

# Bill O'Reilly vs. Bruce Andrews

## Bruce Andrews

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November 2, 2006; 'Outrage of the Week': 4'48"

0:00

[theme music intro]

[background picture: O'Reilly, with caption 'Factor Outrage of the Week']

O: 'Back of the Book' segment tonight—the Factor outrage of the week.

[background picture: Scheer, with caption: 'Far-Left Columnist']

You may have heard the name, Robert Scheer; he's a radical leftwing newspaper columnist who hates President Bush.

Mr. Scheer was fired by the liberal *Los Angeles Times* last year—some say, because of his far, far left views.

[background: Scheer book cover]

Now Mr. Scheer has co-authored a book called *The Five Biggest Lies Bush Has Told Us About Iraq*

[background: Fordham in large letters, Fordham 'ram' (school logo), Scheer book, caption 'Required Reading']

Well, the book is now required reading in a class at *Fordham University* called Analysis of International Politics. Does that sound...fair and balanced?

[background: O'Reilly and Andrews seated at round table]

With us now, Professor Bruce Andrews, who teaches that class.

Looking at your reading list here, in addition to the Scheer book, all of these books are pretty far left that you have on there, your reading curriculum, would you not agree?

A: Uh, I would disagree.

[1<sup>st</sup> caption underneath: 'Bruce Andrews, Ph.D./Fordham Univ Associate/Political Science Professor']

O: Ok, which book is fair and balanced, or presents a pro-capitalist point of view?

A: A pro-capitalist point of view!?

O: Yes; we...

A: Well...

O: live in a capitalist country...

A: Well...

O: Which book on this reading list presents a pro-capitalist point of view?

A: The first half of this class is about how to explain individual countries' foreign policies,

1:00

so it doesn't really even deal with the question of capitalism versus non-capitalist systems, or pro-capitalist or not. So it's about...it's about explanation. And it's about prescription. Things...things are going wrong; choices are made that people are unhappy with, and they're interested in...

O: Ok...

A: a prescription.

O: Is there any reading list book in your class that is pro- ...that you consider pro-American?

A: *Pro-American?*

O: Yeah...

A: Uh...

O: that means 'America is good'.

A: This is not the focus of the class.

O: Ok, obviously it isn't, because you've got Scheer...

A: It's not a normative class. It's not...

O: well you've got...

A: about values.

O: Let me define it...

[2<sup>nd</sup> caption underneath: 'Bruce Andrews, Ph.D./Requires Students To Read An Anti-Bush Book']

Let me define it...

A: It's about understanding.

O: Yeah, understanding *your* point of view.

A: No, understanding why the government behaves the way that they do.

O: In your opinion.

*One World Ready Or No: The Manic Logic of Capitalism* describes capitalism as frightening, destabilizing, and running out of control.

Scheer's book is a hate-Bush diatribe.

[3<sup>rd</sup> caption underneath: 'Bruce Andrews, Ph.D./Teaches Courses On Covert Activities & Conspiracies'; the 3 captions alternate from here on.]

And you yourself, I think, are a

[background: Robert Scheer picture]

far left guy. Would I...am I wrong in describing you that way?

A: Uh, that's not...relevant to this issue.

**2:00**

O: Sure it is. You're the instructor of the class.

A: Well...

O: You shape the class.

A: What's the class about?

O: The class is about, it seems to me, America is bad.

A: No, the class is about: why do countries do what they do, and how do national leaders attempt to *avoid* having their behavior explained, and...

O: while...

A: how they avoid...

O: a book called *The Five Biggest Lies Bush Told Us About Iraq*...?

A: Sure, which is a...

O: Come on!

A: which is a *fabulous* item pedagogically in getting students to understand the strategies that governments use to slip out from under...

O: Well, I wouldn't mind that...

A: to slip out from under a prescription...

O: I wouldn't mind that...

A: for change, for transformation.

O: If I were in your class, I wouldn't mind reading that book, but I'd like to read why...another book that balances it out.

[background: Scheer book front cover]

Well...what is it that, that...

A: This book is...

O: Bush...well...

A: an analysis of government strategy.

O: By a Bush hater!

A: No, but the point is: you're presented with the strategy. You're presented with the rhetoric.

You can see what it's, um, designed to do. What it's designed to do is to either, uh, provide some justificatory discourse around the policy to...to increase...

O: But it's all one way...

A: to increase public support.

O: you're feeding these kids, 35 undergrads, and

I don't care about the grads in the class so much, they ought to know...

3:00

You're feeding these guys a one world view. And, you know, it's not right. You ought to have...

A: One world?

O: Yeah.

A: You mean, Wendell Wilkie?

O: No, the one world is: Capitalism is bad; Bush is a liar. America is bad.

Scheer is...uh, wuh...Scheer is...

A: That's not the point.

O: Scheer...

A: That's not the point of the class!

O: Scheer doesn't have any credibility. Why would you use a book, if you're an academic, and you have been for 31 years...

A: Uh huh.

O: Why would you use a book by a guy who's been *fired* by the *L.A. Times* for being irresponsible in his opinions?

*Why would you use a book like that?*

A: Because I'm not using it as an...as an embodiment of his opinions.

O: It's required reading!

A: No, but what is it designed to do in the classroom, which you don't have any sense of!?

O: Oh...

A: It's not designed...it's not designed to convince people of a different opinion they might have about...

O: Alright.

A: about the war in Iraq.

O: Your opinion and Scheer's are the same...

A: It's designed to help them *think it through*.

O: Your opinion and Scheer's opinion are the same. Here's what, here's what's...

A: No, actually, *not*.

O: Yeah...

A: What is Scheer's opinion about *why* the United States is in Iraq?

O: Alright...here's...

**4:00**

A: *Do you know?*

O: what.... Here's what one of your former students said, a guy named Bruce Andrews.

A: That's me, excuse...

O: The professor...

A: me!

O: I'm sorry. The professor...the former student said...

A: I'm writing in to complain about my own class!

O: Um, you should.

A: former student said the professor made everyone raise their hand if they had a family member who worked in the C.I.A., he believed the U.S. government assassinated J.F.K. and open up...in order to open up Cuba to capitalist exploitation. That's what the—not true?

[closing music starts in]

A: Well, that's not...no. I teach another class...

O: Is that true with...

A: I teach another class on the Kennedy assassination.

O: And you believe the C.I.A....the government ordered, um...

A: No.

O: Kennedy's assassination?

A: No, I don't.

O: Ok.

A: But I also don't believe Lee Harvey Oswald did it.

O: Alright, so...

A: It's more complicated. It's more complicated.

O: It is. And I'm not in your class.

A: And context...

O: I want to be fair.

A: *Context is crucial.*

O: Put...put one book on here that isn't an anti-American book and I wouldn't have any problem with it. But we appreciate your being a stand-up guy.