[Template:Pp-semi](/wiki/Template:Pp-semi" \o "Template:Pp-semi) [Template:About](/wiki/Template:About) [Template:Redirect](/wiki/Template:Redirect) [Template:Use dmy dates](/wiki/Template:Use_dmy_dates) [Template:Use American English](/wiki/Template:Use_American_English) [Template:Cleanup](/wiki/Template:Cleanup) [Template:Conservatism sidebar](/wiki/Template:Conservatism_sidebar) [Template:Conservatism US](/wiki/Template:Conservatism_US)

**Neoconservatism** (commonly shortened to **neocon**) is a political movement born in the United States during the 1960s among Democrats who became disenchanted with the party's domestic and especially foreign policy. Many of its adherents became politically famous during the Republican presidential administrations of the 1970s, 1980s, 1990s and 2000s. Neoconservatives peaked in influence during the administrations of [George H. W. Bush](/wiki/George_H._W._Bush) and [George W. Bush](/wiki/George_W._Bush), when they played a major role in promoting and planning the [2003 invasion of Iraq](/wiki/2003_invasion_of_Iraq).[[1]](#cite_note-1) Prominent neoconservatives in the George W. Bush administration included [Paul Wolfowitz](/wiki/Paul_Wolfowitz), [John Bolton](/wiki/John_R._Bolton), [Elliott Abrams](/wiki/Elliott_Abrams), [Richard Perle](/wiki/Richard_Perle) and [Paul Bremer](/wiki/Paul_Bremer). Senior officials Vice President [Dick Cheney](/wiki/Dick_Cheney) and Secretary of Defense [Donald Rumsfeld](/wiki/Donald_Rumsfeld), while not identifying as neoconservatives, listened closely to neoconservative advisers regarding foreign policy, especially the defense of Israel and the promotion of democracy in the Middle East. Neoconservatives continue to have influence in the [Obama administration](/wiki/Obama_administration) and neoconservative ideology has continued as a factor in American foreign policy.[[2]](#cite_note-2)[[3]](#cite_note-3) The term "neoconservative" refers to those who made the ideological journey from the [anti-Stalinist Left](/wiki/Anti-Stalinist_Left) to the camp of [American conservatism](/wiki/American_conservatism).[[4]](#cite_note-4) Neoconservatives typically advocate the promotion of [democracy](/wiki/Democracy) and promotion of American [national interest](/wiki/National_interest) in [international affairs](/wiki/International_relations), including by means of military force and are known for espousing disdain for communism and for [political radicalism](/wiki/Political_radicalism).[[5]](#cite_note-5)[[6]](#cite_note-6) The movement had its intellectual roots in the Jewish monthly review magazine [*Commentary*](/wiki/Commentary_(magazine)), published by the American Jewish Committee.[[7]](#cite_note-7)[[8]](#cite_note-8) They spoke out against the [New Left](/wiki/New_Left) and in that way helped define the movement.[[9]](#cite_note-9)[[10]](#cite_note-10) C. Bradley Thompson, a professor at Clemson University, claims that most influential neoconservatives refer explicitly to the theoretical ideas in the philosophy of [Leo Strauss](/wiki/Leo_Strauss) (1899–1973),[[11]](#cite_note-11)though in doing so they may draw upon meaning that Strauss himself [did not endorse](/wiki/Leo_Strauss#Response_to_criticisms).

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## Terminology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

[thumbnail|right|150px|](/wiki/File:Irving_Kristol.jpg)[Irving Kristol](/wiki/Irving_Kristol) was called "godfather" of neoconservatism The term "neoconservative" was popularized in the United States during 1973 by Socialist leader [Michael Harrington](/wiki/Michael_Harrington), who used the term to define [Daniel Bell](/wiki/Daniel_Bell), [Daniel Patrick Moynihan](/wiki/Daniel_Patrick_Moynihan), and [Irving Kristol](/wiki/Irving_Kristol), whose ideologies differed from Harrington's.[[12]](#cite_note-12) The "neoconservative" label was used by [Irving Kristol](/wiki/Irving_Kristol) in his 1979 article "Confessions of a True, Self-Confessed 'Neoconservative.'"[[13]](#cite_note-13) His ideas have been influential since the 1950s, when he co-founded and edited the magazine [*Encounter*](/wiki/Encounter_(magazine)).[[14]](#cite_note-14) Another source was [Norman Podhoretz](/wiki/Norman_Podhoretz), editor of the magazine [*Commentary*](/wiki/Commentary_Magazine) from 1960 to 1995. By 1982 Podhoretz was terming himself a neoconservative, in a [*New York Times Magazine*](/wiki/The_New_York_Times_Magazine) article titled "The Neoconservative Anguish over Reagan's Foreign Policy".[[15]](#cite_note-15)[[16]](#cite_note-16) During the late 1970s and early 1980s, the neoconservatives considered that [liberalism](/wiki/Modern_liberalism_in_the_United_States) had failed and "no longer knew what it was talking about," according to [E. J. Dionne](/wiki/E._J._Dionne).[[17]](#cite_note-17) [Seymour Lipset](/wiki/Seymour_Lipset) asserts that the term "neoconservative" was used originally by a [socialist](/wiki/Socialism) to criticize the politics of [Social Democrats, USA](/wiki/Social_Democrats,_USA) (SDUSA).[[18]](#cite_note-18) Jonah Goldberg argues that the term is ideological criticism against proponents of [American modern liberalism](/wiki/Modern_liberalism_in_the_United_States) who had become slightly more conservative[[13]](#cite_note-13)[[19]](#cite_note-19) (Both Lipset and Goldberg are frequently described as neoconservatives). Historian [Justin Vaisse](/wiki/Justin_Vaisse), in a book-length study for Harvard University Press, writes that Lipset and Goldberg are in error: "neoconservative" was used by socialist Michael Harrington to describe three men - noted above - who were not in SDUSA, and neoconservatism is a definable political movement.[[20]](#cite_note-20) The term "neoconservative" was the subject of increased media coverage during the presidency of [George W. Bush](/wiki/George_W._Bush),[[21]](#cite_note-21)[[22]](#cite_note-22) with particular emphasis on a perceived neoconservative influence on American foreign policy, as part of the [Bush Doctrine](/wiki/Bush_Doctrine).[[23]](#cite_note-23)

## History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

[thumb|left|150px|Senator](/wiki/File:HenryJackson.jpg) [Henry M. "Scoop" Jackson](/wiki/Henry_M._%22Scoop%22_Jackson), inspiration for neoconservative foreign policy during the 1970s.

Through the 1950s and early 1960s, the future neoconservatives had endorsed the [American Civil Rights Movement](/wiki/American_Civil_Rights_Movement), [racial integration](/wiki/Racial_integration), and [Martin Luther King, Jr](/wiki/Martin_Luther_King,_Jr).[[24]](#cite_note-24) From the 1950s to the 1960s, there was general endorsement among liberals for military action to prevent a communist victory in Vietnam.[[25]](#cite_note-25) Neoconservatism was initiated by the repudiation of the [New Deal coalition](/wiki/New_Deal_coalition) by the American [New Left](/wiki/New_Left): [Black Power](/wiki/Black_Power), which accused Northern Jews of hypocrisy on integration and supported Israel in the [Six-Day War](/wiki/Six-Day_War); "anti-[anticommunism](/wiki/Anti-communism)", and which during the late 1960s included substantial endorsement of [Marxist–Leninist](/wiki/Marxism–Leninism) politics; and the "[new politics](/wiki/New_Politics_(disambiguation))" of the [New left](/wiki/New_left), which Norman Podheretz said was too close to the counterculture and too alienated from the majority of the population. Many were particularly alarmed by what they claimed were [anti-semitic](/wiki/African-american_-_jewish_relations) sentiments from Black Power advocates.[[26]](#cite_note-26) [Irving Kristol](/wiki/Irving_Kristol) edited the journal [*The Public Interest*](/wiki/The_Public_Interest) (1965–2005), featuring economists and political scientists, which emphasized ways that government planning in the liberal state had produced unintended harmful consequences.[[27]](#cite_note-27) Many early Neoconservative political figures were disillusioned Democratic politicians and intellectuals, such as [Daniel Patrick Moynihan](/wiki/Daniel_Patrick_Moynihan), who served in the Nixon Administration, and [Jeane Kirkpatrick](/wiki/Jeane_Kirkpatrick), who served as President [Ronald Reagan's](/wiki/Ronald_Reagan) UN Ambassador.

