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# DUDE, WHERE'S MY COUNTRY?



**MICHAEL  
MOORE**

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genuinely funny'**

*Guardian*

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## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Author, performer and filmmaker Michael Moore was born in Flint, Michigan. He is the creator and host of the Emmy-winning series *TV Nation* and *The Awful Truth* and is the award-winning director of *Roger & Me*. He won an Oscar for his latest film, *Bowling for Columbine*, and his book *Stupid White Men* is an international bestseller. He lives with his wife and daughter in New York and Michigan.

Visit Mike's website at [www.MichaelMoore.com](http://www.MichaelMoore.com). And, to help him decide just how he should spend the extra loot from Bush's tax cut and kick Dubya out, go to [www.SpendMikesTaxCut.com](http://www.SpendMikesTaxCut.com)



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—Tom Ridge, Secretary of the Homeland

—George W. Bush, Commander in Chief of the Fatherland



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# DUDE, WHERE'S MY COUNTRY?

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Michael Moore

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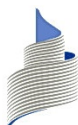


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*for Rachel Corrie*

*will I ever have her courage*

*will I let her death be in vain*

*for Ardeth Platte, Carol Gilbert*

*will I go sit in their cell*

*they would come sit in mine*

*for Ann Sparanese*

*one simple act, a voice was saved*

*are there a million more of her*

*to save us all*





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# Contents

Introduction	xi
<b>1</b> 7 Questions for George of Arabia	1
<b>2</b> Home of the Whopper	41
<b>3</b> Oil's Well That Ends Well	85
<b>4</b> The United States of <i>BOO!</i>	95
<b>5</b> How to Stop Terrorism? Stop Being Terrorists!	119
<b>6</b> Jesus W. Christ	129
<b>7</b> Horatio Alger Must Die	137
<b>8</b> Woo Hoo! I Got Me a Tax Cut!	157
<b>9</b> A Liberal Paradise	165
<b>10</b> How to Talk to Your Conservative Brother-in-Law	183
<b>11</b> Bush Removal and Other Spring Cleaning Chores	203
Notes and Sources	219
Acknowledgments	247
Interviews with Michael Moore	25
About the Author	27





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# Introduction

Greetings, fellow members of the Coalition of the Willing! Actually, that's only if you're a Brit or an Aussie. If you are Irish or Kiwi or Indian—or a citizen in pretty much any other country on earth who didn't join our little invasion party—well, *what the hell's the matter with you?* Didn't you know that you're supposed to do what you're told when the world's only superpower barks? We bark, you jump—that's the rule. Didn't Mr. Bush offer you a big enough bribe to sign up and bomb the people of Iraq? Didn't you know that Saddam the Evildoer had weapons of mass destruction? BIG weapons! YES! Scary ones! He . . . he . . . he could make himself *invisible* and he had secret evil powers like, he, he, um, he could turn you into a moth! And, and . . . he could fly, too! I saw him land on the Empire State Building and he looked like he was going to kill us all!

Strangely, Tony Blair and John Howard of Australia fell for this monster spook story. I had no idea these otherwise intelligent adult men were such suckers. Or were they? Maybe Bush & Co. just offered them something they couldn't refuse. What was it? It seems these two men, who clearly went against the wishes of the majority of their citizens, have got some 'splainin' to do. Is it too much to dream that by this time next year they won't hear the words "prime" or "minister" precede their own Christian name?

For the millions of us in the USA who are doing our best to stave off the Bush regime from menacing anywhere else in the world, does us no good to have the regimes in London and Canberra

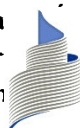


undermining our efforts. Fortunately, those cities and others have recently seen the largest anti-war demonstrations in their history.

When I have traveled overseas recently, people have come up to me and thanked me for “being the only sane American.” That compliment is both lovely and frightening—and it’s wrong. I can promise you that not all of America has gone insane. Please, never forget this one truth: The majority of Americans did NOT vote for George W. Bush. He is not serving inside the White House at the will of the American people. “The people” here, as I explain later in this book, are actually quite progressive and liberal—it’s just that they lack any real, committed liberal leaders. When that gets fixed (hopefully soon), then things will get better. I am here to tell you that I am not alone and that I actually stand smack in the middle of a new American majority. Tens of millions of citizens believe as I believe and vice versa. You just don’t hear from them, certainly not in the press. But they are out there—and their anger is brewing just beneath the surface. So, I’ll just keep doing my job, trying to drill a few holes so that that anger can burst forth in a geyser of democratic action.

Understandably, the world is freaked out by the behavior of the United States of America. It should be. The crowd in charge here is beyond the pale. All you have to do is ask yourself: if these thugs would steal an election, what else would they do? I’ll tell you this much: they’ll stop at nothing to destroy anything in their way, especially if they are on their way to making another buck. And they will punish you, ally or no ally, if you do not bend your knee and bow your head as we pass by on our march to the next regime change (preferably in a nation possessing a number of lucrative oil fields, thank you).

