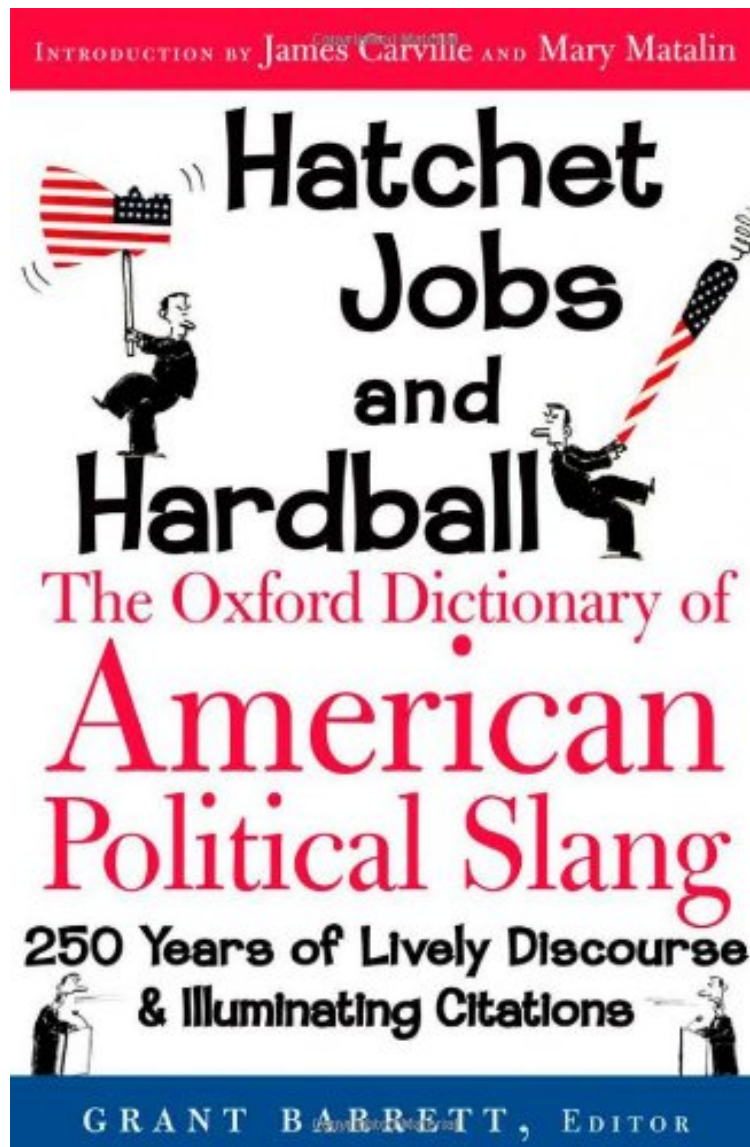


Hatchet Jobs and Hardball: The Oxford Dictionary of American Political Slang

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From Oxford University Press : Hatchet Jobs and Hardball: The Oxford Dictionary of American Political Slang before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hatchet Jobs and Hardball: The Oxford Dictionary of American Political Slang:

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. a little heavyBy Irksun InkI wanted more humor. This is actually a

dictionary and hits boring as well as interesting terms. Perhaps a must have for Poli Sci Majors, Colbert Report Listeners and American History Nappers. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Best Political Language Book Available Anywhere By Barry A. Popik Grant Barrett's HATCHET JOBS AND HARDBALL is the best political language book available anywhere. I must admit that I know Barrett, and some of my work can be found here as the earliest citations for "beep" and "John Q. Public" and more. With respect to the "Windy City" comments below, this is not a book of regional political slang. There are many thousands of short-lived, localized political words and phrases and nicknames. To record them all would be exhausting, probably impossible and probably pointless. This is a national book, intended for a modern audience. Barrett has used the latest word-searching technology (Pro Quest Historical Newspapers and Newspaper Archive, for example) that has been available only in the past year. The book's citations are exhaustive and up-to-date, the best that can be found. The book is clearly laid out and easy to flip through. It does what it promises to do, and for that receives four stars. Only a "piebiter" could ask for more. Look it up! 3 of 5 people found the following review helpful. America and my teenagers have a lot in common. By Daily Fog This book was given to me while I was leaving D.C. Feeling defeated and confused in how to handle my American clients, much like the feelings I have in London dealing with my teenage kids, I opened the book and surprisingly the book helped open my eyes. Treating this dictionary more like a book on the history of Americas adopted language... Helped intrigued me more by illustrating clearly a comedy, a weakness, and a immaturity the states exhibit with brut force. The book didn't help solve my problem, but did give me a sense of enlightenment and understanding on how to handle my American clients next time. Much like my teenagers, I will show them unconditional love, but I'll have to wait until they grow up to give them more responsibilities. Nothing more appealing then the words "Oxford", "American", and "Slang" for the cover. For me, the title "Hatchet Jobs And Hardball" is awful and misleading.