A substantial number of neoconservatives were originally moderate socialists associated with the right-wing of the Socialist Party of America (SP), and its successor, [Social Democrats, USA](/wiki/Social_Democrats,_USA) (SDUSA). [Max Shachtman](/wiki/Max_Shachtman), a former Trotskyist theorist who developed a strong antipathy towards the New Left, had numerous devotees among SDUSA with strong links to [George Meany's](/wiki/George_Meany) AFL-CIO. Following Shachtman and Meany, this faction led the SP to oppose an immediate withdrawal from the Vietnam War, and oppose George McGovern in the Democratic primary race (and to some extent, the general election). They also chose to cease their own party-building and concentrated on working within the Democratic Party, eventually influencing it through the [Democratic Leadership Council](/wiki/Democratic_Leadership_Council).[[28]](#cite_note-28) Thus the Socialist Party ceased to be in 1972 and SDUSA emerged (Most of the left-wing of the party, led by Michael Harrington, immediately abandoned SDUSA).[[29]](#cite_note-29)[[30]](#cite_note-30) SDUSA leaders associated with neoconservatism include [Carl Gershman](/wiki/Carl_Gershman), [Penn Kemble](/wiki/Penn_Kemble), [Joshua Muravchik](/wiki/Joshua_Muravchik), and [Bayard Rustin](/wiki/Bayard_Rustin).[[31]](#cite_note-31)[[32]](#cite_note-32)[[33]](#cite_note-33)[[34]](#cite_note-34) Norman Podhoretz's magazine [*Commentary*](/wiki/Commentary_(magazine)) of the [American Jewish Committee](/wiki/American_Jewish_Committee), originally a journal of liberalism, became a major publication for neoconservatives during the 1970s. *Commentary* published an article by Jeane Kirkpatrick, an early and prototypical neoconservative, albeit not a New Yorker. [Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

### New York Intellectuals[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

Many neoconservatives had been [Jewish intellectuals in New York City](/wiki/The_New_York_Intellectuals) during the 1930s. They were on the political left but strongly opposed Stalinism; some were Trotskyists. During the [Cold War](/wiki/Cold_War) they continued to oppose Stalinism and to endorse democracy. The great majority became liberal Democrats.[[35]](#cite_note-35)[[36]](#cite_note-36)

### Rejecting the American New Left and McGovern's New Politics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

As the policies of the [New Left](/wiki/New_Left) made the [Democrats](/wiki/Democratic_Party_(United_States)) increasingly leftist, these intellectuals became disillusioned with President [Lyndon B. Johnson's](/wiki/Lyndon_B._Johnson) [Great Society](/wiki/Great_Society) domestic programs. The influential 1970 bestseller [*The Real Majority*](/wiki/The_Real_Majority) by [Ben Wattenberg](/wiki/Ben_Wattenberg) expressed that the "real majority" of the electorate endorsed [economic liberalism](/wiki/Economic_interventionism) but also [social conservatism](/wiki/Social_conservatism), and warned Democrats it could be disastrous to adopt [liberal](/wiki/Cultural_liberalism) positions on certain social and crime issues.[[37]](#cite_note-37) The neoconservatives rejected the [counterculture](/wiki/Counterculture_of_the_1960s) [New Left](/wiki/New_Left), and what they considered [anti-Americanism](/wiki/Anti-Americanism) in the [non-interventionism](/wiki/Non-interventionism) of the activism against the [Vietnam War](/wiki/Vietnam_War). After the anti-war faction took control of the party during 1972 and nominated [George McGovern](/wiki/George_McGovern), the Democrats among them endorsed Washington Senator [Henry "Scoop" Jackson](/wiki/Henry_M._Jackson) instead for his unsuccessful 1972 and 1976 campaigns for president. Among those who worked for Jackson were future neoconservatives [Paul Wolfowitz](/wiki/Paul_Wolfowitz), [Doug Feith](/wiki/Doug_Feith), and [Richard Perle](/wiki/Richard_Perle).[[38]](#cite_note-38) During the late 1970s, neoconservatives tended to endorse [Ronald Reagan](/wiki/Ronald_Reagan), the Republican who promised to confront Soviet expansionism. Neocons organized in the [American Enterprise Institute](/wiki/American_Enterprise_Institute) and the [Heritage Foundation](/wiki/Heritage_Foundation) to counter the liberal establishment.[[39]](#cite_note-39) [Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear) In another (2004) article, [Michael Lind](/wiki/Michael_Lind) also wrote [[40]](#cite_note-40)[Template:Quote](/wiki/Template:Quote)

### Leo Strauss and his students[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

Neoconservatism draws on several intellectual traditions. The students of political science Professor [Leo Strauss](/wiki/Leo_Strauss) (1899–1973) comprised one major group. Eugene Sheppard notes that, "Much scholarship tends to understand Strauss as an inspirational founder of American neoconservatism."[[41]](#cite_note-41) Strauss was a refugee from Nazi Germany who taught at the New School for Social Research in New York (1939–49) and the University of Chicago (1949–1958).[[42]](#cite_note-42) Strauss asserted that "the crisis of the West consists in the West's having become uncertain of its purpose." His solution was a restoration of the vital ideas and faith that in the past had sustained the moral purpose of the West. Classical Greek political philosophy and the Judeo-Christian heritage are the essentials of the Great Tradition in Strauss's work.[[43]](#cite_note-43) Strauss emphasized the spirit of the Greek classics, and West (1991) argues that for Strauss the American "Founding Fathers" were correct in their understanding of the classics in their principles of justice. For Strauss, political community is defined by convictions about justice and happiness rather than by sovereignty and force. He repudiated the philosophy of [John Locke](/wiki/John_Locke) as a bridge to 20th-century historicism and nihilism, and defended liberal democracy as closer to the spirit of the classics than other modern regimes.[[44]](#cite_note-44) For Strauss, the American awareness of ineradicable evil in human nature, and hence the need for morality, was a beneficial outgrowth of the premodern Western tradition.[[45]](#cite_note-45) O'Neill (2009) notes that Strauss wrote little about American topics but his students wrote a great deal, and that Strauss's influence caused his students to reject [historicism](/wiki/Historicism) and [positivism](/wiki/Positivism). Instead they promoted a so-called Aristotelian perspective on America that produced a qualified defense of its liberal constitutionalism.[[46]](#cite_note-46) Strauss influenced *Weekly Standard* editor [William Kristol](/wiki/William_Kristol), editor [John Podhoretz](/wiki/John_Podhoretz), and military strategist [Paul Wolfowitz](/wiki/Paul_Wolfowitz).[[47]](#cite_note-47)[[48]](#cite_note-48)

