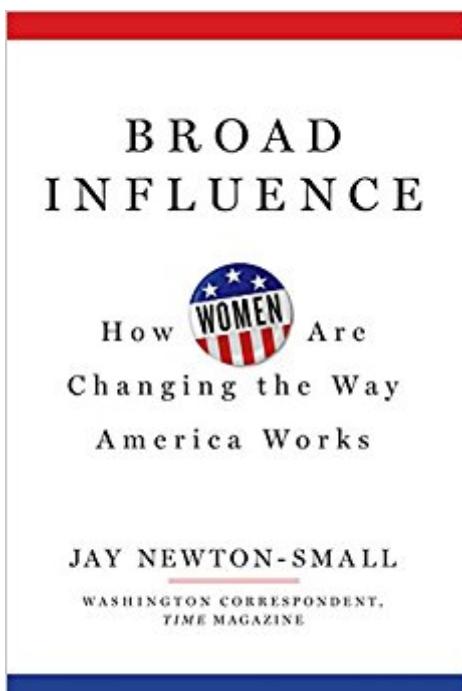


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# Broad Influence: How Women Are Changing The Way America Works



## Synopsis

2016 will be one of the most historic years in politics: It marks the potential for the first female President of the United States, and the 100th anniversary of the first woman elected to Congress. Additionally, in 2016, single women will be one of the most pivotal voting groups heading into the general election, being courted by both Democrats and Republicans. At the centennial of the first woman elected to Congress (which was three years before women legally earned the right to vote), their presence and influence in Washington has reached a tipping point that affects not only the inner workings of the Federal Government, but also directly influences how Americans live and work. Never before have women been represented in such great numbers in the Supreme Court, both chambers of Congress, and in the West Wing. In *Broad Influence*, Jay Newton-Small, one of the nation's most deeply respected and sourced journalists takes readers through the corridors of Washington D.C., the offices and hallways of Capital Hill and everywhere else conversations and deals are happening to demonstrate how women are reaching across the aisles, coalescing, and affecting lasting change. With deep, exclusive and behind-closed-doors reporting and interviews, including conversations with Nancy Pelosi, Barbara Mikulski, Kirsten Gillibrand, Valerie Jarrett, Sarah Palin, Kelly Ayotte, Cathy McMorris Rogers and dozens of other former and current senators, representatives, senior White House staffers, governors and cabinet members, *Broad Influence* is an insightful look at how women are transforming government, politics, and the workforce, and how they are using that power shift to effect change throughout America.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"A cogent argument for gender parity and a revealing look at cultural change." - Kirkus Reviews"Broad Influence offers a powerful demonstration of how the presence of a critical mass of women changes, and improves, a workplace. Get it for your daughters - and your CEO." - Ruth Marcus, Washington Post columnist"Jay Newton-Small has seen the future - and it may actually work. Fueled by detailed and intelligent reporting, she demonstrates that the arrival of women into positions of power will really make a difference. This is a real cause for optimism." - Joe Klein, Author of Charlie Mike and Primary Colors"In this important and timely book, Jay Newton-Small helps Americans understand why the rise of women is not simply a matter of equality but an economic imperative for the United States." - Dana Milbank, Washington Post columnist"Jay Newton-Small breaks up a great story. It's how women members of Congress have restored the lost politics of compromise. Where men waste time proving who's toughest, women give enduring priority to getting things done." - Chris Matthews, Host of Hardball on MSNBC

Jay Newton-Small is a political correspondent for TIME, covering Congress, politics and foreign policy, and covered Hillary Clinton's 2008 campaign and her tenure at the State Department. She has focused extensively on women's role in Washington, as evidenced by her Oct. 2013 cover story, Women Are the Only Adults Left in Washington, about the 20 women senators who broke the logjam to get the government restarted and avoid default. She has interviewed every female member of Congress; every living past and present female cabinet member.

I am writing a review of this book for a course on women and politics, but it is far too long to post here. Saying, "I love it, I love it, I love it and wish it were longer," is far too short. So let me attempt to make this something in between the two. First of all, I want to address the writing style. Jay Newton-Small, the author, is incredibly talented at this part of writing. I consumed this book in under an hour, and then I went back and immediately reread the entire thing. I am reading it a third time to make notes on pages for my review for my course; I was too caught up in the book the first two times to remember to do this. Next, the book topics themselves need to be addressed, and "topics," plural, is the correct word. Newton-Small addresses women in all branches of the political spectrum, the business field, the police force, in the military, and the true economic need in America to reach something like parity in the near future (and more fields, too). I learned about things I had no idea had taken place, accomplishments and trials that women have made and faced/still face. I was interested in how women who have succeeded in the various fields addressed believe, based on

