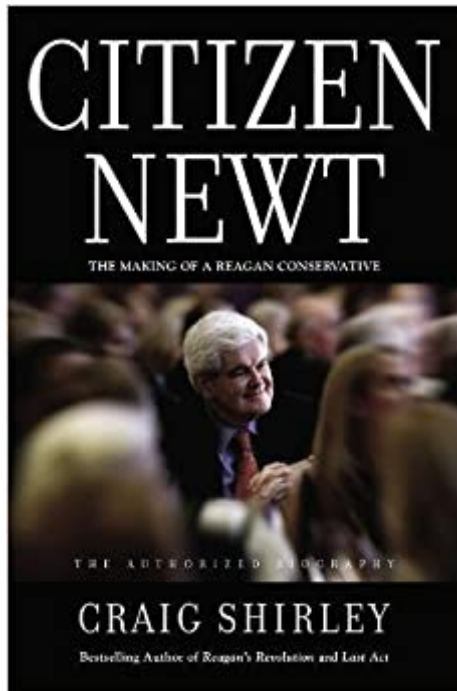




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# **Citizen Newt: The Making Of A Reagan Conservative**



## Synopsis

The definitive, authorized biography of the one of the most important, provocative, and visionary political figures of our time. In one way or another Newt Gingrich has been leading a revolution for most of his life. *Citizen Newt* is the definitive account of that struggle. Writing with the full cooperation of Speaker Gingrich and the players around him, New York Times bestselling author Craig Shirley captures the events, ideas, failures, and successes of Newton Leroy Gingrich—one of the most complex, influential, and durable political figures of our time. Returning to Gingrich's childhood in Pennsylvania and his formative years as a young history professor, *Citizen Newt* moves through Gingrich's first forays into politics and takes readers behind the scenes of the Congressman's crucial role in the Reagan Revolution, his battles with George H. W. Bush and Bill Clinton, and his masterly orchestration of 1994's "Gingrich Revolution" and the Contract with America, which catapulted him to national prominence and forever changed congressional and national politics. Drawing upon untold stories from Gingrich and those who know him best—political allies and opponents, Washington insiders and political iconoclasts, Capitol Hill staffers and colleagues—Shirley has crafted a fascinating, humorous, humanizing, and insightful account of a true American original.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Craig Shirley is the author of four critically praised bestsellers about Ronald

Reagan, *Reagan's Revolution*, *Reagan's Rendezvous with Destiny*, *Last Act*, and

Reagan Rising. His book *December 1941* appeared multiple times on the *New York Times* bestseller list. Shirley is chairman of Shirley & Banister Public Affairs and is a widely sought-after speaker and commentator. The Visiting Reagan Scholar at Eureka College, Shirley is on the Board of Governors of the Reagan Ranch and lectures frequently at the Reagan Library, and he has written extensively for the *Washington Post*, the *Washington Examiner*, the *Washington Times*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *Townhall*, *Newsmax*, *Breitbart*, *National Review*, *LifeZette*, *CNS*, and many other publications. Considered one of the foremost public intellectuals on the history of conservatism in America, Shirley is writing a book on George Washington's family.

Shirley does it again! After surveying in riveting detail the life and career of Ronald Reagan and Pearl Harbor, Shirley turns his keen eye to the heir to Reagan's legacy -- Newt Gingrich. Gingrich is a paradox and worthy of this monumental study -- a conservative radical bent on conservative ends and a willingness to stand up for principle for and against Reagan and other stalwarts and the ultimate survivor, though an unnatural politician by his own telling, a very successful one for all his faults. Shirley gets inside his subject's mind and writes with a prose that will keep the pages turning. Pick it up if you can.

It's mammoth! A tremendous narrative of the conservative movement from the 1970s through the Compact with America and sets us up well for how we got here, good and bad. Great!

I bought the ebook last night and starting reading it right away. The issues discussed in this book regarding race relations and "draining the swamp" are as relevant today as they were in the 70s. It is an excellent addition to Craig Shirley's work on Reagan chronicling one of the most important conservatives in the modern era..

If anyone is able to fully convey the history of American conservatism, it's Craig Shirley. He has a gift for presenting the behind-the-scenes work of what helped create the GOP, and a lot of that stems from Newt Gingrich's early years. It's a definite must-buy for anyone interested in political history. I highly recommend adding it to your cart.

Nobody knows the conservative movement better than Craig Shirley, and nobody is better at understanding Gingrich's history within that movement.

This "authorized biography" of Newt Gingrich by Craig Shirley just so happens to fail to include the last 25 years of the life of the subject, during which he was incredibly significantly Speaker of the United States House of Representatives (and impeached a sitting President while soon thereafter being jettisoned from office by his own caucus), ran unsuccessfully for President in 2012, and was a guiding force behind the election of Donald Trump to the presidency in 2016. Were these more controversial periods in the life of Gingrich not authorized for inclusion? President Reagan, as an actor in Kings Row, famously questioned after waking up from an amputation operation as the character Drake McHugh: "Where's the rest of me?" Unsuspecting readers of "Citizen Newt" are going to shake their heads at the end of finishing the book and ask: "Where's the rest of this biography?" Gingrich, as a trained historian, and Shirley, as a historian by trade, should understand that there are library acquisition directors who are refusing to purchase this book for their holdings because of how incomplete it is as "authorized biography." They are relying on a Publishers Weekly review of the book that pans it for lacking thoroughness. "Citizen Newt" has literally been delayed for years. It was supposed to come out just as Gingrich ran for President in 2012. It has undoubtedly had its detail boosted to 576 pages in order to justify the decision to lop off the last 25 years of the very public life of Gingrich. But no serious librarian or student of history is going to buy such justification. The term whitewash comes readily to mind, and it is baffling to consider why a respected publication house such as Thomas Nelson would allow the deceitful term "the authorized biography" on the jacket cover of its product when it is nowhere close to full, complete, and to-date biography. The Shirley books about Ronald Reagan have been edifying as seriously comprehensive looks at the subject (though I find them much more compelling in providing heretofore unreported information than I do for their storytelling or writing - which seem mediocre). It is too bad such an approach was not taken by Mr. Shirley with respect to writing about Newt Gingrich.

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