### Jeane Kirkpatrick[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [[File:Od jeane-kirkpatrick-official-portrait 1-255x301.jpg|thumb|right|

[Jeane Kirkpatrick](/wiki/Jeane_Kirkpatrick)

]]

A theory of neoconservative foreign policy during the final years of the Cold War was articulated by [Jeane Kirkpatrick](/wiki/Jeane_Kirkpatrick), in "[Dictatorships and Double Standards](/wiki/Dictatorships_and_Double_Standards),"[[49]](#cite_note-49) published in [*Commentary Magazine*](/wiki/Commentary_Magazine) during November 1979. Kirkpatrick criticized the foreign policy of [Jimmy Carter](/wiki/Jimmy_Carter), which endorsed [detente](/wiki/Detente) with the USSR. She later served the Reagan Administration as Ambassador to the United Nations.[[50]](#cite_note-50)

#### Skepticism towards democracy promotion[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

In "Dictatorships and Double Standards," Kirkpatrick distinguished between [authoritarian](/wiki/Authoritarianism) regimes and the [totalitarian](/wiki/Totalitarianism) regimes such as the Soviet Union; she suggested that in some countries democracy was not tenable and the U.S. had a choice between endorsing authoritarian governments, which might evolve into democracies, or [Marxist–Leninist](/wiki/Marxism–Leninism) regimes, which she argued had never been ended once they achieved totalitarian control. In such tragic circumstances, she argued that allying with authoritarian governments might be prudent. Kirkpatrick argued that by demanding rapid [liberalization](/wiki/Liberalization) in traditionally [autocratic](/wiki/Autocracy) countries, the Carter administration had delivered those countries to Marxist-Leninists that were even more repressive. She further accused the Carter administration of a "double standard," of never having applied its rhetoric on the necessity of liberalization to [communist governments](/wiki/Communist_state). The essay compares traditional autocracies and Communist regimes:

[Template:Quote](/wiki/Template:Quote)

[Template:Quote](/wiki/Template:Quote)

Kirkpatrick concluded that while the United States should encourage liberalization and democracy in autocratic countries, it should not do so when the government risks violent overthrow, and should expect gradual change rather than immediate transformation.[[51]](#cite_note-51) She wrote: "No idea holds greater sway in the mind of educated Americans than the belief that it is possible to [democratize](/wiki/Democracy) governments, anytime and anywhere, under any circumstances... Decades, if not centuries, are normally required for people to acquire the necessary disciplines and habits. In Britain, the road [to democratic government] [took seven centuries to traverse](/wiki/Constitution_of_the_United_Kingdom). ... The speed with which armies collapse, bureaucracies abdicate, and social structures dissolve once the autocrat is removed frequently surprises American policymakers."[[52]](#cite_note-52)[Template:Anchor](/wiki/Template:Anchor)

### 1990s[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

During the 1990s, neoconservatives were once again opposed to the foreign policy establishment, both during the Republican Administration of President [George H. W. Bush](/wiki/George_H._W._Bush) and that of his Democratic successor, President [William Clinton](/wiki/Bill_Clinton). Many critics charged that the neoconservatives lost their influence as a result of the end of the USSR.[[53]](#cite_note-53) After the decision of George H. W. Bush to leave [Saddam Hussein](/wiki/Saddam_Hussein) in power after the first [Iraq War](/wiki/Gulf_War) during 1991, many neoconservatives considered this policy, and the decision not to endorse indigenous dissident groups such as the [Kurds](/wiki/Kurds) and [Shiites](/wiki/Shiites) in their [1991-1992 resistance](/wiki/1991_uprisings_in_Iraq) to Hussein, as a betrayal of democratic principles.<ref name=[http://www.tomdispatch.com/post/174894>](http://www.tomdispatch.com/post/174894%3e)[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref><ref name=Tucker2009>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref><ref name=Hirsh2004>[Template:Cite journal](/wiki/Template:Cite_journal)</ref><ref name=Wing2012>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref><ref name=Podhoretz2006>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref>

Ironically, some of those same targets of criticism would later become fierce advocates of neoconservative policies. During 1992, referring to the first [Iraq War](/wiki/Gulf_War), then [United States Secretary of Defense](/wiki/United_States_Secretary_of_Defense) and future [Vice President](/wiki/Vice_President_of_the_United_States) [Richard Cheney](/wiki/Dick_Cheney) said: [Template:Quote](/wiki/Template:Quote)

Within a few years of the Gulf War in [Iraq](/wiki/Iraq), many neoconservatives were endorsing the ouster of Saddam Hussein. On 19 February 1998, an open letter to President Clinton was published, signed by dozens of pundits, many identified with neoconservatism and, later, related groups such as the [PNAC](/wiki/Project_for_the_New_American_Century), urging decisive action to remove Saddam from power.[[54]](#cite_note-54) Neoconservatives were also members of the so-called "[blue team](/wiki/Blue_Team_(U.S._politics))", which argued for a confrontational policy toward the [People's Republic of China](/wiki/People's_Republic_of_China) and strong military and diplomatic endorsement for the [Republic of China](/wiki/Republic_of_China) (also known as Formosa or Taiwan).

During the late 1990s, Irving Kristol and other writers in neoconservative magazines began touting anti-Darwinist views, as an endorsement of [intelligent design](/wiki/Intelligent_design). Since these neoconservatives were largely of secular origin, a few commentators have speculated that this[Template:Spaced ndashalong](/wiki/Template:Spaced_ndash) with endorsement of religion generally – may have been a case of a "[noble lie](/wiki/Noble_lie)", intended to protect public morality, or even [tactical politics](/wiki/Tactical_politics), to attract religious endorsers.[[55]](#cite_note-55)

### 2000s[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

#### Administration of George W. Bush[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

[Template:Wikinews](/wiki/Template:Wikinews) The Bush campaign and the early Bush administration did not exhibit strong endorsement of neoconservative principles. As a presidential candidate, Bush had argued for a restrained foreign policy, stating his opposition to the idea of [*nation-building*](/wiki/Nation-building)[[56]](#cite_note-56) and an early foreign policy confrontation with China was managed without the vociferousness suggested by some neoconservatives.[[57]](#cite_note-57) Also early in the administration, some neoconservatives criticized Bush's administration as insufficiently supportive of [Israel](/wiki/Israel), and suggested Bush's foreign policies were not substantially different from those of President Clinton.[[58]](#cite_note-58) [thumb|left| Former](/wiki/File:Hosni_Mubarak_with_George_W._Bush.jpg) [U.S. President](/wiki/U.S._President) [George W. Bush](/wiki/George_W._Bush) with the former [President of Egypt](/wiki/President_of_Egypt) [Hosni Mubarak](/wiki/Hosni_Mubarak) at [Camp David](/wiki/Camp_David) in 2002. During November 2010, Bush wrote in his memoir [*Decision Points*](/wiki/Decision_Points) claiming Mubarak endorsed the administration's position that [Iraq](/wiki/Iraq) had WMDs before the war with the country, but kept it private for fear of "inciting the [Arab street](/wiki/Arab_street)."[[59]](#cite_note-59) Bush's policies changed dramatically immediately after the [11 September 2001 attacks](/wiki/September_11_attacks).

