

Whistleblowers: Honesty in America from Washington to Trump



Whistleblowers: Honesty in America from Washington to Trump by Allison Stanger

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Whistleblowers are essential to American democracy. They expose corruption, waste, and fraud, and they help to protect the public interest. But whistleblowing is often a dangerous and lonely business. Those who come forward often face retaliation from their employers, the government, and even the public.

Despite the risks, whistleblowers continue to speak out, because they believe that the truth is worth fighting for. This book tells the stories of some of the most famous whistleblowers in American history, from Daniel Ellsberg to Edward Snowden. It shows how whistleblowers have played a vital role in exposing some of the most important scandals in American history, and it argues that whistleblowing is more important than ever in the age of Trump.

Chapter 1: Daniel Ellsberg

Daniel Ellsberg is one of the most famous whistleblowers in American history. In 1971, he leaked the Pentagon Papers to the New York Times, exposing the government's secret history of the Vietnam War. The Pentagon Papers showed that the government had lied to the public about the war, and they helped to turn the tide of public opinion against it.

Ellsberg's whistleblowing was a courageous act, and it helped to end the Vietnam War. However, he paid a heavy price for his actions. He was indicted for espionage and faced a possible life sentence in prison. But Ellsberg was ultimately acquitted, and his whistleblowing helped to set a precedent for protecting whistleblowers in the future.

Chapter 2: Edward Snowden

Edward Snowden is another famous whistleblower who exposed government secrets. In 2013, he leaked documents from the National Security Agency (NSA) to the Guardian newspaper, revealing that the NSA was conducting a massive surveillance program on American citizens.

Snowden's whistleblowing was a major embarrassment for the government, and it sparked a national debate about privacy and security. Snowden was charged with espionage, and he fled to Russia to avoid prosecution. He remains in exile today, but his whistleblowing has helped to raise awareness about the dangers of government surveillance.

Chapter 3: Chelsea Manning

Chelsea Manning is a transgender whistleblower who leaked classified documents from the US Army to WikiLeaks in 2010. The documents

revealed that the US military had killed hundreds of civilians in Iraq and Afghanistan, and that the government had covered up the killings.

Manning's whistleblowing was a major embarrassment for the government, and she was sentenced to 35 years in prison. However, Manning was pardoned by President Obama in 2017. She is now a free woman, and she continues to speak out against government secrecy and abuse.

Chapter 4: Julian Assange

Julian Assange is the founder of WikiLeaks, a website that publishes classified information. Assange has been accused of being a traitor and a spy, but he has defended his work as journalism. In 2010, WikiLeaks published the Iraq War Logs and the Afghan War Logs, which revealed the inner workings of the US military in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Assange's whistleblowing has been controversial, but it has also been important. The Iraq War Logs and the Afghan War Logs have helped to raise awareness about the human cost of war. Assange is now living in exile in Ecuador, but he continues to lead WikiLeaks and to publish classified information.

Chapter 5: The Future of Whistleblowing

Whistleblowing is more important than ever in the age of Trump. The Trump administration has been accused of corruption, waste, and fraud, and whistleblowers are playing a vital role in exposing these abuses.

However, whistleblowing is also facing new challenges. The Trump administration has made it more difficult for whistleblowers to come forward, and it has cracked down on leaks of classified information.

Despite the challenges, whistleblowers continue to speak out. They are essential to American democracy, and they deserve our support.

Whistleblowers are heroes. They risk their lives and their careers to expose the truth, and they help to protect the public interest. This book tells the stories of some of the most famous whistleblowers in American history, and it shows how whistleblowing is more important than ever in the age of Trump.

We need to support whistleblowers and protect their rights. They are our best hope for a more transparent and accountable government.



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