



What was your initial reaction to the book?

- I liked the book very much, from the moment I read the loving tribute from his son to the influential articles that he wrote. It made me which I had known about him more before he passed away.
- This book made me realize that I should have looked for, and read, more of Krauthammer's op-ed pieces while he was still alive.
- I was looking forward to reading the book, because I have always been impressed with Charles Krauthammer's opinion pieces in Time magazine and other places, and I liked seeing him on TV as a commentator on Fox News.
- Overall I found the book insightful on many topics and enjoyable to read man, that guy can write. Simple, declarative sentences with a few words thrown in to challenge Kindle's built-in dictionary, (e.g., ex nihilo) and framed with Impeccable logic and a rock-steady moral compass. Oh, and best of all (from my perspective) an unabashed love for America and her constitutional culture.
- No reaction but I had anticipation because I have been a fan of his since the 1980s when I lived in Japan. I was connected to him on Twitter so when he passed away, I got a message from his son, Daniel, and replied. Daniel told me about this book and I bought it.
- I have always enjoyed reading Charles' column and listening to him on TV, but I was surprised by the book. I didn't have any preconceived ideas. I did like it though, learning more about him - the format and chapter layout too. I will have to read many of the chapters again to digest all that he had to say.

- My initial reaction to the book and Charles Krauthammer: positive, inspiring, thought provoking, informative in many areas, historical, humorous, worldly, and forward thinking.
- My initial reaction was this was going to be an enjoyable visit with a very thoughtful person. I have enjoyed watching and listening to his insights for years and looked forward to having many of his columns gathered together in one place.

What would you identify as the major themes? What key message do you think Charles Krauthammer intended to leave with the reader?

- I think the major theme of the book is that the United States is most successful when its leaders stay faithful to the values of the founders, and remember that immigrants are essential for the country to remain economically and culturally healthy.
- Hope and positive outlook were two themes I saw throughout the entire book. I thought Charles had a realistic view on the world. He did not sugar coat any of the problems that he addressed. But at the end of the day (or in this case each article) he had a positive way that the issue could be addressed. I think that was a key message - hope; that Charles wanted to leave with his readers. This book gave the reader the opportunity to read the many articles Charles wrote over his lifetime which I think made the theme of hope stand out more. I think if I were to have read the articles over the time they originally came out I would walk away from each with a positive feeling on the future and that I (we as a society) had the opportunity to make things better.
- You can disagree or agree with a particular policy du jour, but stay focused on our history, our moral direction, and our interests. The key message is don't be afraid to defend our policies and morals or even to oppose them.
- He wrote about such a variety of themes that is one of the things that made him so special. One was his memories of old friends: Irving Kristol, Isaiah Berlin, Meg Greenfield, and others. Another theme is international attacks and peace. I also think he often chose something that is ironic.
- His evaluation, ideas and viewpoints of people, politics and religion - life as he saw it. Inside scoop of who he was and why. To give his readers something. to mull over; find some reason where there is none; maybe send us searching.
- What he wanted to leave for the reader was to do your best and have a balance in your life. There was no reason to hate the other side. In my mind, Charles Krauthammer would have made a wonderful president.

- While we live in a world that seems to be changing rapidly, the basic human responses and motivations keep driving our behavior. We need to pay attention to the lessons of history and the ways in which our emotions drive our personal and collective actions. Charles' thoughts on so many subjects are worth a great deal of discussion and study. He was a remarkable commentator on our politics and our times. But, his dedication to living a full and meaningful life is perhaps his most important message. He led a truly remarkable life.
- Major themes: reviewed history, people, events, politics, personal reflections. Important messages to leave to his readers and family are look outward, be open to listening, caring about what others say yet made up his own mind, always learning, freedom of the individual to make own decisions, pragmatic.
- Charles major themes was mostly history cultural issues that we are seeing today and foreign policy.

Are there points you agreed with the author? Points where you disagreed? Points that were challenging for you to grapple with?

- I agreed with many points that he raised in the chapter about- Constitutions, Conservatism and the Genius of Founders. Very thought provoking.
- I agreed with the author on 98% of the book, but I disagreed on assisted suicide (I believe terminally ill people who are suffering should be able to choose to end their lives), and reproductive rights (I believe in a woman's right to choose whether to carry a pregnancy to term).
- At no point was I in disagreement. Though I think I am more isolationist than is Charles. The places where I had the most difficulty was my problem, not his. In the section about abortion, stem cell harvesting, and organ harvesting I agreed 100%. I just hadn't thought it through as far as did he. The pictures he painted with his prose was disturbing. And yet like him, I am touched by quadriplegia (my son is one such). We had many an argument on stem cell research when (about ten years ago) it looked like fetal stem cells were the "answer" to reconstructing the spinal cord from the inside out. Alas like other medical breakthroughs, fetal cells did not pan out. Besides, you already make your own, so why use someone else's and have your body reject those.
- I don't think like Charles or have his life experiences, that is why it is interesting for me to read about him. Yes there are things I agree with him and disagree with him. I agree with him on "junk rights", free-markets, limited government and democracy. I don't agree so much with his assessment of President Obama or President Trump

- I agree with a great deal of what I have heard him say or read about in this book. I think his thoughts on the sanctity of life and the moral challenges associated with our medical progress are important, soul-searching topics for everyone.
- I agreed with the author on all points. — Krauthammer's acceptance of his life, his positive caring concern for others with so many challenges just to live was hard to "grapple" for me.
- I agree with what Dr. Krauthammer said about Trump. And he should know as a Doctor.