During Bush's State of the Union speech of January 2002, he named Iraq, Iran, and North Korea as states that "constitute an [axis of evil](/wiki/Axis_of_evil)" and "pose a grave and growing danger". Bush suggested the possibility of [preemptive war](/wiki/Preemptive_war): "I will not wait on events, while dangers gather. I will not stand by, as peril draws closer and closer. The United States of America will not permit the world's most dangerous regimes to threaten us with the world's most destructive weapons."[[60]](#cite_note-60)[[61]](#cite_note-61) Some major defense and national-security persons have been quite critical of what they believed was a neoconservative influence in getting the United States to go to war against Iraq.[[62]](#cite_note-62) Former Nebraska Republican U.S. senator and incumbent Secretary of Defense, [Chuck Hagel](/wiki/Chuck_Hagel), who has been critical of the Bush administration's adoption of neoconservative ideology, in his book *America: Our Next Chapter* wrote: [Template:Quote](/wiki/Template:Quote)

##### Bush Doctrine[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]

[thumb|230px|President Bush meets with Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld and his staff at the Pentagon, 14 August 2006.](/wiki/File:Defense.gov_photo_essay_060814-D-2987S-023.jpg) The [*Bush Doctrine*](/wiki/Bush_Doctrine) of preemptive war was stated explicitly in the [National Security Council](/wiki/United_States_National_Security_Council) text "National Security Strategy of the United States," published 20 September 2002: "We must deter and defend against the threat before it is unleashed ... even if uncertainty remains as to the time and place of the enemy's attack. ... The United States will, if necessary, act preemptively."[[63]](#cite_note-63) The choice not to use the word 'preventive' in the 2002 National Security Strategy, and instead use the word 'preemptive' was largely in anticipation of the widely perceived illegality of preventive attacks in international law, via both Charter Law and Customary Law.[[64]](#cite_note-64) Policy analysts noted that the Bush Doctrine as stated in the 2002 NSC document had a strong resemblance to recommendations presented originally in a controversial Defense Planning Guidance draft written during 1992 by [Paul Wolfowitz](/wiki/Paul_Wolfowitz), during the first Bush administration.[[65]](#cite_note-65) The Bush Doctrine was greeted with accolades by many neoconservatives. When asked whether he agreed with the Bush Doctrine, [Max Boot](/wiki/Max_Boot) said he did, and that "I think [Bush is] exactly right to say we can't sit back and wait for the next terrorist strike on Manhattan. We have to go out and stop the terrorists overseas. We have to play the role of the global policeman. ... But I also argue that we ought to go further."[[66]](#cite_note-66) Discussing the significance of the Bush Doctrine, neoconservative writer [William Kristol](/wiki/William_Kristol) claimed: "The world is a mess. And, I think, it's very much to Bush's credit that he's gotten serious about dealing with it. ... The danger is not that we're going to do too much. The danger is that we're going to do too little."[[67]](#cite_note-67)

#### 2008 Presidential election and aftermath[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]

[Template:Expand section](/wiki/Template:Expand_section) [thumb|right|President Bush and Senator McCain at the White House, 5 March 2008](/wiki/File:BushJohnOval.jpg) [John McCain](/wiki/John_McCain), who was the Republican candidate for the [2008 United States Presidential election](/wiki/United_States_presidential_election,_2008), endorsed continuing the second [Iraq War](/wiki/Iraq_War), "the issue that is most clearly identified with the neoconservatives". The *New York Times* reported further that his foreign policy views combined elements of neoconservatism and the main competing conservative opinion, [pragmatism](/wiki/Political_realism), also known as *realism*:[[68]](#cite_note-68)[Template:Quote](/wiki/Template:Quote)

[Barack Obama](/wiki/Barack_Obama) campaigned for the Democratic nomination during 2008 by attacking his opponents, especially [Hillary Clinton](/wiki/Hillary_Clinton), for originally endorsing Bush's Iraq-war policies. Obama maintained a selection of prominent military officials from the Bush Administration including [Robert Gates](/wiki/Robert_Gates) (Bush's Defense Secretary), and [David Petraeus](/wiki/David_Petraeus) (Bush's ranking general in Iraq). By 2010, U.S. forces had switched from combat to a training role in Iraq and they left in 2011.[[69]](#cite_note-69) The neocons had little influence in the Obama White House, but neoconservatism remains a staple in Republican Party arsenal.[[2]](#cite_note-2)[[3]](#cite_note-3)

## Evolution of opinions[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]

### Usage and general views[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]

During the early 1970s, Socialist [Michael Harrington](/wiki/Michael_Harrington) was one of the first to use "neoconservative" in its modern meaning. He characterized neoconservatives as former leftists[Template:Spaced ndashwhom](/wiki/Template:Spaced_ndash) he derided as "socialists for [Nixon](/wiki/Richard_Nixon)"[Template:Spaced ndashwho](/wiki/Template:Spaced_ndash) had become more conservative.[[12]](#cite_note-12) These people tended to remain endorsers of [social democracy](/wiki/Social_democracy), but distinguished themselves by allying with the Nixon administration with respect to foreign policy, especially by their endorsement of the Vietnam War and opposition to the USSR. They still endorsed the [*welfare state*](/wiki/Welfare_state), but not necessarily in its contemporary form.

Irving Kristol remarked that a neoconservative is a "[Template:Visible anchor](/wiki/Template:Visible_anchor)", one who became more conservative after seeing the results of liberal policies. Kristol also distinguished three specific aspects of neoconservatism from previous types of conservatism: neo-conservatives had a forward-looking attitude from their liberal heritage, rather than the reactionary and dour attitude of previous conservatives; they had a meliorative attitude, proposing alternate reforms rather than simply attacking social liberal reforms; they took philosophical ideas and ideologies very seriously.[[70]](#cite_note-70) During January 2009, at the end of President George W. Bush's second term in office, Jonathan Clarke, a senior fellow at the [Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs](/wiki/Carnegie_Council_for_Ethics_in_International_Affairs), proposed the following as the "main characteristics of neoconservatism": "a tendency to see the world in binary good/evil terms", a "low tolerance for diplomacy", a "readiness to use military force", an "emphasis on US unilateral action", a "disdain for multilateral organizations" and a "focus on the Middle East".[[71]](#cite_note-71)

### Opinions concerning foreign policy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=15)]

[Template:International relations theory sidebar](/wiki/Template:International_relations_theory_sidebar) In foreign policy, the neoconservatives' main concern is to prevent the development of a new rival. [Defense Planning Guidance](/wiki/Defense_Planning_Guidance), a document prepared during 1992 by Under Secretary for Defense for Policy Paul Wolfowitz, is regarded by Distinguished Professor of the Humanities [John McGowan](/wiki/John_McGowan_(professor)) at the [University of North Carolina](/wiki/University_of_North_Carolina) as the "quintessential statement of neoconservative thought". The report says:[[72]](#cite_note-72)

Our first objective is to prevent the re-emergence of a new rival, either on the territory of the former Soviet Union or elsewhere, that poses a threat on the order of that posed formerly by the Soviet Union. This is a dominant consideration underlying the new regional defense strategy and requires that we endeavor to prevent any hostile power from dominating a region whose resources would, under consolidated control, be sufficient to generate global power.

