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Whistleblowers

Honesty in America from Washington to Trump

By Allison Stanger

A groundbreaking history of whistleblowing in America and an argument for its importance as a form of civil disobedience

“[An] exceptionally sharp forthcoming book.” —**Bret Stephens**, *The New York Times*

“The depth, breadth and power of the national security state should concern every American who cares about our democracy. Allison Stanger has woven interviews, insights, and great stories into a compelling argument for why we must celebrate and protect whistleblowers as the indispensable guardians of our national ideals.” —**Anne-Marie Slaughter**, author of *The Chessboard and the Web*

Revealing misconduct of the powerful is always dangerous. Whistleblowers, therefore, face a difficult choice: by challenging and exposing corruption, they perform a vital public service—yet they historically suffer for it. In *Whistleblowers: Honesty in America from Washington to Trump* (September 24, 2019 publication date), author and scholar Allison Stanger frames whistleblowing as an important but unrecognized cousin of civil disobedience. She shows how its practice has held powerful elites accountable in America across the centuries. She asserts its goal—to prevent the abuse of power by those who hold it—is rooted in the very DNA of America, dating back to the country’s founding.

Analyzing a range of whistleblowing episodes, from corrupt Revolutionary War commodore Esek Hopkins (whose dismissal led to the first whistleblower protection law in 1778) to Edward Snowden to the dishonesty of Donald Trump, Stanger reveals the centrality of whistleblowing to American democracy’s wellbeing. She also shows how changing technology and increasing militarization make exposing misconduct more difficult to do and more personally costly for those who do it—yet American freedom, especially today, depends on it.

Stanger could discuss:

- How a Trump presidency underscores the importance of whistleblowers, and raises the stakes for them
- The reasons protecting whistleblowers remains more crucial than ever
- How public policy and the law could be changed to better protect whistleblowers
- How the rise of the internet and internet surveillance has affected the work of whistleblowers
- The Intelligence Community: how they are increasingly stepping into the roles of whistleblowers, including the efforts of James Comey and others
- The controversial figure of Edward Snowden, and why the author believes he may eventually be viewed as our first “traitor patriot.”
- Anti-racists and anti-sexists as whistleblowers
- Corruption (and related whistleblowing) throughout American history: from the first whistleblower protections of 1778, to Civil War cases of contract fraud, to the greed and skimming of the Boss Tweed Era, to the current moment
- Why the founders viewed whistleblowing a valuable action against tyranny

Whistleblowers is a compelling look at the history of a form of protest that has helped staunch corruption throughout our country's history. It also offers a persuasive argument for keeping the tradition alive, to ensure our democracy is at its most healthy and equitable.

Allison Stanger is the Russell Leng '60 Professor of International Politics and Economics at Middlebury College, New America Cybersecurity Fellow, and an External Professor at the Santa Fe Institute. She is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. She is also the author of *One Nation Under Contract: The Outsourcing of American Power and the Future of Foreign Policy* and has contributed to *Foreign Affairs*, *Foreign Policy*, *Financial Times*, *International Herald Tribune*, *New York Times*, *USA Today*, *U.S. News and World Report*, and the *Washington Post*.

Author Appearances:

- September 11, 2019: Whistleblowing International Network (Glasgow, Scotland)
- September 16, 2019: Chatham House (London, England)
- September 18, 2019: Central European University (Budapest, Hungary)
- September 25, 2019: New America (Washington DC)
- October 11, 2019: Hannah Arendt Center (Annandale-on-Hudson, NY)
- October 13, 2019: Politics & Prose (Washington DC)
- October 17, 2019: University Club of Chicago (Chicago, IL)
- October 17, 2019: Book Stall (Winnetka, IL)
- November 1, 2019: University of South Florida (Tampa, FL)
- November 13, 2019: University of Dallas (Dallas, TX)
- November 14, 2019: UCLA (Los Angeles, CA)
- November 18, 2019: Harvard University (Cambridge, MA)

Advance Praise:

“A stunningly original, deeply insightful, and compelling analysis of the profound conflicts we have faced over whistleblowing, national security, and democracy from our nation's founding to the Age of Trump.”
—**Geoffrey R. Stone**, author of *Perilous Times: Free Speech in Wartime*

“This clear-eyed, sobering book narrates a history of whistleblowing, from the American Revolution to Snowden to Comey, and delivers the verdict that the republic is at risk—a must read.”
—**Danielle Allen**, author of *Our Declaration*

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