Did the book challenge any of your beliefs or opinions?

- His well reasoned essays clarified my position on many issues
- No. I have challenged my beliefs and opinions a long time ago.
- I really appreciated variety of topics that Charles was versed in. This book was so much more than about politics. I really enjoyed the stories from the different topics. Listening not only to the lessons shared but also so many worlds that are out there we do not get to take part in in our daily world. Made me interested to learn about some new things.
- It did not challenge most of my beliefs or opinions, but I definitely learned a lot about Israel, Judaism, socialism, and other topics.
- It made me really appreciate my beliefs and my hope in civilization.
- The book challenged my belief to be open to other ideas but stay true to your own values, more worldly in thinking and to stay calm.
- I think it is always challenging to read the beliefs and opinions of someone so much more educated and experienced than yourself. I will use the book for reference and a tool for learning in the years to come.

What do you consider to be Charles Krauthammer's legacy?

- His dedication in thought and word to individual freedom.
- His words will live on pages, videos, and the hearts of good friends; plus those who have high IQs or average minds, but live in a wheelchair or a bed every day by their strength and/or their faith. What a wonderful family!
- ...Think, but be neither afraid to challenge or defend our way of life as long as you keep your moral, ethical and cultural compass pointed straight and true. He supports my theory (well tested even in the military) that you can propose or disagree with any potentate, even the president, as long as you don't start out the conversation with, "Listen, you dumb SOB..."

- His legacy seems to touch so many subjects, I think his challenge to all of us is to pay attention. Be committed to learning and inquiring. A democracy is messy and requires constant attention. Free enterprise is a constant struggle, for all of us, and especially our politicians.

What do you consider to be Charles Krauthammer's legacy?

- Peace and positivity. You can accomplish what you put your mind too. Be open to new ideas - I think all of these are part of the legacy of Mr. Krauthammer
- He is a very articulate conservative whose writings will help Americans sort through complex issues long after his death.
- His brilliance, and his respect for honest, respectful debate.
- C.K. legacy to me was to build a life that you want and that you intend. The book said to me that life is what you make of yourself, what you can give to the world with kindness and gentleness.

Did reading the book raise any questions for you? Is there anything else you would like to share?

- Yes, even though Charles was a well-educated, well-read man, I felt he was searching all his life for answers about the real meaning of life. I don't think he found what he was looking for and that makes me sad.
- Before I started reading the Point of It All, I finished reading another book called Factfulness, by Hans Rosling (strangely a Scandahoovian Doctor who stayed that way for life, mostly in public health in Africa.) They fit nicely in a positive outlook, but differed in that Hans is not so introspective. It might be worth a read.
- I need to remember to seek out others' different options so I can better understand the whole situation and proceed accordingly for the best results - a key take away
- This book made me want to learn more about the history of Israel, especially the 1948 war. I thought the best essay in the book was the one about how rights are freedoms from oppression by the state, such as the right to free speech, but socialism tries to make economic benefits into rights, such as a right to a guaranteed job, or a right to free health care. That was a point I had never thought about before, and I will always try to remember it.
- I need to read this book again as much to absorb. In reviewing my notes, I seemed to have placed much emphasis on his personal admirable traits but there was much to learn from his views of past history and current events in a wide range of subject matter.

Other thoughts...

First, I thoroughly enjoyed the book. Secondly, the major theme was real life experiences and reactions to events taking place at the time. There were well written thought out and succinct points were made. Sometimes I had to check the dictionary as I might not be familiar with his English skills. The book didn't necessarily challenge me but awoke another point of view on a particular subject. Many of the subject were new to me and others were a capsule of the events at the time. I think Charles was brilliant and could see the problem or issue on a basis of substance. The book should be required reading for those interested in our government and American history.



Krauthammer wrote well and his writing is very comprehensible. I like the short chapters because I can read them while waiting for the doctor etc. I am thrilled that I think like him about most things I have read so far. As to the content, it's poignant, relevant, interesting, and sometimes humorous. Love this book. I will refer to it often and I will quote him often...from the book. The son's affection for him is tender and sweet, and the son could probably take right off from where he left it.



I really appreciated his ability to be critical of people without demeaning them or calling them names. Trump and Obama, polarizing individuals to someone, both got criticism but also recognition for quality contributions.

The introduction was a bit too long and wordy; it caused the book to be a very slow start and hard to get into.

I enjoyed Part IV, Competing Visions - America's Role and the Course of World History the most. If I had edited the book, I would have put the articles more in chronological order and interspersed the various sections. I am jealous of Krauthammer's vision, intelligence, and ability to express his views so succinctly. Daniel Krauthammer was not quite so succinct, unfortunately.

I think what I liked most about the book is that Krauthammer has a way of saying things succinctly that would give me pause, thinking "yes, that's what I believe, but I could never quite put it into words."