According to Lead Editor of [e-International Relations](/wiki/E-International_Relations), Stephen McGlinchey, "Neo-conservatism is something of a chimera in modern politics. For its opponents it is a distinct political ideology that emphasizes the blending of military power with Wilsonian idealism, yet for its supporters it is more of a 'persuasion' that individuals of many types drift into and out of. Regardless of which is more correct, it is now widely accepted that the neo-conservative impulse has been visible in modern American foreign policy and that it has left a distinct impact".[[73]](#cite_note-73) Neoconservatives claim the "conviction that communism was a monstrous evil and a potent danger."[[74]](#cite_note-74) They endorse [social welfare](/wiki/Welfare_state) programs that were rejected by [libertarians](/wiki/Libertarianism) and [paleoconservatives](/wiki/Paleoconservatism).[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

Neoconservatism first developed during the late 1960s as an effort to oppose the radical cultural changes occurring within the United States. Irving Kristol wrote: "If there is any one thing that neoconservatives are unanimous about, it is their dislike of the [counterculture](/wiki/Counterculture)."[[75]](#cite_note-75) Norman Podhoretz agreed: "Revulsion against the counterculture accounted for more converts to neoconservatism than any other single factor."[[76]](#cite_note-76) Neoconservatives began to emphasize foreign issues during the mid-1970s.[[77]](#cite_note-77)[thumb|](/wiki/File:Defense.gov_News_Photo_051024-F-5586B-016.jpg)[Donald Rumsfeld](/wiki/Donald_Rumsfeld) and [Victoria Nuland](/wiki/Victoria_Nuland) at the NATO–Ukraine consultations in Vilnius, Lithuania, October 24, 2005

During 1979 an early study by liberal [Peter Steinfels](/wiki/Peter_Steinfels) concentrated on the ideas of [Irving Kristol](/wiki/Irving_Kristol), [Daniel Patrick Moynihan](/wiki/Daniel_Patrick_Moynihan) and [Daniel Bell](/wiki/Daniel_Bell). He noted that the stress on foreign affairs "emerged after the New Left and the counterculture had dissolved as convincing foils for neoconservatism .... The essential source of their anxiety is not military or geopolitical or to be found overseas at all; it is domestic and cultural and ideological."[[78]](#cite_note-78) Neoconservative foreign policy is a descendant of so-called [Wilsonian idealism](/wiki/Idealism_(international_relations)). Neoconservatives endorse [democracy promotion](/wiki/Democracy_promotion) by the U.S. and other democracies, based on the claim that they think that human rights belong to everyone. They criticized the [United Nations](/wiki/United_Nations) and [detente](/wiki/Detente) with the [USSR](/wiki/Soviet_Union). On [domestic policy](/wiki/Domestic_policy), they endorse a [welfare state](/wiki/Welfare_state), like European and Canadian conservatives and unlike American [conservatives](/wiki/Conservatism_in_the_United_States). According to [Norman Podhoretz](/wiki/Norman_Podhoretz),

[Template:Quote](/wiki/Template:Quote)

During April 2006 [Robert Kagan](/wiki/Robert_Kagan) wrote in *The Washington Post* that [Russia](/wiki/Russia) and [China](/wiki/China) may be the greatest "challenge liberalism faces today":

[Template:Quote](/wiki/Template:Quote)

During July 2008 [Joe Klein](/wiki/Joe_Klein) wrote in [*Time*](/wiki/Time_(magazine)) that today's neoconservatives are more interested in confronting enemies than in cultivating friends. He questioned the sincerity of neoconservative interest in exporting democracy and freedom, saying, "Neoconservatism in foreign policy is best described as unilateral bellicosity cloaked in the utopian rhetoric of freedom and democracy."[[79]](#cite_note-79) During February 2009 [Andrew Sullivan](/wiki/Andrew_Sullivan) wrote he no longer took neoconservatism seriously because its basic tenet was defense of Israel:[[80]](#cite_note-80) [Template:Quote](/wiki/Template:Quote)

Neoconservatives respond to charges of merely rationalizing aid for Israel by noting that their "position on the Middle East conflict was exactly congruous with the neoconservative position on conflicts everywhere else in the world, including places where neither Jews nor Israeli interests could be found—not to mention the fact that non-Jewish neoconservatives took the same stands on all of the issues as did their Jewish confrères."[[81]](#cite_note-81)

### Views on economics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=16)]

While neoconservatism is concerned primarily with foreign policy, there is also some discussion of internal economic policies. Neoconservatism generally endorses [free markets](/wiki/Free_market) and [capitalism](/wiki/Capitalism), favoring [supply-side economics](/wiki/Supply-side_economics), but it has several disagreements with [classical liberalism](/wiki/Classical_liberalism) and [fiscal conservatism](/wiki/Fiscal_conservatism): Irving Kristol states that neocons are more relaxed about budget deficits and tend to reject the [Hayekian](/wiki/Friedrich_Hayek) notion that the growth of government influence on society and public welfare is "the road to serfdom."[[82]](#cite_note-82) Indeed, to safeguard democracy, government intervention and budget deficits may sometimes be necessary, Kristol argues.

Further, neoconservative ideology stresses that while free markets do provide material goods in an efficient way, they lack the moral guidance human beings need to fulfill their needs. Morality can be found only in tradition, they say and, contrary to [libertarianism](/wiki/Libertarianism), markets do pose questions that cannot be solved solely by economics. "So, as the economy only makes up part of our lives, it must not be allowed to take over and entirely dictate to our society."[[83]](#cite_note-83) Critics consider neoconservatism a bellicose and "heroic" ideology opposed to "mercantile" and "bourgeois" virtues and therefore "a variant of anti-economic thought."[[84]](#cite_note-84) Political scientist [Zeev Sternhell](/wiki/Zeev_Sternhell) states, "Neoconservatism has succeeded in convincing the great majority of Americans that the main questions that concern a society are not economic, and that social questions are really moral questions."[[85]](#cite_note-85)

### Friction with moderate conservatives[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=17)]

Many moderate conservatives oppose neoconservative policies and have sharply negative views on it. For example, [Stefan Halper](/wiki/Stefan_Halper) and Jonathan Clarke (a libertarian based at Cato), in their 2004 book on neoconservatism, America Alone: The Neo-Conservatives and the Global Order,[[86]](#cite_note-86) characterized the neoconservatives, at that time, as uniting: [Template:Quotation](/wiki/Template:Quotation)

### Friction with paleoconservatism[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=18)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

Starting during the 1980s, disputes concerning Israel and public policy contributed to a conflict with [paleoconservatives](/wiki/Paleoconservatives). [Pat Buchanan](/wiki/Pat_Buchanan) terms neoconservatism "a globalist, interventionist, open borders ideology."[[87]](#cite_note-87) [Paul Gottfried](/wiki/Paul_Gottfried) has written that the neocons' call for "[permanent revolution](/wiki/Permanent_revolution)" exists independently of their beliefs about Israel,[[88]](#cite_note-88) characterizing the neos as

ranters out of a Dostoyevskian novel, who are out to practice permanent revolution courtesy of the U.S. government

and questioning how anyone could mistake them for conservatives.[[89]](#cite_note-89)

What make neocons most dangerous are not their... and calling everyone and his cousin an anti-Semite, but the leftist revolutionary fury they express.[[89]](#cite_note-89)

He has also argued that domestic equality and the exportability of democracy are points of contention between them.[[90]](#cite_note-90) Responding to a question about neoconservatives in 2004, [William F. Buckley](/wiki/William_F._Buckley) said: "I think those I know, which is most of them, are bright, informed and idealistic, but that they simply overrate the reach of U.S. power and influence."<ref name=nytmds>Sanger, Deborah, ["Questions for William F. Buckley: Conservatively Speaking"](http://www.nytimes.com/2004/07/11/magazine/11QUESTIONS.html?ei=5070&en=a78be4479c624bcf&ex=1204952400), interview in [*The New York Times Magazine*](/wiki/The_New_York_Times_Magazine), 11 July 2004. Retrieved 6 March 2008</ref>

