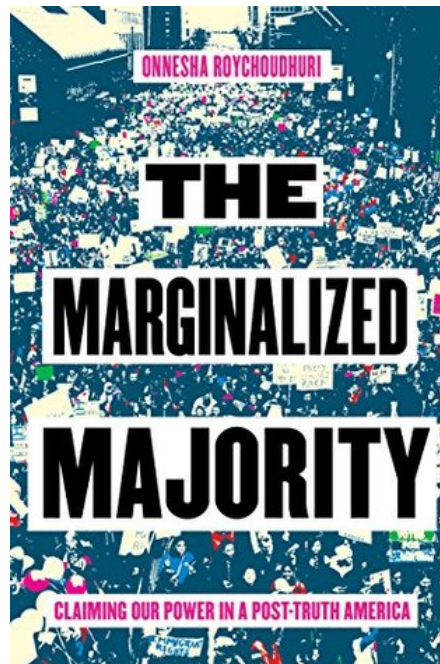




The Marginalized Majority: Claiming Our Power in a Post-Truth America

Onnesha Roychoudhuri

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“This book is a daring intervention to get us back in the game—and a witty, delightfully personal meditation on collective power.” —Naomi Klein, author of *No Is Not Enough* and *This Changes Everything*

Ever since the 2016 election, pundits have been saying our country has never been more divided—that if progressives want to reclaim power, we need to be “pragmatic,” reach across the aisle, and look past identity politics.

But what if we’re getting the story all wrong?

In *The Marginalized Majority*, Onnesha Roychoudhuri makes the galvanizing case that our voices are already the majority—and that our plurality of identities is not only our greatest strength, but is also at the indisputable core of successful progressive change throughout history.

From the Civil Rights Movement to the Women’s March, *Saturday Night Live* to the mainstream media, Roychoudhuri holds the myths about our disenfranchisement up to the light, illuminating narratives from history that reveal we have far more power than we’re often led to believe. With both clear-eyed hope and electrifying power, she examines our ideas about what’s possible, and what’s necessary—opening up space for action, new realities, and, ultimately, survival.

Now, Roychoudhuri urges us, is the time to fight like the majority we already are.

The Marginalized Majority: Claiming Our Power in a Post-Truth America Details

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Milo says

I really needed to read this right now. A surprisingly hopeful commentary on our current situation, mixed with a substantial amount of personal anecdotes. Very accessible and easy to read. I conveniently agreed with the majority of the points; several times Roychoudhuri put into words things I have been struggling to articulate lately. I would definitely recommend this to anyone who is unhappy with the current political climate.

Pulkit says

An uninteresting and breezy read. The book spends a considerable amount of time revisiting the 2016 post-election sentiment and normalization of what is seemingly (and justifiably) unacceptable. However, this is not new and neither are the ideas presented in it; ideas of reclaiming one's own subjectivities and narratives by the majority to reclaim and assert their stories of oppression in the current political sphere. A vague and largely unoriginal concept. There is little structure in support of what is said in dispersed chapters providing anecdotes and examples of ideals without any explication on how they can be grounded in tangible action and reality. The author does suggest activism as a solution and attempts to instill optimism in the idea of it as an effective tool/strategy but apart from giving a few examples of how it has been effective in the past, there is barely an attempt to suggest how effective activism in the current environment can be carried out. There is little to no discussion on the minutiae, just general fuzzy ideas.

I would have liked to read how the vast majority of working class or poor people in the states can organize and demand greater rights and protection (in the form of ability to form unions and reform that pushes back against the top 1% which are the primary dominant forces complicit in the destruction of an egalitarian united states). I would have liked to read how the economically underprivileged majority can participate in activism and affect political change when they're living paycheck to paycheck and are largely indoctrinated by the likes of fox news to go against their own self interests in the electoral cycle. There is no attempt made to seriously tackle the insidious issues that come with the systemic problems that arise with capitalism, a compromised and unaccountable media and profit driven basics.

The book is utterly casual, wasteful of words and ultimately just boring due to lack of originality, depth or any interesting insight. Attempts to talk about the oppressed without really understanding oppression and showing an insulting amount of obliviousness to the realities of the poor and the oppressed.

Jennifer Darci says

I learned very much reading this book. Helpful in understanding. Helpful in thinking about my own experiences as well as the experiences of others. Also, big help when facing the question of "but what to DO about it".

Nate Krenkel says

bought at Hello Hello Books in Rockland

Sam says

Empowering call to use our power and our stories to build a new version of politics in this current age.

Diane S ? says

I keep telling myself to quit reading these political based books. They upset me to varying degrees, mostly because I feel there is little I can do to change anything. Writing letters to my congressman seems to have little or no effect. In fact I read that in a recent poll taken, though after the last election I'm not sure these polls are accurate, that forty percent of Americans now classify themselves as Independent. They feel that neither party is representing them as they were elected to do, but are rather following their own agendas with plenty of infighting.

This book speaks up for marginalized Americans, or anyone who is not a white, male. It shows that we do have choices, options, and that we may not be as powerless as we think, feel. The Womens March, the Occupy Wall Street movement and the Me too movement have all propelled change, though ones not commonly known nor talked about. They are highlighted, talked about in this book. The author has been a journalist, an observer, but the current political situation has turned her into an activist.

She takes on journalists who are not speaking up, nor reporting what they see despite biases, and corporate owned newspapers, television stations. In fact, Dan Rather did just that, spoke up about the summit between Trump and Putin. We need more to do so. I finished this book with a feeling of hope, that things can change, and that we can be part of it no matter how limited our role.

Bookworm says

For some reason I thought the book would be speaking about the fact that Trump did not win a majority of voters and that is now manifesting itself in various ways: protests and movements, candidates who are running for office, the general sentiment, etc. Instead it seems to be a series of essays that touch on a variety of topics (including what I mentioned above) but also talking a bit about historical context, why "failures" matter, why criticism that often comes from the right about these protests, movements, approaches, etc. are wrong.

That pretty much sums it up. Ultimately it was a disappointment: although the information was useful (such as reminding the reader that Rosa Parks did not come out of nowhere), there are many instances where it does feel like Roychouduri is rehashing the 2016 election (which is important for context and may be an issue of me having read so many of these types of books).

I honestly also felt there were also many "reaches" or framing that just made me view the book skeptically. The book feels disorganized and I'm not sure what the author's "overall" message was, although many parts

of the individual chapters were useful. I'm not completely sure who she identifies as the "marginalized majority" although one can certainly glean from the essays. It just seems a bit there's focus more on some groups but not on others that isn't helped by the disorganization.

This book will certainly speak to a lot of people but it wasn't for me.

Robin says

A brief examination of the dangers of self-censorship and following crowds. Roychoudhuri emphasizes the need to speak freely and thoughtfully against injustices and corruption on micro and macro levels. A predictable but well-synthesized read.

Catherine says

Oooh, this book got me so fired up. In the best of ways. Around the time of the women's march, I was utterly disgusted with the anti-protest sentiments I heard around me. But I didn't have the vocabulary for my outrage. This sentence slayed me with its perfection... "To believe that non-violent protest is unnecessary, pointless, over-the-top, or reflective of an unreasonable impatience, presupposes that your day-to-day existence is tolerable and acceptable." God, I wish everyone would read this. It's my wish. If only more people took the time to educate themselves! This book touches on the civil rights movement, BLM movement, OWS movement, #MeToo movement, Standing Rock movement, climate change activism, and so much more. What the author does is gives us hope, urges us to keep up the good fight, and reminds us that it's NOT in vain. Well written. Inspiring. And totally a breeze to read in one day.
