

MATT BAI

Matt Bai writes on national politics for the *New York Times Magazine*, where he covered both the 2004 and 2008 presidential campaigns. His most recent work for the *Times Magazine* has included cover stories on President Obama's health care strategy ("The Insiders") and the reemergence of Newt Gingrich ("Newt. Again.") In his regular column for the magazine, Bai often explores issues of generational change in American politics and society, themes he also explored in a much-discussed cover essay in 2008 titled "Is Obama the End of Black Politics?" During the 2008 presidential primaries, he also wrote a popular online blog, "The Primary Argument," on the *New York Times* website.

Bai's 2004 coverage for the *Times Magazine* included cover pieces on the Republican machine in Ohio and a seminal cover profile of John Kerry titled "Kerry's Undeclared War." His work was honored in both the 2005 and 2006 editions of *The Best American Political Writing*.

Bai is the author of *The Argument: Inside the Battle to Remake Democratic Politics*, now available in paperback. The book, which chronicles the rise of the first Internet-age political movement and the people who built it, was honored as a New York Times Notable Book for 2007. The *Economist* called *The Argument* "engaging and painstakingly reported," and the *Washington Post* called it "unsparing, incisive and altogether engaging" and "a must read." The *Washington Monthly's* reviewer, Kevin Drum, wrote: "I had more fun reading *The Argument* than I've had reading any political book in ages. It was fun the way *The Boys on the Bus* was fun. The way *Fear and Loathing: On the Campaign Trail '72* was fun...Or maybe even the way *Primary Colors* was fun."

Bai contributed a personal essay to the anthology *I Married My Mother-in-Law: And Other Tales of In-Laws We Can't Live With—And Can't Live Without*, published by Riverhead Books in 2006. He is currently at work on a new book about the failed era of boomer politics, which will be published by Alfred A. Knopf in 2011.

Before joining the Times Magazine in 2002, Bai, 40, spent five years as a national correspondent for *Newsweek*. In 2001, he was a fellow at Harvard's Institute of Politics at the Kennedy School of Government, where he led a seminar on the next generation of political journalism. He began his career as a city desk reporter for the *Boston Globe*, and his international experience includes coverage from Iraq and Liberia.

Bai is a graduate of Tufts and Columbia's Graduate School of Journalism, where the faculty awarded him the prestigious Pulitzer Traveling Fellowship. A native of Trumbull, Connecticut, he now lives with his wife and two small children in Washington. He answers questions from readers on his website, www.mattbai.com.

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