#### Trotskyism allegation[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=19)]

Critics have argued that since the founders of neo-conservatism included ex-Trotskyites, that therefore [Trotskyist traits](/wiki/Trotskyism) continue to characterize neo-conservative ideologies and practices.[[91]](#cite_note-91)[[92]](#cite_note-92) During the Reagan Administration, the charge was made that the [foreign policy of the Reagan administration](/wiki/Foreign_policy_of_the_Ronald_Reagan_administration) was being managed by ex-Trotskyists.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) This claim was called a "myth" by [Template:Harvtxt](/wiki/Template:Harvtxt):[[93]](#cite_note-93) This "Trotskyist" charge was repeated and widened by journalist [Michael Lind](/wiki/Michael_Lind) during 2003 to assert a takeover of the [foreign policy of the George W. Bush administration](/wiki/Foreign_policy_of_the_George_W._Bush_administration) by former Trotskyists;[[94]](#cite_note-94) Lind's "amalgamation of the defense intellectuals with the traditions and theories of 'the largely Jewish-American Trotskyist movement' [in Lind's words]" was criticized during 2003 by University of Michigan professor Alan M. Wald,[[95]](#cite_note-95) who had discussed Trotskyism in his history of "[the New York intellectuals](/wiki/The_New_York_Intellectuals)".[[96]](#cite_note-96)[[97]](#cite_note-97)[[98]](#cite_note-98) The charge that neoconservativism is related to [Leninism](/wiki/Leninism) has been made, also. [Francis Fukuyama](/wiki/Francis_Fukuyama) identified neoconservatism with Leninism during 2006.[[22]](#cite_note-22) He wrote that neoconservatives:

[Template:Quote](/wiki/Template:Quote)

## Criticisms[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=20)]

The term *neoconservative* may be used pejoratively by self-described [paleoconservatives](/wiki/Paleoconservatism), [Democrats](/wiki/Democratic_Party_(United_States)), [liberals](/wiki/Modern_liberalism_in_the_United_States), [progressives](/wiki/Progressivism), or [libertarians](/wiki/Libertarianism).

Critics take issue with neoconservatives' support for interventionistic foreign policy. Critics from the [left](/wiki/Left-wing_politics) take issue with what they characterize as [unilateralism](/wiki/Unilateralism) and lack of concern with [international consensus](/wiki/Consensus) through organizations such as the [United Nations](/wiki/United_Nations).[[99]](#cite_note-99)[[100]](#cite_note-100)[[101]](#cite_note-101) Critics from both the left and right have assailed neoconservatives for the role Israel plays in their policies on the Middle East.[[102]](#cite_note-102)[[103]](#cite_note-103) Neoconservatives respond by describing their shared opinion as a [belief](/wiki/Belief) that national security is best attained by actively promoting freedom and democracy abroad as in the [democratic peace theory](/wiki/Democratic_peace_theory) through the endorsement of democracy, foreign aid and in certain cases [military intervention](/wiki/Foreign_interventionism). This is different from the traditional conservative tendency to endorse friendly regimes in matters of trade and anti-communism even at the expense of undermining existing democratic systems.

Republican Congressman [Ron Paul](/wiki/Ron_Paul) has been a longtime critic of neoconservativism as an attack on freedom and the U.S. Constitution, including an extensive speech on the House floor addressing neoconservative beginnings and how neoconservatism is neither new nor conservative.

[Paul Krugman](/wiki/Paul_Krugman) in a column named 'Years Of Shame' commemorating the tenth anniversary of 9/11 attacks, criticized the Neoconservatives for causing a war unrelated to 9/11 attacks and fought for wrong reasons.[[104]](#cite_note-104)[[105]](#cite_note-105)

### Imperialism and secrecy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=21)]

[John McGowan](/wiki/John_McGowan_(professor)), professor of humanities at the [University of North Carolina](/wiki/University_of_North_Carolina_at_Chapel_Hill), states, after an extensive review of neoconservative literature and theory, that neoconservatives are attempting to build an [American Empire](/wiki/American_imperialism), seen as successor to the [British Empire](/wiki/British_Empire), its goal being to perpetuate a [Pax Americana](/wiki/Pax_Americana). As imperialism is largely considered unacceptable by the American media, neoconservatives do not articulate their ideas and goals in a frank manner in public discourse. McGowan states,[[72]](#cite_note-72) [Template:Quote](/wiki/Template:Quote)

### Dual loyalty[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=22)]

In the run up to the 2003 invasion of Iraq, charges of dual loyalty were levelled against Jewish neoconservatives from across the political spectrum. A heated debate ensued, and the controversy continues into the present due to concerns over the neoconservatives stance toward Iran.

An ABC News article providing an overview of the debate in the run up to the Iraq war stated.

Critics of U.S. Iraq policy, on the right and the left, have drawn accusations of anti-Semitism for asserting that certain members of Bush's administration (namely Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz; Richard Perle, chairman of the Pentagon's Defense Policy Board; and Douglas Feith, undersecretary of defense for policy) have dual loyalty — interests in both the United States and Israel.[[106]](#cite_note-106)

Patrick Buchanan issued a statement in a cover article for the [American Conservative](/wiki/American_Conservative), "Neocons say we attack them because they are Jewish. We do not. We attack them because their warmongering threatens our country, even as it finds a reliable echo in Ariel Sharon".[[107]](#cite_note-107) Jeffery Goldberg of the Atlantic interviewed [Joe Klein](/wiki/Joe_Klein) in 2008.

My friend and former colleague Joe Klein has made himself quite the figure of controversy over the past few weeks. First, he suggested that Jewish neoconservatives have "divided loyalties;" then… he argued that McCain has surrounded himself with "Jewish neoconservatives" who want war with Iran.[[108]](#cite_note-108)

Joe Klein refuted the charges of anti-Semitism in his reply, stating that he was "anti-neoconservative".

Listen, people can vote whichever way they want, for whatever reason they want. I just don't want to see policy makers who make decisions on the basis of whether American policy will benefit Israel or not. In some cases, you want to provide protection for Israel certainly, but you don't want to go to war with Iran. When Jennifer Rubin or Abe Foxman calls me antisemitic, they're wrong. I am anti-neoconservative. I think these people are following very perversely extremist policies and I really did believe that it was time for mainstream Jews to stand up and say, "They don't represent us, they don't represent Israel."[[108]](#cite_note-108)

Mickey Kaus of Slate has noted that "Max Boot, Pete Wehner, Jennifer Rubin, Paul Mirengoff and Abraham Foxman of the Anti-Defamation League all wrote confidently outraged responses to Klein's raising of the "divided loyalties", and went on to opine that "It should be possible to publicly debate whether some "Jewish neoconservatives," among others, too easily convinced themselves that America's and Israel's interests happily coincided in the prosecution of the war".[[109]](#cite_note-109) Glen Greenwald also issued a response in support of Klein.

