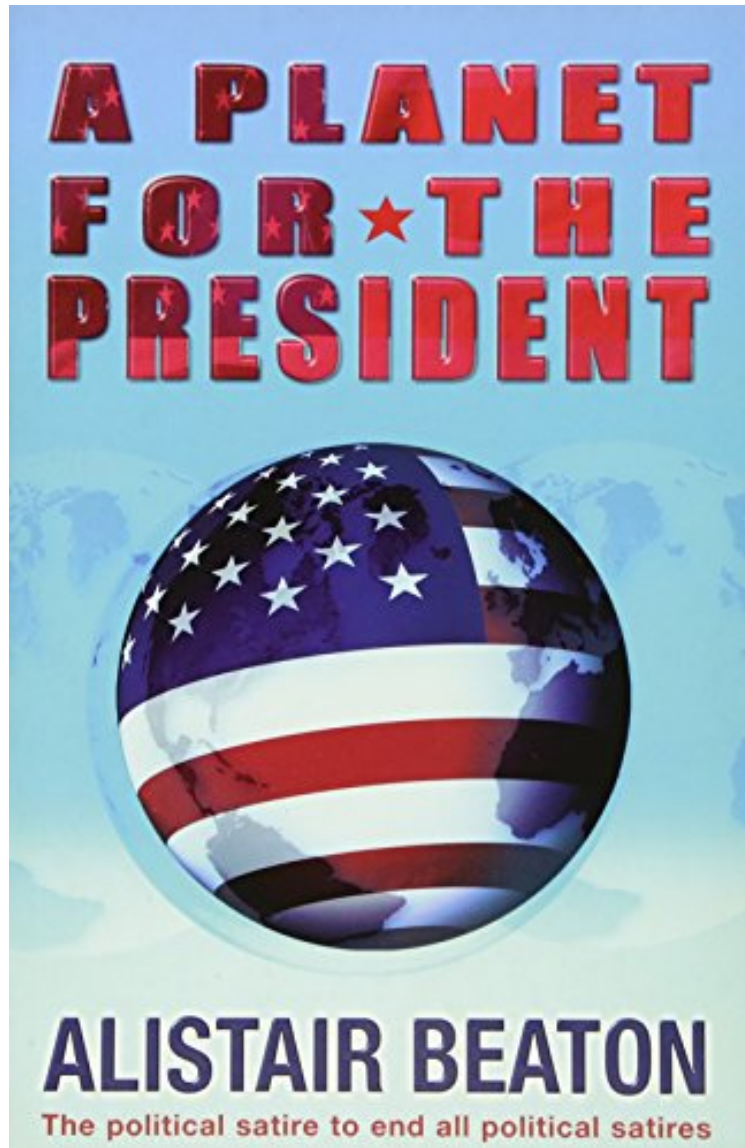


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A Planet for the President: The Political Satire to End All Political Satires

Alistair Beaton

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Alistair Beaton : A Planet for the President: The Political Satire to End All Political Satires before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Planet for the President: The Political Satire to End All Political Satires:

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. No Planet Left for Anyone By Felicia A. Sullivan A little hard to get