All of this will of course lead to their—and our—ruin. I think a slim majority of Americans understands this predicament at some sort of gut level. They are just hopelessly lost, in part because of an enforced ignorance that begins in school where they learn nothing about the rest of the world, and continuing th



daily adult life where their media has all but eliminated any foreign news that does not have something to do with the USA. That we know nothing about you should be the scariest thing about us. Most of us can't even locate you on a map (65 per cent of American adults between the ages of 18 and 25 could not find the United Kingdom on the map—all that kissing our ass, Mr. Blair, and we don't even know where the hell your lips are!).

Should a people this ignorant be running the world? How did we ever get in charge in the first place? 92 per cent of us don't even own a passport! Only a handful of us know any language other than English (and we barely speak that one). George W. is only now seeing the rest of the world for the first time because he *has to*, because, darnit, that's what presidents are supposed to do.

I guess we got in charge because we got the biggest guns. Funny how that always seems to work. We also won the Cold War by default—the Soviet Union, thanks to Mr. Gorbachev, decided simply to give up after strangling itself on a system that just wasn't working. Wow, imagine that—regime change without a shot being fired! Same thing happened in South Africa—nobody had to bomb them to liberate them! In fact, there are about two dozen countries that were liberated in the past decade or so thanks to a combination of world pressure and, most important, the people themselves rising up nonviolently to take over the reins of power.

But, because we don't get any news past Brooklyn or Malibu, I guess we don't hear about how *real* regime change takes place. So, when it came to Iraq, it didn't take much to pull the wool over the American eyes (connecting September 11 to Saddam Hussein was my favorite) and most Americans fell for it.

OK, that's understandable. We didn't know better and, as I'm sure most of you know this one thing about us, we really are a trusting lot. We are pretty outgoing and generous and simple in our approach to life. If you were to tell us that you needed help, we would come to your aid. If you were to tell us that donkeys fly, we would believe that too (as long as you said it



**'Michael Moore is the sand in the underpants  
of the Bush administration'** *Observer*

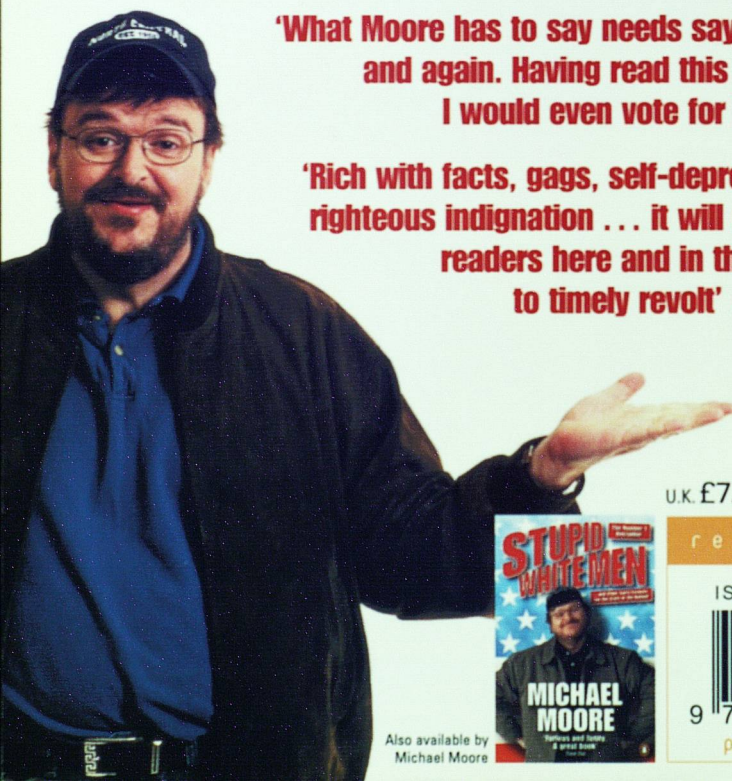
**'Washington's No.1 pain in the jacksie . . . *Dude* is a call  
to arms, a guide book on how to win the debate with  
right-wingers and generally a good laugh'** *Daily Mirror*

He's the man *everyone's* talking about. He's taken on gun freaks, stupid white men and corporate crooks. Now Michael Moore is on a new mission: to get us off our behinds and kicking out the corrupt political elites who rule our lives.

*Dude* gives you the ammunition: why it's time for regime change at Number Ten; the whoppers spun to wage war on Iraq and make a killing; the 'special relationship' between George of Arabia and the Bin Ladens; obscene tax breaks for the rich – and how Mike's going to get everybody together to get rid of Dubya. Not to mention how to stop terrorism (stop terrorizing Third World countries!!!), talk to your conservative brother-in-law and get non-voters voting. It's time to stop bitching, get reading – and get your country back.

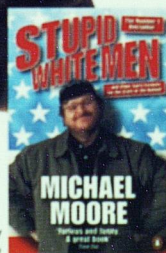
**'What Moore has to say needs saying again  
and again. Having read this book,  
I would even vote for him'** *Guardian*

**'Rich with facts, gags, self-deprecation and  
righteous indignation . . . it will rouse  
readers here and in the US  
to timely revolt'** *Independent*



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