As I’ve documented previously, the very same right-wing advocates who scream "anti-semitism" at anyone, such as Klein, who raises the issue of devotion to Israel themselves constantly argue that American Jews do — and should — cast their votes in American elections based upon what is best for Israel. They nakedly trot out the "dual loyalty" argument in order to manipulate American Jews to vote Republican in U.S. elections (e.g.: "the GOP supports Israel and Obama doesn't; therefore, American Jews shouldn’t vote for Obama"), while screaming "anti-semitism" the minute the premise is used by their political opponents.[[110]](#cite_note-110)

[David Brooks](/wiki/David_Brooks_(journalist)) derided the "fantasies" of "full-mooners fixated on a... sort of Yiddish [Trilateral Commission](/wiki/Trilateral_Commission)", beliefs which had "hardened into common knowledge...." He rebutted those beliefs, saying that "people labeled neocons (con is short for 'conservative' and neo is short for 'Jewish') travel in widely different circles...."[[111]](#cite_note-111) [Barry Rubin](/wiki/Barry_Rubin) argued that the neoconservative label is used as an antisemitic pejorative:[[112]](#cite_note-112)[Template:Quote](/wiki/Template:Quote)

## Notable people associated with neoconservatism[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=23)]

[Template:Refimprove section](/wiki/Template:Refimprove_section) The list includes public people identified as personally neoconservative at an important time or a high official with numerous neoconservative advisers, such as George W. Bush and Richard Cheney. [Template:Col-begin](/wiki/Template:Col-begin) [Template:Col-break](/wiki/Template:Col-break)

### Politicians[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=24)]

[thumb|George W. Bush announces his $74.7 billion wartime supplemental budget request as Donald Rumsfeld and Paul Wolfowitz look on.](/wiki/File:Bush_War_Budget_2003-crop.jpg)

* [Jeb Bush](/wiki/Jeb_Bush) (R) – 43rd U.S. Governor from [Florida](/wiki/Florida) (1999–2007) and 2016 presidential candidate[[113]](#cite_note-113)\* [Ted Cruz](/wiki/Ted_Cruz) (R) – U.S. Senator from [Texas](/wiki/Texas) (2012–present), Solicitor General of Texas (2003–2008) and 2016 presidential candidate[[114]](#cite_note-114)\* [Newt Gingrich](/wiki/Newt_Gingrich) (R) – U.S. Representative from [Georgia's 6th congressional district](/wiki/Georgia's_6th_congressional_district) (1979–1999), [Speaker of the House of Representatives](/wiki/Speaker_of_the_United_States_House_of_Representatives) (1995–1999) and 2012 presidential candidate[[115]](#cite_note-115)\* [Lindsey Graham](/wiki/Lindsey_Graham) (R) – U.S. Representative from [South Carolina](/wiki/South_Carolina) (1995–2003), U.S. Senator from [South Carolina](/wiki/South_Carolina) (2003–present) and 2016 presidential candidate[[116]](#cite_note-116)\* [Jack Kemp](/wiki/Jack_Kemp) (R, deceased) – U.S. Representative from [New York's 39th congressional district](/wiki/New_York's_39th_congressional_district) (1971–1973), [New York's 38th congressional district](/wiki/New_York's_38th_congressional_district) (1973–1983), [New York's 31st congressional district](/wiki/New_York's_31st_congressional_district) (1983–1989), U.S. [Secretary of Housing and Urban Development](/wiki/United_States_Secretary_of_Housing_and_Urban_Development) (1989–1993) and 1996 vice presidential candidate[[117]](#cite_note-117)\* [Peter T. King](/wiki/Peter_T._King) (R) – U.S. Representative from [New York's 3rd congressional district](/wiki/New_York's_3rd_congressional_district) (1993–2013) and [New York's 2nd congressional district](/wiki/New_York's_2nd_congressional_district) (2013–present)[[118]](#cite_note-118)\* [Jon Kyl](/wiki/Jon_Kyl) (R) – U.S. Representative from [Arizona](/wiki/Arizona) (1987–1995), U.S. Senator from [Arizona](/wiki/Arizona) (1995–2013) and House Minority Whip (2007–2013)[[119]](#cite_note-119)\* [Joe Lieberman](/wiki/Joe_Lieberman) (I) – 21st [Attorney General of Connecticut](/wiki/Connecticut_Attorney_General) (1983–1989), U.S. Senator from [Connecticut](/wiki/Connecticut) (1989–2013) and 2000 Democratic vice presidential nominee[[120]](#cite_note-120)\* [John McCain](/wiki/John_McCain) (R) – U.S. Representative from [Arizona](/wiki/Arizona) (1983–1987), U.S. Senator from [Arizona](/wiki/Arizona) (1987–present) and 2008 Republican presidential nominee[[121]](#cite_note-121)\* [Tim Pawlenty](/wiki/Tim_Pawlenty) (R) – 39th U.S. Governor from [Minnesota](/wiki/Minnesota) (2003–2011) and 2012 presidential candidate[[122]](#cite_note-122)\* [Mike Rogers](/wiki/Mike_Rogers_(Michigan_politician)) (R) – U.S. Representative from [Michigan's 8th congressional district](/wiki/Michigan's_8th_congressional_district) (2001–2015)[[123]](#cite_note-123)\* [Mitt Romney](/wiki/Mitt_Romney) (R) – 70th U.S. Governor from [Massachusetts](/wiki/Massachusetts) (2003–2007), 2008 presidential candidate and 2012 Republican presidential nominee[[124]](#cite_note-124)[[125]](#cite_note-125)[[126]](#cite_note-126)\* [Jim Talent](/wiki/Jim_Talent) (R) – U.S. Representative from [Missouri](/wiki/Missouri) (1993–2001) and U.S. Senator from [Missouri](/wiki/Missouri) (2002–2007)[[127]](#cite_note-127)

### Government officials[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=25)]

* [Elliot Abrams](/wiki/Elliot_Abrams) (R) – Foreign policy adviser.[[128]](#cite_note-128)\* [William Bennett](/wiki/William_Bennett) (R) – Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities (1981–1985), Director of the National Drug Control Policy (1989–1990) and U.S. Secretary of Education (1985–1988)[[129]](#cite_note-129)\* [William G. Boykin](/wiki/William_G._Boykin) – Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)
* [Eliot A. Cohen](/wiki/Eliot_A._Cohen) – U.S. State Department Counselor (2007–2009), now Robert E. Osgood Professor of Strategic Studies at the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies at the Johns Hopkins University.[[130]](#cite_note-130)\* [Jeane Kirkpatrick](/wiki/Jeane_Kirkpatrick) (R) – Ambassador to the United Nations[[131]](#cite_note-131)\* [Scooter Libby](/wiki/Scooter_Libby) (R) – Chief–of–Staff to Dick Cheney[[132]](#cite_note-132)\* [Victoria Nuland](/wiki/Victoria_Nuland) – Assistant Secretary of State, foreign policy adviser to Vice President [Dick Cheney](/wiki/Dick_Cheney).[[133]](#cite_note-133)\* [Richard Perle](/wiki/Richard_Perle) (R) – Assistant Secretary of Defense and lobbyist.[[134]](#cite_note-134)\* [Karl Rove](/wiki/Karl_Rove) (R) – [Senior Advisor to the President of the United States](/wiki/Senior_Advisor_to_the_President_of_the_United_States) (2001–2007) and [White House Deputy Chief of Staff](/wiki/White_House_Deputy_Chief_of_Staff) (2005–2007)[[135]](#cite_note-135)\* [Paul Wolfowitz](/wiki/Paul_Wolfowitz) (R) – State and Defense Department official[[136]](#cite_note-136)\* [R. James Woolsey Jr.](/wiki/R._James_Woolsey_Jr.) (D) – 16th [Director of Central Intelligence](/wiki/Director_of_Central_Intelligence), Under Secretary of the Navy and green energy lobbyist[[137]](#cite_note-137)

### Academics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=26)]

[thumb|Francis Fukuyama](/wiki/File:Francis_Fukuyama.jpg)