into, but well worth the effort. Very tongue-in-cheek satire of a contemporary American president who was a buffoon and listened to his "advisors". I won't give away the plot, but it was different and well done. It was not hard to imagine this president with George Bush's face and voice. Not hard at all. Found this link today to an alternative news site that I frequent...yes, I wear a tin foil hat. But THIS: [...] is EXACTLY what happened in this book that led to the disaster. Hm...1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A funny and horrifying political satire By K. Maxwell Ritchie J. Richie, President of the USA, has a problem - the environment. It is becoming harder and harder to ignore a growing list of environmental issues and he doesn't want his legacy to be the president who killed the last wild American bald eagle. However, he doesn't see what he can do about the issue (except what he's doing - ignore it) until one of his advisors comes up with a plan that will solve all the environmental problems and leave the USA as the literal ruler of the planet. This is a thinly disguised satire on the current Washington administration - of politicians whose ONLY concern is to get re-elected and who are so beholden to large private corporations to keep in power that they will think the unthinkable because to them the rest of the world holds little value. This book is in turns funny and horrifying because in a weird, insane way, the solution proposed in this book is not so different from what other political leaders around the globe have tried in the past - just on a larger scale. If you enjoy a well written political satire then this is a book you should read. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Side-splittingly funny, and terrifying at the same time. In other words: great satire. By Reece R. Robbins Overview: A political satire concerning the fictional U.S. President, Fletcher J. Fletcher and his administration's decision to wipe out all non-Americans in the world in order to stave off an impending ecological disaster and preserve the American way of life. Points of Interest: First of all, let me say this book is hilarious. I mean laugh out loud, slap your knee, snot flying out of your nose funny. It is a scathing political satire mixed with a heavy dose of black humor. The idea is that the American President, Fletcher J. Fletcher is warned of a coming ecological disaster by a political advisor. He is told that if every human being on Earth lived a lifestyle similar to the average American, we would need over 15 Earths to provide for the current population. The President is also told that it is only a matter of time before the Earth's reserves are run through and chaos and famine ensues. He is warned that if he does nothing, he will be remembered as the President that ruined the world, which would not look good in history books. In order to circumvent the disaster President Fletcher is advised to find a way to lower the environmental strain American's place on the environment. President Fletcher dismisses the idea as preposterous. Telling Americans to consume less would kill his approval rating. His administration composed of imbeciles, incompetents, and self-serving opportunists propose the idea of killing off the rest of the world, allowing for more elbow room for Americans. The monstrous idea is rationalized as being the only viable solution to the coming crisis while maintaining the American way of life. It is also suggested that the President and his cabinet could use the incident to win a third term in office. The book then rolls out the details of how this genocide will be accomplished, and somehow makes the entire thing hilarious as good satire does. That is why satire is so effective. It makes terrible topics palatable by coating them in humor. This book does just that as it brings the reader to the books horrifying but outrageously funny conclusion. Fletcher J. Fletcher is a thinly veiled George W. Bush. His fictional cabinet represents neocon ideals in their aggressive policies, imperialism, need for fear to unify the country and its America first agenda, which in the case of the book is taken to an extreme. A few gems in this comparison are incidents such as President Fletcher taking time to "be with his God" when he actually drinks bourbon and then prays for a third term in office. Another occurs when the President asks his born again Christian Secretary of Defense if they should invade a small, possibly terrorist state and the Secretary responds, WWJD (what would Jesus do)? The President asks what Jesus would do and the Secretary replies, "Jesus would go in hard!" which is a criticism of the obvious hypocrisy of Bush's administration that appeals to the religious right, claiming to be inspired by and modeled after Jesus' life and yet initiates pre-emptive War and violence. The administration decides to infect the world with a modified super bird flu, which will wipe out 100% of the people infected with it and will spread to every person around the world who is not protected with an inoculation. This will be administered on the pretense of an eminent terrorist attack which in actuality does not exist. The inoculation contract, which is obviously huge and highly lucrative, is promised to whomever can get it done the fastest as the operation needs to be carried out before the elections if the President is going to have a chance at his third term. The corporations vying for the contract take short cuts to increase their profit, as they do, which are allowed by the Fletcher administrations loosening of regulations in the Pharmaceuticals industries. This results in disaster later in the book and is the author showing his reader the underbelly of capitalism and some of the possible repercussions of a bottom line culture. The only voice of reason in the insane asylum of the white house is the President's personal advisor. Unfortunately, he is powerless to stop the juggernaut once it gets moving. He is also a man of compromised values as he has sacrificed much of what he believes in in order to gain the President's ear. A vegetarian, he regularly eats hamburgers with the President so as not to look like a wimp which is only one of his many personal compromises. The only time he does come close to blowing the whistle on the entire operation is when he takes proof of the conspiracy to the Prime Minister of England who instead of publically condemning the United States, ask to receive the inoculation that all Americans are being given for his country as well. The author is Scottish and this would be a criticism of his country's implicitly with America's foreign policy actions, such as joining in on the War on Terror. The book is extremely well written and in my opinion deserves

a read by every student in the country not so much because it mirrors many of my own beliefs but because it encourages people to turn a critical eye on those in power and to question motivations. It inspires healthy and constructive criticism. The novel is ruthless in its condemnations, world governments, military, corporations, media agencies, the lust for power; everyone gets egg on their face in this book. Every page has an insight worth exploring and is delivered humorously. The reason the book stays with the reader though, is because it is plausible. The actions of the book mirror many real world events and the fact that it feels like it could possibly happen lend a lot of weight behind the vicious left hook it throws at society. As many other critics have said, this is the Dr. Strangelove of our generation.

Things are not going well for the President of the United States. He wants Americans to be adored by freedom-loving people everywhere. Instead, half the planet seems to be in permanent insurrection against US power. What's more, there's a growing environmental crisis that even he can't ignore. At a secret meeting in the Oval Office, the President is persuaded of one simple fact—there are too many people in the world. Only radical action, his advisers say, can deal with the problem. The solution they propose is frighteningly audacious and breathtakingly ruthless. Soon, the President has embarked upon a plan that will guarantee American supremacy for generations to come—or so he believes.

Dr. Strangelove for the Eco generation. -- Mail on Sunday
About the Author
Alistair Beaton is one of the country's leading satirical writers, and makes frequent appearances on Radio 4. His hit comedy *Feelgood* won the Evening Standard Award in 2001