Thomas C. Frank

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Short Biography

Thomas Frank says that he writes about “cultural politics” - and things that “baffle and annoy people.” Hence, perhaps, the name of the journal he founded and edited - The Baffler. (See the sampling of articles on page 2.)

Frank was born (1965) in Kansas City, Missouri and grew up in the local suburb of Mission Hills, Kansas. Or, as he puts it, he “pulled himself up by his bootstraps, learned to read, write, and cipher.” He graduated from Shawnee Mission East High School. He later attended the University of Kansas. He also attended the University of Virginia and the University of Chicago, where he received a Ph.D. in history in 1994. He currently lives in Washington, DC.

He has written several books, most recently What’s the Matter with Kansas?. In addition, he has written for many publications, including Harper’s Magazine, Artforum International, Financial Times, New York Times, and Los Angeles Times. An annotated bibliography of selected writings follows the listing of book reviews.
A Sampling of Articles from *The Baffler*


   On the 2002 Super Bowl.

   Free market capitalism.

   The American Legion and right wing politics.

   Herbert Gans and cultural studies movement.

   With Jay Rosen, an exchange on public journalism, media industry, and democracy.

   Middle class culture and the media.

   Ideology, media, and US labor.


   America's rightward drift, fueled by the market, as revealed in popular culture

Selected Reviews of Thomas Frank’s Books

*Published in Great Britain as What’s the Matter with America?: The Resistible Rise of the American Right* (2004)


"Recent Books of Note: Here Are a Few We Found Compelling." Rev. of What's the Matter With Kansas?, by Thomas Frank, and other books. Sojourners 33.12 (2004): 27(1).


(with David Mulcahey)


Commodify Your Dissent: Salvos from The Baffler (1997) 
(with Matt Weiland)


Selected Articles by Thomas Frank


---. "After Hours." New Republic 231.17 (2004): 38-.
---. "Red State America is Pitted Against itself." The Athens News Sep 7 2004: N/A.
---. "How the Left Lost its Heart; Now, the Working Class Has no True Champion." Los Angeles Times Jul 18 2004: M.1.


---. "What is this Thing Called Brand?" *Advertising Age* 71.46 (2000): 48-52.


