



THE UNITED  
STATES OF  
ANGER

GAVIN ESLER

---

'A vivid portrait of America in the 1990s'

*New Statesman*

# Contents

Preface to the Penguin Edition vii

## PART ONE: AMERICAN DREAMS AND THE ANXIOUS ECONOMY

1. The Rules Have Changed 3
2. Freezing the American Dream 21
3. America's Fifty Years War 35
4. Working in the United States of Anxiety 50

## PART TWO: THE ANGRY SOCIETY

5. The Death of the American Hero and the Rise of the Culture of Victims 69
6. The Rule of Law and the Rule of Lawyers 84
7. America in Black, White and Green 100
8. Pity the Poor Immigrants 124
9. Snakes in Church 140
10. Guns, God, Gays and Gynaecology 161

## PART THREE: ANGRY POLITICS

11. State of Apathy 181
12. The United States of Apathy 194
13. The Wilburns and the Oklahoma Bombing Conspiracy 213
14. Conspiracy Culture from Red Scare to Fed Scare 232

## THE UNITED STATES OF ANGER

15. Bad News: Garbage In, Garbage Out 249
16. Why Americans Hate Washington 277

### **PART FOUR: AFTER ANGER**

17. Governor Zipper Problem and the United States of Anger 293
18. Postscript: After Anger 319

Notes 321

Select Bibliography 335

Index 341