

OPPORTUNITY *Ohio*

Book Review: “Rigged: How the Media, Big Tech, and the Democrats Seized Our Elections” by Mollie Hemingway

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Though an odd way to begin a book review, let me start by making a claim: had you known what Mollie Hemingway methodically and persuasively chronicles in “[Rigged: How the Media, Big](#)



[Tech, and the Democrats Seized Our Elections](#)” about what Democrats, Big Tech, and the media (“the Left”) did leading up to the November 2020 presidential election, your shock on Election Night wouldn’t have come from Donald Trump’s defeat; rather, your astonishment would have come from how he didn’t lose the Electoral College by even more than he did. That reality is about the only comfort one can take from “Rigged”—that even after stacking the deck enormously, Joe Biden only beat Trump by 43,000 votes in three states.

Reading “Rigged” is like being Agent Dave Kujan played by Chaz Palminteri in “The Usual Suspects” after Verbal Kent played by Kevin Spacey leaves his office. Kujan [looks at the bulletin board and sees all of the pieces](#) of the tale Kent, really the arch-criminal Keyser Soze, used to make up a bogus story in which he was a victim. It is a legendary “A-Ha” movie moment. With Hemingway’s detailed exposure of the Left’s means and methods, one hopes the Right won’t get Keyser Sozed again.

As background, I’m an avid reader who finishes 30-40 books per year along with multiple newspapers every day. I get paid to follow politics and current events closely. I thought I knew a lot about what happened in 2020. Based on “Rigged,” I didn’t. Moreover, for years I have made predictions on presidential elections based on a comprehensive analysis of surveys, trends, news, and other key pieces of data. I accurately predicted both of Barack Obama’s wins and was among the few who nailed Donald Trump’s surprise win in 2016. I share this information for purposes of this book review.

Of the 650 books I’ve read, I would place Hemingway’s “Rigged” among the dozen books I deem to be the best I’ve ever read. These books include: Victor Hugo’s “[Les Miserables](#),” Ron Chernow’s “[Grant](#),” Amity Shlaes’s “[The Forgotten Man](#),” Matt Ridley’s “[The Rational Optimist](#),” Stephen Sears’s “[Gettysburg](#),” and Kim Zetter’s “[Countdown to Zero Day](#).” “Rigged” is simply THAT good. It was such a page-turner, I sailed through the 346 pages in one day.

Anyone who truly cares about America, its future, and the sanctity of our elections should read “Rigged.” I firmly believe it should be required reading in high schools and colleges across the country, as our young need to learn what the Left will do to acquire power. Donors on the Right who pour tens of millions of dollars annually into national and state think tanks, including mine, would get a far greater return on their investments by simply buying copies of “Rigged” and sending it to every independent and Republican household in America.

Frankly, though she won’t because of partisan politics by the committee, Hemingway should win a Pulitzer Prize for “Rigged.”

In chapter-after-chapter, Hemingway puts together a compelling and well-documented case showing how the Left manipulated election processes, abused its power, and shirked its ethical responsibilities. “Rigged” starts off with an excellent historical summary of how Americans came to vote in the manner they vote, with anecdotes illustrating why mail-in voting and other methods were rejected in democracies until 2020.

Importantly, Hemingway then sets the table for the book by noting where Trump’s reelection stood on the morning after his powerful 2020 State of the Union address. It is easy to forget given all that has happened since that day that most people, including those on the Left, expected Trump to win reelection given the power of the Trump economy and the foreign policy victories he detailed the night before in his SOTU. And, that sentiment prevailed despite the continuous onslaught Trump endured during his first term over the now thoroughly-debunked Russia hoax.

Hemingway covers the Clinton campaign’s efforts to smear Trump as a Russian asset, especially the media’s role in promoting that hoax and its irresponsible use of anonymous sources. In my 2012 book, “[Taxpayers Don’t Stand a Chance](#),”¹ I labeled journalists as JINOs—Journalist In Name Only—and wrote a [whole chapter](#) on media bias precisely because of the issues Hemingway highlights throughout “Rigged.” Given the recent indictments of Clinton lawyer and Perkins Coie partner Michael Sussman and Christopher Steele’s primary source Russian Igor Danchenko, we now know just how in bed the media was with the Clinton campaign, the Intel community, and key players in the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

In my November 6 post-election piece “[Why Trump Lost](#),” I listed four reasons I believed at the time that explained Trump’s defeat. The second reason focused on the media. I posed the question, “*Imagine what the outcome of the election would have looked like if the media coverage of Trump was just 60 percent negative instead of the 90 percent negative coverage it has been for four years. Frankly, it is stunning the presidential election was as close as it was given the non-stop hits Trump took for four years.*” This negative treatment of Trump along with the suppression of negative news on Biden and his depraved son, Hunter, which Hemingway covers extensively, remains deeply troubling. She connects the dots to show exactly what was so problematic about Hunter’s highly lucrative and undeserved Burisma gig.

