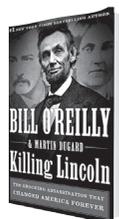


HOST OF *THE O'Reilly Factor* on Fox News, former reporter for ABC's *World News Tonight*, favorite target of the left—over the course of his career, Bill O'Reilly, 62, has worn many hats. With his latest book, *Killing Lincoln*, he wants to add another: historian. O'Reilly (along with his cowriter, Martin Dugard) takes a you-are-there approach to the 1865 assassination of the man he calls “the best

president we ever had, the most honest guy I've ever come across.” He talks politics, then and now, with **David Browne**.



PARADE Why does Lincoln still loom so large?

We're a divided nation and we need a strong leader to bring us together and solve complicated problems, and that's what Lincoln did. If he had lived and served a second term, the nation would be a lot less fractious than it is now.

If Lincoln were alive today, what party do you think he would be in?

The Republican Party. I think he didn't want a social welfare system. He wanted the people to be self-reliant and the states to be able to regulate what they did, which is why he didn't want to punish the Confederacy.



Who's your dream guest?

The only guy who hasn't stepped up is Bill Clinton. I'd love to talk about foreign affairs with him. He just doesn't want to be bothered, I guess.

How do you look back at your appearance on *The View* in 2010, when

NO SOFTBALL QUESTIONS FOR HIM! O'Reilly played semi-pro baseball while he was in college. →

Bill O'Reilly

The political commentator on what he admires about both Abraham Lincoln and Jon Stewart

You taught high school history in Florida for a while. What were you like as a teacher?

I was tough, but kids seemed to want to be in my class. I taught an elective called Contemporary Problems at Monsignor Edward Pace High School. But it was not a politically driven course.

What do you make of Jon Stewart and Stephen Colbert as political commentators?

That's what they are; they just do it on a network called Comedy Central. Stewart would get hired in a minute on most of the cable news shows. I'd hire him. He's good and witty, and he has a big following. If you get ratings, they're gonna take you in.

Joy Behar and Whoopi Goldberg stormed off the set after you made a remark about Muslims and 9/11?

That's just stuff that happens.

Nothing special. I was hoping they'd all walk off so I could get the whole hour.

On Sundays, do you watch the morning political shows?

No, I'm not glued to the news. I read the papers in the morning if I get to mass on Saturday—you can now go to church on Saturday afternoons at 5. I'll watch the Jets or Giants, and if it's summer, I'll go to the beach or work out in the pool. I don't go out to the \$39.95 brunches.

Given your news reporting background, have you kept any mementos of stories you've covered?

On my wall I've got a homemade Vietcong flag, which is very rare. I was in Vietnam in the early '90s doing a story about how American and Vietnamese veterans of the war were being treated by their respective countries.

Do you discuss politics with your kids, who are 12 and 8?

They don't want to talk about it, but I do anyway. I want them to know the basics. Right now in school it's all about Obama. Some kids like him and some don't, depending on what their parents are saying. My daughter has met the president and the first lady and they were very nice to her, so I think she likes them. [laughs] **E**

I GOT THE BIG PLAUDITS FROM MY KIDS FOR BEING IN TRANSFORMERS 3. WE ONLY DO THE BIG MOVIES."

