

mike pence conversion therapy

Mike Pence Conversion Therapy: Exploring the Controversy and Impact

mike pence conversion therapy is a phrase that often surfaces in discussions about LGBTQ+ rights and political discourse in the United States. As the former Vice President under the Trump administration, Mike Pence's stance on LGBTQ+ issues, particularly his support for conversion therapy, has sparked significant debate and criticism. Understanding the nuances behind this topic requires delving into conversion therapy itself, Pence's political history, and the broader implications for the LGBTQ+ community.

What Is Conversion Therapy?

Conversion therapy, also referred to as reparative therapy, is a set of practices aimed at changing an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity. These methods have been widely discredited by major medical and psychological organizations globally due to their harmful effects. Despite this, certain political figures, including Mike Pence, have historically supported or endorsed the practice.

The Origins and Methods of Conversion Therapy

Conversion therapy has roots stretching back decades, often grounded in the belief that homosexuality or transgender identities are mental disorders or sinful behaviors that can be "corrected." Techniques have ranged from talk therapy to more extreme measures such as electroshock therapy or aversive conditioning. Modern medical consensus rejects these approaches, emphasizing that sexual orientation and gender identity are natural variations of human experience.

Mike Pence's Political History and LGBTQ+ Policies

Mike Pence's political career is marked by conservative views on social issues, particularly regarding LGBTQ+ rights. As Governor of Indiana and later Vice President, Pence's policies reflected his commitment to traditional values, which often clashed with the growing movement for LGBTQ+ equality.

Support for Conversion Therapy

One of the most controversial aspects of Pence's record is his support for conversion therapy. Before assuming national office, Pence expressed openness to the practice, advocating for its availability to those seeking it. He has suggested that individuals facing same-sex attraction or gender identity questions might benefit from counseling aimed at changing these traits.

While Pence has sometimes attempted to soften his language on the topic, his alignment with

conversion therapy advocates has remained a point of concern for LGBTQ+ activists and allies. Many argue that his stance perpetuates stigma and endorses practices proven to cause psychological harm.

Legislative Actions and Public Statements

As governor, Pence signed legislation that some critics say enabled discrimination against LGBTQ+ individuals, such as the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) in Indiana. This law was perceived by many as a license to refuse services to LGBTQ+ people based on religious beliefs, further fueling debates around equality and civil rights.

Additionally, Pence's public statements have often emphasized traditional family values and opposed same-sex marriage and transgender rights, reinforcing his conservative approach to LGBTQ+ issues.

The Impact of Mike Pence Conversion Therapy Support on Society

The endorsement of conversion therapy by public figures like Mike Pence has real-world consequences. Understanding these effects sheds light on why the practice remains a hot-button issue and why many states and organizations have moved to ban it.

Mental Health Risks Associated with Conversion Therapy

Numerous studies have documented the detrimental mental health outcomes linked to conversion therapy, including increased rates of depression, anxiety, substance abuse, and suicidal ideation among participants. The American Psychological Association and other leading bodies have condemned the practice, emphasizing that it is not only ineffective but dangerous.

When influential leaders advocate for or normalize conversion therapy, it can validate harmful beliefs and discourage individuals from seeking supportive, affirming care. This is particularly damaging to young LGBTQ+ people who are vulnerable to rejection and mental health challenges.

Legal and Social Backlash

In response to the harms of conversion therapy, many states and municipalities have enacted bans on the practice, especially for minors. These legislative efforts reflect growing recognition of LGBTQ+ rights and the need to protect individuals from abusive therapies.

Mike Pence's support for conversion therapy has often put him at odds with these progressive movements, highlighting the ongoing cultural and political struggle over LGBTQ+ acceptance in the U.S.

Understanding the Broader LGBTQ+ Rights Movement

To fully grasp the significance of Mike Pence conversion therapy controversies, it's essential to consider the broader context of LGBTQ+ rights advocacy and the shifts in public opinion over recent decades.

From Marginalization to Mainstream Acceptance

Over the past 30 years, there has been remarkable progress in social acceptance and legal protections for LGBTQ+ individuals. Marriage equality, anti-discrimination laws, and increased visibility in media and politics have helped foster a more inclusive society.

