

= Jonathan Krohn =

Jonathan Lee Krohn ( born March 1 , 1995 ) is an American journalist and writer . He has written for The Guardian , The Atlantic , Salon , and Mother Jones , among others . In March 2013 , Krohn was made the International Affairs and Politics fellow for Kurdish media company Rudaw 's English language news site .

Prior to his work in journalism , Krohn wrote and self @-@ published the book Defining Conservatism , in which he sought to outline core conservative principles . He gained national attention when he addressed the 2009 Conservative Political Action Conference ( CPAC ) , at age 13 . Krohn convinced skeptical organizers to allow him to speak for three minutes at the CPAC event on February 27 , 2009 . His speech was well received by the audience and later gained popularity on the internet , garnering Krohn attention on national news programs on CNN and the Fox News . In 2009 , he was a finalist for Time magazine 's Time 100 for the year . His second book , Defining Conservatism : The Principles That Will Bring Our Country Back , was released on February 9 , 2010 .

In 2011 , Krohn openly declared he no longer held conservative views , a change he attributed to his study of philosophers and maturing with age . He was criticized by some conservatives for this reversal .

= = Early life = =

Krohn , an only child , was born on March 1 , 1995 to Doug Krohn , a computer system integrator , and Marla Krohn , a sales representative and middle @-@ school drama and speech teacher . Krohn 's family lived in Duluth , Georgia , and has been active in a Baptist church . In 2006 , he was voted " Atlanta 's Most Talented Child " by Inside Edition . Krohn became interested in politics at age eight , after hearing about a Democratic filibuster on judicial nominations in the United States Senate . The event prompted him to research American history and governmental rules and policies , and he developed an affinity for conservatism and began to listen regularly to conservative talk radio , particularly Morning in America with William Bennett , to whom he became a regular caller .

Krohn wrote Defining Conservatism , which was self @-@ published in 2008 , when he was 13 years old , because he felt the term conservatism was often misused . The book was in part a response to criticism that John McCain , the 2008 Republican presidential candidate , received regarding his conservative credentials . The book outlines four fundamental principles of conservative thought : support for the United States Constitution , opposition to abortion , less government , and more personal responsibility . Krohn went on to apply the principles to current events and define whether specifically cited actions violated those principles . The book was dedicated to Ronald Reagan , William F. Buckley , Jr. and Barry Goldwater , whom Krohn describes as his political heroes , along with South Carolina Senator Jim DeMint . Krohn paid to have the book published from his own savings . He described it as a " first effort " and immediately planned to write a second one , which he said would focus in part on Alexander Hamilton and James Monroe .

In January 2009 , Krohn contacted organizers of the Conservative Political Action Conference and asked to speak at the event . Organizers were reportedly skeptical , but gave him a three @-@ minute spot on a panel about grassroots activists . He delivered the speech , on February 27 , 2009 and described the conservative principles outlined in his book . When the speech was over , the panel moderator said , " Watch out , David Keene , " referring to the chairman of the American Conservative Union . The next day at the conference , William Bennett said , " I used to work for Ronald Reagan and now I 'm a colleague of Jonathan Krohn 's ! " The speech attracted the attention of national media outlets , and became popular online . Sam Stein of The Huffington Post said of the speech , " It was filled with the type of rhetorical flow and emotional pitch one would expect from a seasoned hand . Except , [ he ] is more than four years away from being able to vote . "

After the conference , Krohn 's parents received hate mail accusing them of brainwashing their son , but both insist Krohn developed his own political thinking . Within a week of the speech , Krohn appeared on numerous TV and radio shows . A staff member for a potential candidate for Georgia

governor also asked to meet with him . Several Facebook fan pages were started for him , including one called " Jonathan Krohn 2032 " , a reference to the first year he will be eligible to run for President of the United States .

Krohn wrote a column for Human Events , a weekly conservative newspaper . Krohn wrote a second book , Defining Conservatism : The Principles That Will Bring Our Country Back , released February 2010 . The book was praised by former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich and syndicated radio host Mike Gallagher , who said of it , " Any time I am depressed about the state of the country or the future of the modern conservative movement , I consider two words : Jonathan Krohn . " Gingrich offered to write the foreword for the book , but Krohn wanted it to be written by William Bennett . Krohn attended the 2010 Conservative Political Action Conference , but did not have a speaking role . Krohn also spoke at several Tea Party protests .

= = Change in political views = =

In 2011 , the French conservative media Nouvelles de France revealed that Jonathan Krohn was not conservative anymore . In 2012 , he confirmed to Politico that he no longer considers himself a conservative , and in fact takes a liberal point of view on many issues , including same @-@ sex marriage and the Affordable Care Act . He also said that if he were old enough to vote in the 2012 presidential election , he would vote for Barack Obama . However , he refused to describe himself as liberal , instead rejecting ideological labels entirely . Krohn attributes his change to reading works of philosophers such as Nietzsche and Wittgenstein . He said that he rejected social conservatism first , before rejecting other conservative viewpoints . Krohn stated that he had matured and described his 13 @-@ year @-@ old self as " naive " .

In a Salon article , Krohn was critical of partisan politics in general , and conservatives in particular , describing his conservative critics as " scorned right @-@ wingers showing all the maturity of a little boy . " In an interview with Jian Ghomeshi on CBC Radio subsequent to the Salon article , Krohn pointed out that his critics were so shallow that they claimed he shouldn 't have been reading philosophy at only 17 years of age .