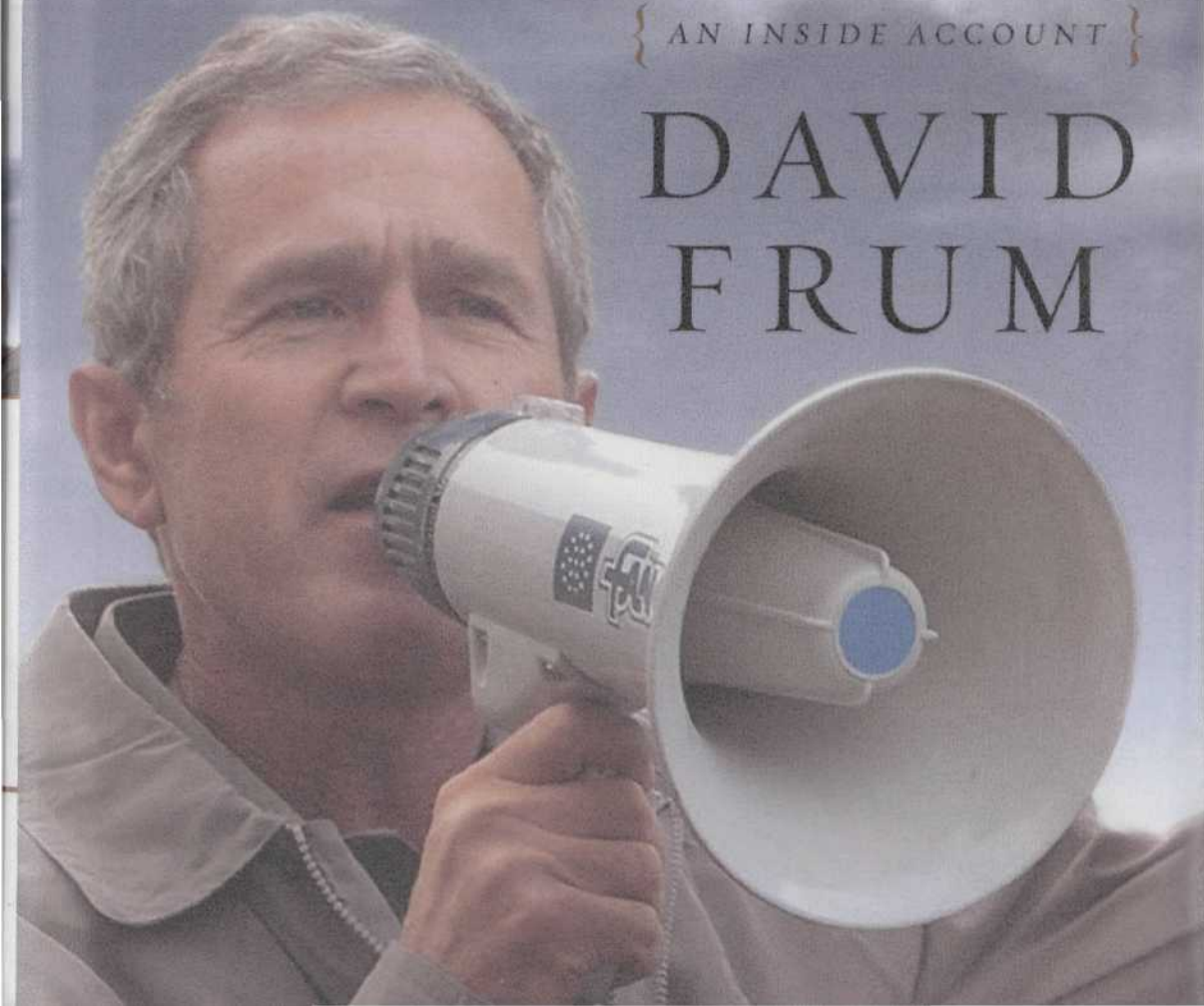


# THE RIGHT MAN

THE SURPRISE PRESIDENCY OF  
\*\*\* GEORGE W. BUSH \*\*\*

{ AN INSIDE ACCOUNT }

DAVID  
FRUM



U.S.A. \$25.95

Canada \$39.95

**T***he Right Man* is the first inside account of a historic year in the Bush White House, by the presidential speechwriter credited with the phrase *axis of evil*. David Frum helped make international headlines when President George W. Bush's 2002 State of the Union address linked international terrorists to Iran, Iraq, and North Korea. But that was only one moment during a crucial time in American history, when a president, an administration, and a country were transformed.

