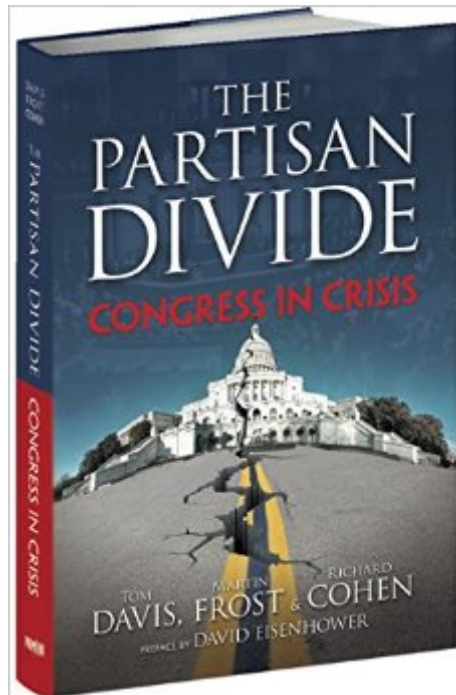


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The PARTISAN DIVIDE: Congress In Crisis



Synopsis

"Martin Frost and Tom Davis are uniquely qualified to examine how constant conflict in Washington keeps too many good things from happening. *The Partisan Divide: Congress in Crisis* is a smart book that asks the right questions and offers some intriguing solutions." — President Bill Clinton

During their 40 years in Congress, Martin Frost and Tom Davis were the field generals for their respective parties, each serving two terms as chair of the Democratic and Republican House campaign committees. Now they have joined forces — along with columnist Richard A. Cohen — in an effort to save Congress from itself. According to the authors, Congress is incapable of reforming itself without a good kick in the seat from the American public. Frost and Davis, with great insight and skill, along with a wealth of anecdotes and photos, dissect the causes of legislative gridlock and offer a common sense, bipartisan plan for making our Congress function again. The Preface by Pulitzer Prize finalist David Eisenhower sets the stage for this powerful behind-the-scenes narrative that uncovers the past road to the present political gridlock — and then offers thought-provoking insights and possibilities for the way out. A wide array of Republicans, Democrats, former presidents, and congressional colleagues, as well as many of today's most highly respected news correspondents and analysts, have come together in broad, bi-partisan, consensus support for this book and its message. *The Partisan Divide: Congress in Crisis* is a fascinating "must-read" for the historically and politically curious — as well as every citizen of the United States! "As bipartisan progress becomes ever scarcer in Washington, Frost and Davis have come together to present thought-provoking ideas and insights from four decades of collective experience in Congress. In their powerful insiders' account of the road into political gridlock, readers will find both the full extent of the problem and new possibilities for a way out." — Nancy Pelosi, Democratic Leader and 60th Speaker of the House "This book by two veteran politicians — one a Democrat and one a Republican — shows just how broken our political system is and how difficult it is going to be to get it back on track." — Bob Schieffer, Moderator of *Face the Nation* and Chief Washington Correspondent CBS News

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Customer Reviews

A great read. This book, seemingly written for both political science classes and the casual observer of politics, is chock full of anecdotes and charts that help explain why politics is so polarized today, and, absent specific reforms, the unfortunate reality of why it might continue to be for years to come. The chapter on The New Normal is incredibly insightful and spot-on, and Davis and Frost use their decades of experience in Congress to discuss how Congress has devolved so rapidly over the past 30 years to the body that it has become today. A unique understanding by the authors of how Congress really functions makes this a must-read for any political observer.

Thought the book was very well written. Great to see that 2 former Congressmen, who are extremely knowledgeable of the workings of Congress, came together to show how bipartisan was lost and how we can return to a point of making our congress work. The book also gives a brief insiders history of politics for the last 50 years. I highly recommend the book for political science classes at all levels as well as for the general public.

There was little new in this book about our current silo politics. The personal political histories of the two former House of Representative members was interesting but spoke to days long past. I was astounded that no mention was made of the excoriating behavior of the Republican Party towards President Obama as primary reason for the stagnation of cooperative politics. I looked forward to the recommendations for fixing the problem but the book simply fizzled out at this junction.

I bought this book because I, like many Americans, am concerned about the state of the country and government's inability to safeguard its interests. I thought this book would help me understand the problems better. It didn't. It frustrated me instead. The text ping-pongs between "Tom this" and "Martin this" and "Tom this" and "Martin this" ... etc. They hired a ghost writer (for reasons which

became obvious) but he is no more reader-friendly than they are. Evidence of the superficial nature of the book it includes an extensive four-color photo section of "the boys" posing with famous people, as if to underscore their importance. It didn't. I made it through three chapters before giving up. The idea was a good one, the execution not so. I couldn't believe anyone would publish this trivia. Then I looked it up: Dover. Enough said. All in all, extremely disappointing.

The author's feel compelled to get way down in the weeds of their analyses of past elections. When they finally get to the meat of the title and start presenting a pathway out, their solutions are worth serious actions. 'T would be nice if some folks with action capability listened.

Good if not compelling read. A nuts-and-bolts, from-the-inside, view of contemporary challenges those we call "politicians" face in getting elected. If you're wondering "what it's really like," this may be your book.

I hoped for more analysis and prescription and less a recitation of their own experience. Maybe a book-long expansion of their suggestions would make a fine contribution.

A good blend of anecdotes and data. Some solid analysis. An interesting read, but a little too redundant on the backstory of the authors to warrant a five.

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