* are reliable for you who want to certainly be a successful person, why. The reason of this *Strangers in Their Own Land: Anger and Mourning on the American Right* can be among the great books you must have is definitely giving you more than just simple studying food but feed anyone with information that maybe will shock your preceding knowledge. This book will be handy, you can bring it all over the place and whenever your conditions throughout the e-book and printed kinds. Beside that this *Strangers in Their Own Land: Anger and Mourning on the American Right* giving you an enormous of experience such as rich vocabulary, giving you test of critical thinking that we all know it useful in your day action. So , let's have it and luxuriate in reading.

##### **Joshua Phipps:**

Reading can called brain hangout, why? Because when you are reading a book specifically book entitled *Strangers in Their Own Land: Anger and Mourning on the American Right* the mind will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in every aspect that maybe unidentified for but surely can become your mind friends. Imaging every single word written in a publication then become one type conclusion and explanation that maybe you never get ahead of. The *Strangers in Their Own Land: Anger and Mourning on the American Right* giving you one more experience more than blown away your mind but also giving you useful information for your better life within this era. So now let us show you the relaxing pattern is your body and mind will likely be pleased when you are finished reading through it, like winning a casino game. Do you want to try this extraordinary wasting spare time activity?

##### **Dan Hanner:**

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**Melissa Ray:**

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