Frum worked with President Bush in the Oval Office, traveled with him aboard Air Force One, and studied him closely at meetings and events. He describes how Bush thinks—what this conservative president believes about religion, race, the environment, Jews, Muslims, and America's future. Frum takes us behind the scenes of one of the most secretive administrations in recent history, with revealing portraits of Karl Rove, Karen Hughes, Condoleezza Rice, and many others. Most significant, he tells the story of the transformation of George W. Bush: how a president whose administration began in uncertainty became one of the most decisive, successful, and popular leaders of our time.

Before becoming a White House speechwriter, David Frum was a highly regarded author of books and political commentary and an influential voice on the pages of *The Wall Street Journal* and *The Weekly Standard*. His commentary has been described by William F. Buckley as "the most refreshing ideological experience in a generation." Now, in *The Right Man*, we see Frum as a front-row observer and participant. Not since Peggy Noonan's account of her time in the Reagan White House has an insider portrayed a sitting president with such precision, verve, honest admiration, and insight.

*The Right Man* will command international attention for its thoughtful account of George W. Bush in the midst of his greatest challenge. It will be an essential reference for anyone seeking to understand who our president really is and how he is likely to lead us in the future.

ALSO BY DAVID FRUM

*How We Got Here:*

*The 70's: The Decade That Brought You  
Modern Life—for Better or Worse*

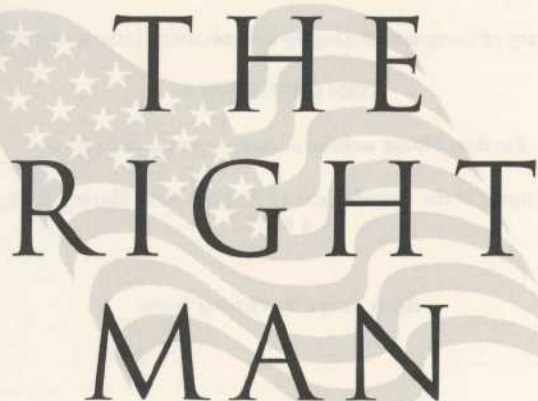
*What's Right: The New Conservative Majority  
and the Remaking of America*

*Dead Right*

THE  
RIGHT  
MAN

*The Surpassing Presidency of  
George W. Bush*

DAVID FRUM



THE  
RIGHT  
MAN

*The Surprise Presidency of  
George W. Bush*



RANDOM HOUSE  
NEW YORK



# 9526

Copyright © 2003 by David Frum

All rights reserved under International and Pan-American  
Copyright Conventions. Published in the United States by  
Random House, Inc., New York, and simultaneously in Canada  
by Random House of Canada Limited, Toronto.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data is available.

ISBN 0-375-50903-8

Random House website address: [www.atrandom.com](http://www.atrandom.com)

Printed in the United States of America on acid-free paper  
6 8 9 7 5

*Book design by Victoria Wong*



973-931  
FRU

To Murray Frum—  
my father and my friend

1. The Sea Horse	3
2. The Two Clerics	10
3. Warning Light	21
4. "Typical Republican"	31
5. Lily's Fair	73
6. Summer at Our Disposal	83
7. 1938	107
8. Ten Days in September	119
9. Reflection of Peace	152
10. Death in the Air	176
11. Politics Resound	202
12. Sunset Fair	222
13. Returned Love	246
14. The Night Man	264
15. Aftermath Ignorance	283
16. Index	287

# CONTENTS

1. Into the Mess	3
2. The Un-Clinton	12
3. Warning Light	31
4. "Typical Republican"	53
5. Like a Fox	75
6. Summer of Our Discontent	93
7. 9/11	113
8. Ten Days in September	124
9. Religion of Peace	152
10. Death in the Air	176
11. Politics Returns	202
12. Axis of Evil	224
13. Promised Land	246
14. The Right Man	266
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	285
<i>Index</i>	287