

# Notes

## 1 Who Brings the Funny?

1. Obscenity, incitement to violence, and threatening the life of the president are several examples of restrictions on expression.
2. There have been several cases of threats against political cartoonists and comedians made by Islamic extremists who felt their religion was being mocked. These examples include (but are not limited to) the Danish political cartoonist who drew a depiction of the Prophet Mohammed, the creators of South Park who pretended to, and David Letterman who mocked Al Qaida.

## 3 Mirroring the Political Climate: Satire in History

1. I urge readers to review K. J. Dover's (1974) and Jeffrey Henderson's (1980) work on Aristophanes, and see Peter Green (1974) and Susanna Morton Braund (2004). Other work on Juvenal includes texts by Gilbert Highet (1960) and J. P. Sullivan (1963). I have also been directed by very smart people to Ralph M. Rosen, *Making Mockery: The Poetics of Ancient Satire*, (New York: Oxford University Press, 2007).
2. Apparently, the "definitive" Pope prose is found in the volume edited by Ault and Cowler (Oxford: Blackwell, 1936–1986), and the "definitive" text for Gay's poetry is edited by Dearing (Oxford: Clarendon, 1974).
3. The best collection from Swift comes from Cambridge Press: *English Political Writings 1711–1714*, edited by Goldgar (2008). Thanks to Dr. Sharon Harrow for her assistance in finding this authoritative resource.
4. The most authoritative biographies of Franklin are from Isaacson (2003) and Brands (2002), and I recommend readers look to these two authors for more information on one of the most fascinating of our founding fathers.

5. Mary Alice Wyman wrote a book on Seba Smith and Elizabeth Oakes Smith called *Two Pioneers* (Whitefish, MT: Kessinger Press, 2006) that contains more information about the author of “Major Jack Downing” and his wife, a poet.
6. John Adler has written a well-respected book about Nast and Tweed called *Doomed by Cartoon*. (New York: Morgan James, 2008)
7. Twain’s writings *On the Damned Human Race* have been edited by Janet Smith and published by Hill and Wang, New York (1962), Ron Powers wrote a definitive biography, *Mark Twain: A Life* (New York: The Free Press, 2006) and Mr. Twain released his own autobiography decades after his death: *Volume I*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2010. Garry Wills wrote an authoritative biography of Henry Adams called *Henry Adams and the Making of America* (New York: Mariner Books, 2007) and Adams, too, wrote an autobiography, which was released while he was still alive: *The Education of Henry Adams*; it was re-released by the Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston, in 2008.
8. The biography of Will Rogers was published by University of Oklahoma Press (2000) and a book about his political life, written by Richard White, was published by Texas Tech in 2011. Additionally, several collections of his witticisms and sayings have been published recently.
9. Terry Teachout has published a biography of Mencken titled *The Skeptic: A Life of H.L. Mencken*, (New York: Harper Perennial, 2003), and Mencken himself worked with Alisatire Cooke to publish a collection of his writings (New York: Vintage Books, 1990).
10. Andres Schifffrin’s *Dr. Seuss & Co. Go to War: The World War II Editorial Cartoons of America’s Leading Comic Artists* addresses this as well (New York: New Press, 2009).
11. Zoglin has written a book about stand-up in the 1970s called *Comedy at the Edge*. New York: Bloomsbury, 2008; I highly recommend readers with a greater interest in this area to read this book.
12. David Simmons wrote a book titled *The Anti-Hero in the American Novel* which more deeply explores the connection between literature and the counterculture of the 1960s (New York: Palgrave, 2008).
13. The most definitive work on *The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour* is a book written by David Bianculli titled *Dangerously Funny*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2009.

#### 4 Art and Profession

1. From J. A. Cuddon, *A Dictionary of Literary Terms and Literary Theory*, 3rd ed. London: Blackwell, 1991: “The term denotes a particular kind of practice in reading and, thereby, a method of criticism and mode of analytical inquiry.”

2. From the *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*: “A set of critical, strategic and rhetorical practices employing concepts such as difference, repetition, the trace, the simulacrum, and hyperreality to destabilize other concepts such as presence, identity, historical progress, epistemic certainty, and the univocity of meaning.”

## **5 Being Funny and Being Right, Being Left and Being Right**

1. Discussed in Chapter 3.
2. See *The Aristocrats*, a film described as, “One hundred superstar comedians tell the same very, VERY dirty, filthy joke,” as evidence of this.
3. There are some authoritative works on this topic, to include books from Markus Prior (2007), Cass Sunstein (2009), and Matthew Hindman (2009).
4. This reaffirms the findings from the Center for Media and Public Affairs addressed in Chapter 2.

## **6 Conclusions**

1. 501(c) groups have been used in political campaigns for years, but increasingly so since 2008.  
The Supreme Court case *Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission* gave rise to Super PACs in 2010, and since then these independent expenditure groups have been under fire from all sides, the argument being that this kind of campaign finance allowance is a corruption of American politics.
2. Potter is currently a member of the law firm Caplin & Drysdale where he works as an expert in election law. He was general counsel to John McCain’s 2008 presidential campaign.

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