their experiences, that women have different traits than men that help success be reached in each field. I was then even more interested in reading about the accomplishments made by women that show those traits being used and the conclusions of studies that reaffirm these different traits existing. That said, I will admit that there is one thing, very important for those using this in the academic sense and possibly less so for those reading it in their personal lives only, that I wish was different about this book. Newton-Small did not choose to include citations of the things she wrote about at the bottom of each page. Admittedly, there would be a great deal of citations on some pages. Despite that fact, I feel the book would be slightly better if she had included them in that manner. (I feel I should mention again that I am using this for a course, making me one of the readers using it "in the academic sense".) Given that lack, I would probably rate this book 4.75 stars if I had to for school, and I may do so at the bottom of my review for my course. A review based purely on my love for the book, however? That would earn this book 10 stars if I could rate it that way! I am incredibly glad that this is one of the three books I chose to review for my course (which, sadly, is not normally offered by my university; I created the course myself, with my advisor approving it, for an independent study course). If I were not taking this course, I would hopefully somehow come across this book and choose to buy it anyway! I hope this review helps you choose to buy it, or that it helps you choose to borrow it from your local library. Reading it will enrich your life and knowledge of both what women have done in all sorts of fields that have helped enrich America, what they are still doing to enrich America, and how it is necessary that the federal government help women reach parity in America when it comes to employment on all levels--CEO's as well as entry-level positions, or working two blue collar jobs to support themselves and/or their families. Why necessary? In order for us (as I am an American) to remain an economically successful country. Or, alternatively, we could admit more immigrants to employ. I admit this second option exists when it comes to a need for more workers in America's near future. It's the poorer option of the two, however, by far. EDIT: One tiny qualm: Pg 178 of the hardback edition made me see red briefly. I love comics. I know comics. To quote the book, "[...] partly because of the trend in films based on comic books, which historically don't have many strong female characters". This is factually incorrect. I'm setting a timer to see how many I can type in 30 seconds: Shadowcat, Storm, Phoenix, Marvel Girl, Catwoman, Poison Ivy, Wonder Woman, Dust, Magik, Magik II, Black Widow, Raven, Wasp, Spider-Woman, Viper, Karma X--Time's up. (I'm mostly an X-Men fan, can you tell? The last one would have been X-23; I refuse to call her Wolverine. Sorry, Laura, no.) Be they heroines or villainesses, comics are rich with examples of strong female characters. I actually believe I will write to the author about this for any future edition. But hey, we can't all be

geeks.EDIT 2: I message Jay Newton-Small on Twitter about the issue of strong female characters in comics. She retweeted a tweet of my own linking to this review. In doing so she also wrote "point well made" about strong female characters in comics. Awesome woman. I also edited this review, which I originally wrote with a migraine, for clarity, ease of reading, and so I am notÃ¢Â¢Â¢ well, embarrassed by it. Never write a review with a migraine. Lesson learned.

I was really excited to read this book but found it got old very fast. The book is organized in a way where it makes the same point over and over again but with different examples. As a result, the more I read, the more I felt like saying, "so what? you already said that!" I think the message of the book would have been more effectively made in a succinct article or podcast; it didn't need to be a full book.

This book looks at the role of women in the modern world, especially at the higher levels of government and industry. It makes a strong case that a sufficient feminine presence will change the decision-making ethos and for the better. However, the author is too positive about Hillary Clinton and exaggerates her capabilities. I think this would be a better book were the author less sure of her leading character.

A must-read for all women AND men wanting to get ahead in the workplace - and in life in general. As a business news reporter and business school professor, I heard advance buzz about this book and read it the day it came out. Day Two I bought my second copy to share with a friend searching for that secret sauce for success. I've always admired Jay Newton-Small's political coverage, but this book goes beyond politics and examines how and why women are moving the dial in all fields - government, business, academia and beyond. From the women taking on Wall Street's excesses to the "soccer moms hunting ISIS and Al Qaeda," Newton-Small does an admirable job creating a lively, compelling read that weaves together startling statistics and research findings with compelling examples of real women overcoming the obstacles to success. I've highlighted and bookmarked numerous pages I plan to go back to when I need some inspiration. I'm ready for the sequel.

An essential book for our time. Broad Influence is a fresh and fascinating look at the ways women are shaping every corner of life in America and beyond, but also a thrilling read about one of the most under-reported yet profoundly consequential forces shaping our world today. This should be required reading in every University, every boardroom and every courthouse in the United States.

Excellent read for anyone who wants real data on how the presence of woman at the table can make a positive, more humane difference in decision outcomes. The author covers everything from women in congress to boards of directors. Jay Newton-Small makes the argument that the critical mass of women needed in a group to make a difference is 20 - 30 percent, and how organizations change when that is the case. In my view, every woman (and man) will benefit by reading this book.

Must read for the 2016 election. Clear concise writing about the need to achieve parity in decision making positions. She writes about what's it's like to be the only woman in the room. All young women need to read this to understand just how far we have come and how much yet to be done.

I love this book. Every aspiring women should read it. It is very inspirational to read about the backgrounds of current women in public service and to see how collaboration between many of these women can move the needle forward not only for the goals of these women but for all women in demanding public and private sector roles.

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