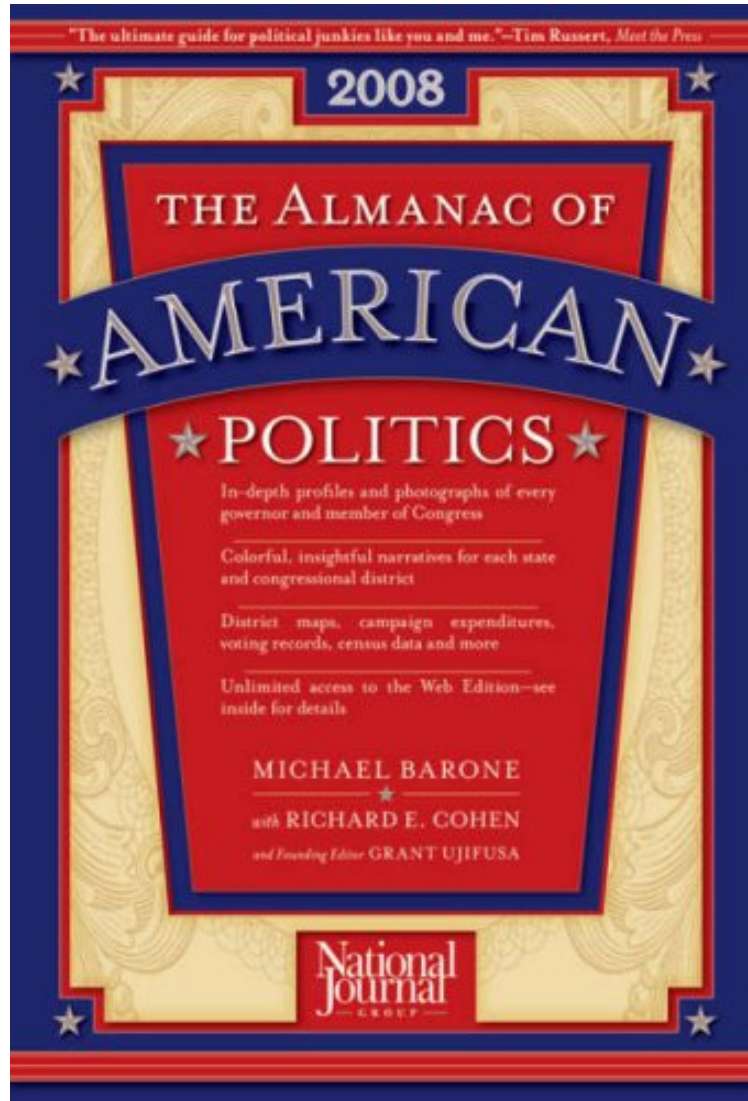


The Almanac of American Politics, 2008

Michael Barone, Richard E. Cohen
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Michael Barone, Richard E. Cohen : The Almanac of American Politics, 2008 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Almanac of American Politics, 2008:

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Indispensable Political DataBy Dr. Roy R. NasstromSince 1972, when Michael Barone, Grant Ujifusa, and Douglas Matthews first published the Almanac, these biennial books have constituted a dynamic resource for anyone interested in the American political scene. The current volume, like its predecessors, is enjoyable simply to page through. It is of enormous value, however, to anyone who wants to evaluate or expand on political information gained from other sources, whether journalistic, scholarly, or personal.Does the

book have any faults? Yes. Data on backgrounds of legislators sometimes contained errors. In at least a couple of cases the authors supplied conflicting information in different segments of biographical data. Moreover, the definition of military service can be perplexing, omitting interpretation of reserve service (active or inactive?) and in one case including even ROTC service in college. (I mention military service here only because it does constitute one of the variables used in the authors' analysis of voting and demographic characteristics.) But problems are minor. The charge of Republican political bias has no validity. Michael Barone is a conservative but he and his co-author, Richard E. Cohen, longtime correspondent for the highly respected, nonpartisan National Journal, have scrupulously avoided unfair selection of information or unfair judgments. They provided a vast array of verifiable empirical data, and in their narrative an individual's political party affiliation played no part in the selection of examples of praiseworthy or embarrassing behavior. It has become a cliché to describe a book as indispensable--no human would have time to read all books so designated--but for anyone interested in understanding American politics as observer, student, or participant, this book comes closest to deserving the label.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

Indispensable Guide for Political and Public Policy watchers
By James B. Casey
I have been purchasing this helpful guide since 1976 and have found it increasingly valuable and informative as the years pass. Available on even years (election years), the latest available now is 2012. It will soon be succeeded this Fall by the 2014 version. I have the 2010 and 2012 volumes right near my TV set as the news shows feature this or that Senator, Governor and Representative. The volumes are packed not only with biographical and voting record information about the individual office holders, but census and political assessments of their districts and States. I literally use this resource every day. If you are interested in public policy and the political wars of our day, this is a superb resource and worth every penny of the \$50 to \$60 price tag.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great resource!

By John H.
I'm a political science professor and I own every edition of AAP going back to 1976. It's a great resource on Congress, national politics, current issues and descriptions of states and Congressional districts. You could read this book as a travelogue and learn something interesting about every Congressional district in America. Unlike CQ's "Politics in America," which is also great, AAP includes governors and state issues along with Congress and national issues. Michael Barone's increasing editorial drift to the right in his other work over the years has in no way affected the quality or the content of the Almanac of American Politics.

The unequivocal 2006 election results suggest we have entered a new period in American politics. When Americas votes were tallied this past November, Democrats had won Election Day majorities in both the Senate and the House for the first time since 1992. The House Democrats margin of victory, furthermore, was very similar to the House Republicans popular vote margin in 1994a harbinger, perhaps, of a new political era.

The indispensable resource for anybody who takes campaigns and elections seriously. Published since 1971, it offers richly detailed analysis on both national and state politics. Broken down by state and congressional district, it offers not just background on a given member or senators voting record, but expansive insight on the history, culture and demographics that shape a regions voting patterns. It was founded by Michael Barone and is now produced by a trio that collectively know more about politics than anybody else in the hemisphere. . . . Whether youre on the beach or at the lake, prop up your feet and dive into a random state or district. Youll come away with an invaluable political education.