Fear of decline is one of the oldest American impulses. When we feel we are in decline, we sense that we have lost our balance. We argue about what history teaches us—and usually disagree about what history actually says. We conclude that behind every crisis related to economics and the global distribution of power lurks a crisis of the soul. In *Our Divided Political Heart: The Battle for the American Idea in an Age of Discontent*, E.J. Dionne Jr., argues that underlying our political impasse is a lost sense of national balance that in turn reflects a loss of historical memory. Americans disagree about who we are because we can’t agree about who we’ve been.

E.J. Dionne, Jr. is a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution and a syndicated columnist for *The Washington Post*. He is the author of *Why Americans Hate Politics*, *Stand Up Fight Back*, *They Only Look Dead* and *Souled Out: Reclaiming Faith and Politics after the Religious Right*. Dionne has received numerous awards, including the American Political Science Association’s Carey McWilliams Award to honor a major journalistic contribution to the understanding of politics.

Copies of *Our Divided Political Heart: The Battle for the American Idea in an Age of Discontent* will be available for purchase and signing courtesy of The Book Den.

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