Here is a wonderful Baedeker to down-and-dirty politics--more than six hundred slang terms straight from the smoke-filled rooms of American political speech. Hatchet Jobs and Hardball: The Oxford Dictionary of American Political Slang illuminates a rich and colorful segment of our language. Readers will find informative entries on slang terms such as Beltway bandit and boondoggle, angry white male and leg treasurer, juice bill and Joe Citizen, banana superpower and the Big Fix. We find not only the meaning and history of familiar terms such as gerrymander, but also of lesser-known terms such as cracking (splitting a bloc of like-minded voters by redistricting) and fair-fight district (which refers to areas redistricted to favor no political party). Each entry includes the definition of the word, its historical background, and illuminating citations, some going back more than 200 years. (We learn, for instance, that a term as seemingly current as political football actually dates back to before the Civil War.) Selected entries will have extended encyclopedic notes. The book also features sidebar essays on topics such as political words in Blogistan; a short history of "big cheese"; all about chads and the 2000 election; the suffix "-gate" and all the related Watergate terms; and the naming of legislation. Political junkies, policy wonks, journalists, and word lovers will find this book addictive reading as well as a reliable guide to one of the more colorful corners of American English.

From Publishers Weekly Not sure who started starve the beast economics, or where the term big cheese came from, or what a Repubocrat is? Not to worry; Barretts savvy guide to political lingo breaks down all the terms anyone could need to understand the D.C. chatterati. Starting with a short introduction by James Carville and Mary Matalin that explains how Washingtons "political Esperanto" evolved from the citys diverse regional loyalties and its "altered perception of reality," the volume defines more than 600 slang words. And though the definitions are clear and easy to understand, the real fun lies in the historical citations, which refer to films and books as often as to newspapers and congressional reports. The citation for juice ("personal or political power or influence, often of a corrupt nature"), for example, contains a quotation from the 1963 JFK biopic PT 109, and the first citation for zoo plane ("an airplane carrying journalists accompanying a traveling politician") comes from Hunter S. Thompsons Fear Loathing Campaign Trail. Funny and useful, this book makes a good choice for word-lovers and watchdogs alike. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist The range of this delightful little dictionary is defined as "250 years of lively discourse," but most of the liveliness is of recent occurrence, with the entries being drawn primarily from the 1980s and 1990s, if not from the past two or three years. Even for words like mugwump (first example 1884) and snollygoster (1846), the editor has found more or less current instances of use. Each entry contains part of speech, definition, and citations from a range of sources. Other elements that may be included are an etymology, a field label identifying the group or subculture that generally uses the term (for example, Mil. for military), variant forms, usage labels, cross-references, and notes. Much of the slang recorded here is indeed lively and clever. A prepared response to an opponent's anticipated assertion is a prebuttle. A red-headed Eskimo is a bill so precisely targeted that it might benefit only one specific person. A twinkie is someone or something that is appealing but lacking in substance. Velcroid applies to a person who seeks to advance by associating with a more important person. A clothespin vote is one that is cast unenthusiastically for a choice regarded as least objectionable. The idea is "that voters must use a clothespin to protect their noses from the supposed stench of such candidates." By no means the least interesting part of the dictionary is the series of eight brief essays on topics (such as chads and the -

gate suffix) about which Barrett felt compelled to comment at somewhat greater length than his definitions, notes, and etymologies permitted. This is a book to be read and enjoyed, not merely to be taken down from the shelf now and then and briefly consulted, and it is recommended for public and academic libraries. Harold Cordry Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "A handy phrase-book to help us understand the yammering of the Beltway's chatterati."--Wall Street Journal"Those seriously concerned with the vitality of our wonky Beltway blather may want to skip the next agriculture-subsidy roundtable to train their bifocals on 'Hatchet Jobs and Hardball'.... There, with some imagination, you can freshen your lexicon with some forgotten or fairly obscure, but nevertheless serviceable, bits of political argot. Impress your fellow sheeple!"--Tom Kuntz, The New York Times"An entertaining and informed lexicon of 600 words and phrases describing both current and past political activities and the politicians who made them happen...a most useful state-of-the-slang compendium."--Library Journal"Word lovers and miners for old terms of art that deserve new life will find delight here.... The book has a short introduction by James Carville and Mary Matalin. And in addition to nearly 300 pages of citations, Mr. Barrett includes eight brief essays, one of them on '-gate' coinages (Does anybody remember what 'clamgate' or 'waste-watergate' referred to?)."--Dallas Morning News