

Press release and book description
My West Wing

What comes next in Washington?

A new book perfectly timed to the most consequential Presidential administration in decades has just been released by former White House aide Karl Zinsmeister.

MY WEST WING

**A VERY PERSONAL ACCOUNT
OF WORK IN THE WHITE HOUSE**

**...AND HOW TO SOLVE WASHINGTON'S
PERPETUAL RESISTANCE TO REFORM**

BY KARL ZINSMEISTER



It's a vivid picture of White House work in an age of resistance.

The narrative portrays the demands and pressures of service in the West Wing, through the eyes of a U.S. President's chief domestic policy adviser.

The story is told in three quite different and intertwined styles:

- There is the absorbing transcript of an intimate conversation in which two historians quiz the author about his experiences in Washington.
- A string of lucid documentary chapters chronicle events at the highest levels of U.S. government, dissecting problems, and assessing how occupants of the White House succeed or fail.
- A scathing short essay illustrates the federal establishment's deep-seated resistance to reform—the stubborn refusal to deviate from business-as-usual that roused voters to unleash Donald Trump against sclerosis in our capital.

National renewal is hard, but *My West Wing* helps sketch a course to a more thriving America.

ABOUT THE BOOK

Surprising numbers of Americans today are grateful our bloated federal government is being given a good hard shake by our recently elected Disruptor-in-Chief. *My West Wing* explains why.

During his service as chief domestic policy adviser in the Bush White House, author Karl Zinsmeister was appalled by the truculent resistance to reform he encountered within federal agencies. He documents the institutional inertia, managerial arrogance, interest-group politics, and bureaucratic sabotage that for decades made it almost impossible to turn the Washington blob in more efficient and responsive directions. And just since Zinsmeister left the White House our federal apparatus has bloated from \$3 trillion of annual budget to today's \$7 trillion of spending and coercive power.

That's why many Americans say they want the bull now occupying our national china closet to push the federal hierarchy in a different direction. With intrusive government having become entrenched, there is no alternative to a jolting reset.

But as soon as we get beyond today's national emergency, ordinary citizens will want our nation's capital to become a quieter and more boring place. We are not a people who relish ideological mobilization and radical change. Families prefer to pour their energies into productive work, raising worthy offspring, and improving their local social fabric.

My West Wing celebrates today's vigorous reassertion of commonsense rule on behalf of ordinary Americans. It happily waves goodbye to the go-with-the-flow timidity that caused so many pre-Trump politicians to be thwarted by the federal bureaucracy. But it

warns that history's bold chargers have always been brought down by over-confident, over-bearing, over-reaching behavior. Progressive arrogance got us into today's mess. Some conservative temperance will be necessary to edge us into a better spot.

The next phase of the restoration of middle-American values in Washington, the author suggests, will demand greater humility, restraint, and prudence in the exercise of power. An Administration that governs with modesty, respect for evolved traditions, and recognition of the American aversion to feeling trampled can cement the reforms of 2025 for many years to come. But if hubris wins, the Trump era could yet end in flaming failure.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Karl Zinsmeister's many books include political analysis, an historical novel, embedded war reporting, authoritative reference books, children's works, a storytelling cookbook, even a nonfiction graphic novel commissioned by Marvel Comics. He has produced a major PBS film (*Warriors*), a podcast, and been Editor-in-Chief of two national magazines. Karl graduated from Yale and also studied at Ireland's Trinity College Dublin, researching the history of revolutions and winning national athletic championships at both universities. He has created pioneering schools and charitable programs as an expert philanthropy adviser. Early in his career he was an assistant to Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, and from 2006 to 2009 he served in the White House as chief domestic policy adviser to President George W. Bush. See more at KarlZinsmeister.com