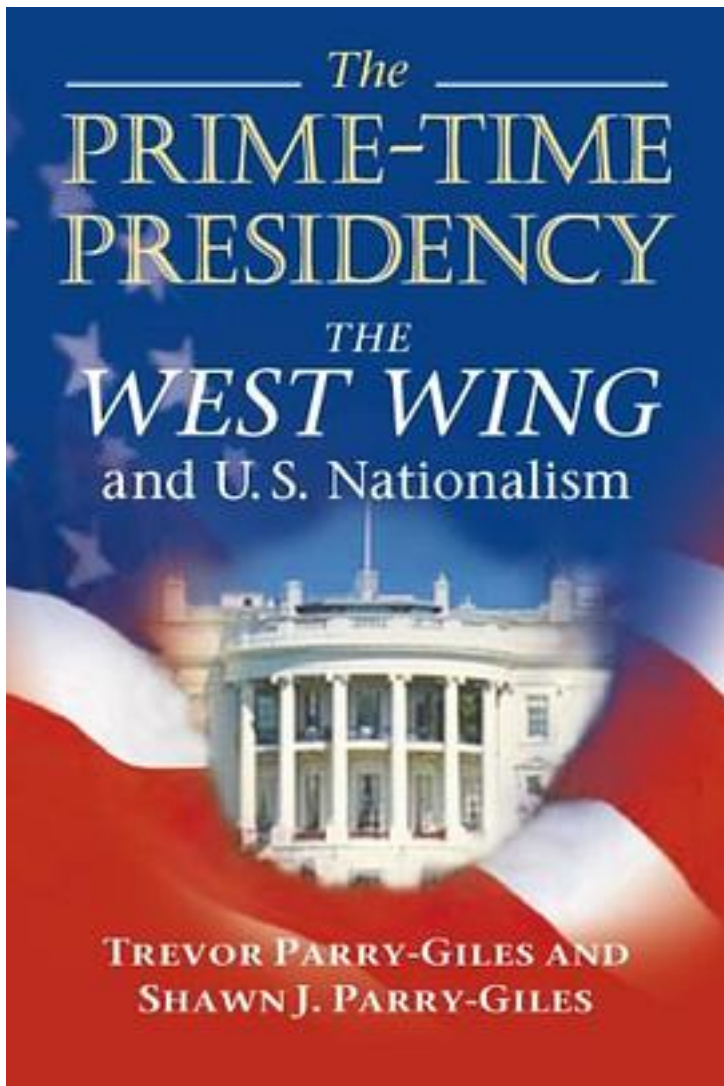


The Prime-Time Presidency



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Contrasting strong women and multiculturalism with portrayals of a heroic white male leading the nation into battle, *The Prime-Time Presidency* explores the NBC drama *The West Wing*, paying particular attention to its role in promoting cultural meaning about the presidency and U.S. nationalism. Based in a careful, detailed analysis of the "first term" of *The West Wing*'s President Josiah Bartlett, this criticism highlights the ways the text negotiates powerful tensions and complex ambiguities at the base of U.S. national identity--particularly the role of gender, race, and militarism in the construction of U.S. nationalism. Unlike scattered and disparate collections of essays, Trevor Parry-Giles and Shawn J. Parry-Giles offer a sustained, ideologically driven criticism of *The West Wing*. *The Prime-time Presidency* presents a detailed critique of the program rooted in presidential history, an appreciation of television's power as a source of political meaning, and television's contribution to the articulation of U.S. national identity.

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