Hemingway then begins the arduous process of walking readers through the next ten months to show how the convergence of unplanned events—the pandemic and the George Floyd murder

¹ Lest anyone believe I’m merely shilling for my own book, 100% of all proceeds from sales of my three books are donated to the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation, so I don’t make any money off the books personally.

and rioting—with the Left’s planned actions rigged the election against Trump. She reminds readers that scores of Democrats raised the same issues with Dominion voting machines due to problems that occurred during the Georgia primary as Republicans would raise after the general election. She also holds the Left’s feet to the fire for the undeniable fact that it has challenged every Republican presidential victory starting with George W. Bush’s 2000 win, including the same “dangerous” electoral college appeal made by Republicans in 2021. Hemingway similarly points out how its supporters engaged in widespread rioting and violence, including more egregious assaults on federal buildings in 2016 and on The White House in 2020 than what transpired on January 6, 2021.

While not as involved as Big Tech, Hemingway describes how parts of Corporate America put its thumb on the scale, as well. Even after Trump moved heaven and Earth via Operation Warp Speed to enable Big Pharma to develop a vaccine, including pre-purchasing hundreds of millions of dollars worth of vaccines, Pfizer delayed announcing its vaccine was ready to go from late October to just after Election Day so Trump couldn’t claim victory over the Wuhan virus and benefit politically, which he most certainly would have. In fact, had this news hit on October 23 when it should have, it is likely Trump would have secured those 43,000 votes in three states to win reelection.

As explained in “Rigged,” Big Tech worked tirelessly to impact the elections in 2016 and 2020. Whether by tweaking algorithms to advantage Democrats or by suppressing conservative information, Hemingway digs into the issue that will leave readers stunned.

Hemingway’s revelations regarding Mark Zuckerberg’s nearly half-billion effort to supplant government election offices and help Democrats secure votes are jaw-dropping. She moves from battleground state to battleground state to describe what “Zuck Bucks” were used to do, with stunningly impressive results. As with so much of what Hemingway covers, Trump’s reelection likely would have occurred had Zuckerberg not engaged in the unprecedented electioneering activities he and his team funded, including embedding partisans to take over traditional government roles.

Shortly after the election, I had penned a piece titled, “[Five Head-Scratching Election Results](#)” in an effort to figure out how [my predictions in 2020](#) were off. The piece didn’t focus on voter fraud or other hard-to-prove allegations floating around at that time; rather, the piece focused on oddities in results among the states. Specifically, I wrote:

Then there is Michigan’s fairly significant swing from a 0.3 percent win in 2016 for Trump to a 2.7 percent win for Biden in 2020. Biden 146,000-vote victory in Michigan is quite the shift, especially when no similar movement occurred in neighboring states. After all, given the similarities and proximities among the Midwestern states, you might expect a big change in one state would show up in the other states. Instead, Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin all either saw slight shifts towards Biden or greater shifts towards Trump. Heck, Trump even gained over 200,000 votes in dark-blue Illinois. Other than Jim Harbaugh’s losing record against Ohio State, why did Michigan vote so differently than its neighbors?

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Finally, like Michigan, both Arizona and Georgia served as outliers to their neighboring states. As Arizona went from a solid Trump win in 2016 to a knife's edge Biden win in 2020, California, Nevada, New Mexico and Utah largely mirrored their 2016 results. Similarly, as Trump's 211,000-vote margin in 2016 in Georgia evaporated to a 14,000-vote Biden win in 2020, its neighbors in Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, South Carolina and Tennessee maintained their strong support for Trump, with Trump winning battleground Florida by three times the margin he won that state in 2016. What happened in Arizona and Georgia that failed to materialize in a single surrounding state?

When I read Hemingway's chapter on Zuck Bucks, it all finally made sense. Zuck Bucks had moved the needle in certain states in a manner no one, including me, could have known about. The funding each state received that Hemingway lays out in the book was shocking, especially the funding to Georgia versus Florida. It was another Keyser Soze moment.

One of the best aspects of "Rigged" is Hemingway's fearlessness in calling a spade a spade. For example, she criticizes fellow Fox News colleague Chris Wallace for his biased debate moderation and Rudy Giuliani for the damage he did to Trump's chances of prevailing legally. Most importantly, she rightfully chides Trump for some of his actions that caused more harm than good. Hemingway details the Trump Team's woeful legal strategy following the election, which undermined the legitimate lawsuits that might have prevailed. She also details how law firms and lawyers were harassed to the point of death threats, thereby scaring them from helping Trump. This aspect reminds me of how Trump's White House personnel office failed him significantly over his four years by allowing individuals who easily could be seen at best as tepid fans of Trump into key administration positions. These vetting failures would haunt Trump as those appointees leaked to the media and give lip service to his policy agenda.

Year-after-year I grind through books hoping to read a few that really stand out. Hemingway's "Rigged" did far more than stand out. It shined like a bright diamond among non-fiction books. On a personal note, as a fellow Claremont Institute Lincoln Fellow, seeing Hemingway excel professionally is fantastic. The fact she has written an incredible best-selling book that has revealed so much about how the Left operates and, more importantly, is driving the debate on how the Right should prepare for the 2022 and 2024 elections is astonishing. It is understandable why The Bradley Foundation awarded her a highly prestigious Bradley Prize.

I can't stress enough how much this book is simply a must read.

Bonus: I also learned a new word from Hemingway: micturate—the medical term for peeing;-)