* [Robert Kagan](/wiki/Robert_Kagan) – Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution, Historian, founder of the [*Yale Political Monthly*](/wiki/The_Politic), adviser to Republican political campaigns, and one of 25 members of an advisory board to [Hillary Rodham Clinton](/wiki/Hillary_Rodham_Clinton) at the State Department. Kagan calls himself a "liberal interventionist" rather than "neoconservative."<ref name=nytimes-kagan>[Template:Citation](/wiki/Template:Citation)</ref>[[138]](#cite_note-138) Kagan is the husband of Assistant Secretary of State [Victoria Nuland](/wiki/Victoria_Nuland).[[133]](#cite_note-133)\* [Francis Fukuyama](/wiki/Francis_Fukuyama) (former neoconservative) – Senior Fellow at the Center on Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law at Stanford, former-neoconservative, political scientist, political economist, and author.
* [Victor Davis Hanson](/wiki/Victor_Davis_Hanson) – Martin and Illie Anderson Senior Fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution, columnist and author.
* [Michael Ledeen](/wiki/Michael_Ledeen) – Freedom Scholar chair at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, former US government consultant, author, columnist.
* [Nathan Glazer](/wiki/Nathan_Glazer) – Professor of sociology, columnist, author.
* [Harvey Mansfield](/wiki/Harvey_Mansfield) – [William R. Kenan, Jr.](/wiki/William_R._Kenan,_Jr.) Professor of Government at Harvard University, author.
* [Donald Kagan](/wiki/Donald_Kagan) – Sterling Professor of Classics and History at Yale University.

### Public intellectuals[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=27)]

* [Glenn Beck](/wiki/Glenn_Beck) – Radio show host[[139]](#cite_note-139)\* [Neal Boortz](/wiki/Neal_Boortz) – Former radio show host[[140]](#cite_note-140)[[141]](#cite_note-141)\* [Arthur Brooks](/wiki/Arthur_C._Brooks) – President of the [American Enterprise Institute](/wiki/American_Enterprise_Institute).
* [Danielle Pletka](/wiki/Danielle_Pletka) – Senior Vice President of the American Enterprise Institute for Foreign and Defense Studies, former member of Senate Foreign Relations Committee.
* [Gary Schmitt](/wiki/Gary_Schmitt) – Resident Scholar, Co-Director of the Marilyn Ware Center for Security Studies and Director of the Program on American Citizenship at the American Enterprise Institute, former Executive Director, Project for the New American Century, Executive Director for President Reagan's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board, White House [*The Weekly Standard*](/wiki/The_Weekly_Standard).
* [Fred Barnes](/wiki/Fred_Barnes_(journalist)) – Executive editor of the news publication [*The Weekly Standard*](/wiki/The_Weekly_Standard).
* [S. E. Cupp](/wiki/S._E._Cupp) – Commentator, writer[[118]](#cite_note-118)\* [Oriana Fallaci](/wiki/Oriana_Fallaci) (Deceased) – Italian – U.S.[permanent resident](/wiki/Permanent_residence_(United_States)) journalist and writer.
* [David Frum](/wiki/David_Frum) – Journalist, Republican speech writer, columnist.[[142]](#cite_note-142)\* [Jonah Goldberg](/wiki/Jonah_Goldberg) – Columnist for [*National Review*](/wiki/National_Review).
* [John Hagee](/wiki/John_Hagee) – Televangelist and CEO of Global Evangelism Television.[[143]](#cite_note-143)\* [Brit Hume](/wiki/Brit_Hume) – Commentator and journalist.[[144]](#cite_note-144)\* [Frederick Kagan](/wiki/Frederick_Kagan) – Resident scholar at the [American Enterprise Institute](/wiki/American_Enterprise_Institute)[[145]](#cite_note-145)[[146]](#cite_note-146)[[147]](#cite_note-147)\* [Charles Krauthammer](/wiki/Charles_Krauthammer) – Pulitzer Prize winner, columnist, physician.[[148]](#cite_note-148)\* [Irving Kristol](/wiki/Irving_Kristol) (Deceased) – Publisher, journalist, columnist.[[149]](#cite_note-149)\* [William Kristol](/wiki/William_Kristol) – Founder and editor of [*The Weekly Standard*](/wiki/The_Weekly_Standard), professor of political philosophy and American politics, political adviser.[[150]](#cite_note-150)\* [Rush Limbaugh](/wiki/Rush_Limbaugh) – Radio show host, writer, commentator.[[151]](#cite_note-151)\* [Joshua Muravchik](/wiki/Joshua_Muravchik) – Resident scholar at the [American Enterprise Institute](/wiki/American_Enterprise_Institute).
* [Douglas Murray (author)](/wiki/Douglas_Murray_(author)) – British writer, journalist and political commentator.
* [Daniel Pipes](/wiki/Daniel_Pipes) (former neoconservative) – Historian, writer, and political commentator.
* [Norman Podhoretz](/wiki/Norman_Podhoretz) – Editor-in-Chief of [*Commentary*](/wiki/Commentary_(magazine)).
* [John Podhoretz](/wiki/John_Podhoretz) – Editor-at-Large of [*Commentary*](/wiki/Commentary_(magazine)), presidential speech writer, author.
* [Jennifer Rubin](/wiki/Jennifer_Rubin_(journalist)) – Columnist and blogger for [*The Washington Post*](/wiki/The_Washington_Post).[[152]](#cite_note-152)\* [Michael Rubin](/wiki/Michael_Rubin) – Resident scholar at the [American Enterprise Institute](/wiki/American_Enterprise_Institute).[[153]](#cite_note-153)\* [Irwin Stelzer](/wiki/Irwin_Stelzer) – International economics and business columnist, editor at [*The Weekly Standard*](/wiki/The_Weekly_Standard), Oxford fellow.
* [Jonathan S. Tobin](/wiki/Jonathan_S._Tobin) – Senior online editor of [*Commentary*](/wiki/Commentary_(magazine)).

## Related publications and institutions[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=28)]

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### Institutions[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=29)]

* [Foundation for Defense of Democracies](/wiki/Foundation_for_Defense_of_Democracies)[[154]](#cite_note-154)\* [Henry Jackson Society](/wiki/Henry_Jackson_Society)[[155]](#cite_note-155)\* [Hudson Institute](/wiki/Hudson_Institute)[[156]](#cite_note-156)\* [Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs](/wiki/Jewish_Institute_for_National_Security_Affairs)[[156]](#cite_note-156)\* [Project for the New American Century](/wiki/Project_for_the_New_American_Century)[[157]](#cite_note-157)\* [American Enterprise Institute](/wiki/American_Enterprise_Institute)[[158]](#cite_note-158)

### Publications[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=30)]

* [*Commentary*](/wiki/Commentary_(magazine))
* [*Front Page Magazine*](/wiki/FrontPage_Magazine)
* [*The Public Interest*](/wiki/The_Public_Interest)
* [*The Weekly Standard*](/wiki/The_Weekly_Standard)
* [*The Washington Free Beacon*](/wiki/The_Washington_Free_Beacon)

[Template:Col-end](/wiki/Template:Col-end)

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[Template:Portal](/wiki/Template:Portal)

* [Factions in the Republican Party (United States)](/wiki/Factions_in_the_Republican_Party_(United_States))
* [Globalization](/wiki/Globalization)
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* [Neoconservatism in Japan](/wiki/Neoconservatism_in_Japan)
* [New Right](/wiki/New_Right)
* [Liberal Hawk](/wiki/Liberal_Hawk)
* [Liberal internationalism](/wiki/Liberal_internationalism)
* [Paleoconservatism](/wiki/Paleoconservatism)
* [Project for a New American Century](/wiki/Project_for_a_New_American_Century)
* [Trotskyism](/wiki/Trotskyism)

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