However, resistance remains, often rooted in religious or cultural conservatism. Figures like Mike Pence embody this opposition, advocating policies that reflect traditional values but are seen by many as exclusionary or harmful.

The Role of Education and Advocacy

Efforts to educate the public about the realities of LGBTQ+ lives and the dangers of conversion therapy have been crucial in shifting attitudes. Activists and organizations work tirelessly to promote affirming approaches to mental health and to support legislative bans on conversion therapy.

By understanding the historical and political backdrop of Mike Pence conversion therapy support, allies and advocates can better address misconceptions and push for policies that uphold dignity and respect for all individuals.

The Future of Conversion Therapy and Political Influence

Despite strong opposition, conversion therapy has not disappeared entirely. The influence of political leaders and cultural attitudes continues to shape its prevalence and acceptance.

Changing Political Landscapes

With evolving public opinion and increasing awareness of LGBTQ+ rights, politicians face growing pressure to reject conversion therapy and endorse inclusive policies. Younger generations, in particular, tend to favor acceptance and support for diverse identities.

Mike Pence's legacy in this area serves as a reminder of the political divides that persist. As new leaders emerge, the hope is for a shift towards more compassionate, evidence-based approaches to LGBTQ+ issues.

Empowering Individuals and Communities

Ultimately, overcoming the shadow of conversion therapy requires empowering LGBTQ+ individuals with access to affirming care, education, and community support. Rejecting harmful practices and promoting acceptance can improve mental health outcomes and foster a society where everyone feels valued.

Understanding the controversies surrounding Mike Pence's conversion therapy is a step toward recognizing the challenges faced by the LGBTQ+ community and the ongoing work needed to achieve equality and respect.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Mike Pence's stance on conversion therapy?

Mike Pence has been criticized for his past support of conversion therapy, a practice aimed at changing an individual's sexual orientation, which many consider harmful and discredited.

Has Mike Pence ever publicly supported conversion therapy?

Yes, during his political career, Mike Pence has expressed support for conversion therapy, particularly during his time as Governor of Indiana.

What impact did Mike Pence's support for conversion therapy have on LGBTQ+ communities?

Mike Pence's support for conversion therapy contributed to concerns among LGBTQ+ advocates about the promotion of practices that are widely regarded as psychologically damaging and unethical.

Did Mike Pence implement any policies related to conversion therapy?

As Governor of Indiana, Mike Pence did not enact laws banning conversion therapy and was seen as opposing measures to restrict the practice.

How have critics responded to Mike Pence's views on conversion therapy?

Critics have condemned Mike Pence's views on conversion therapy, arguing that it perpetuates stigma and discrimination against LGBTQ+ individuals.

Has Mike Pence's position on conversion therapy changed over time?

There is no clear public record indicating that Mike Pence has significantly changed his stance on

conversion therapy; he has generally maintained conservative views on LGBTQ+ issues.

What is conversion therapy and why is it controversial in the context of Mike Pence?

Conversion therapy refers to practices aimed at changing a person's sexual orientation or gender identity. It is controversial because it is widely discredited and considered harmful, and Mike Pence's past support of it has sparked debate about his views on LGBTQ+ rights.

How does Mike Pence's stance on conversion therapy align with broader Republican Party views?

Mike Pence's support for conversion therapy aligns with a faction of the Republican Party that holds socially conservative views on LGBTQ+ issues, though the party is diverse and some members oppose such practices.

What have LGBTQ+ advocacy groups said about Mike Pence's connection to conversion therapy?

LGBTQ+ advocacy groups have criticized Mike Pence for his association with conversion therapy, highlighting the practice's harmful effects and calling for greater protections for LGBTQ+ individuals.

Additional Resources

Mike Pence Conversion Therapy: An Investigative Review of Policies and Implications

mike pence conversion therapy has become a focal point in the broader discussion surrounding LGBTQ+ rights and political influence in the United States. As a prominent conservative figure and former Vice President under the Trump administration, Mike Pence's stance on conversion therapy—a controversial practice aimed at changing an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity—has drawn significant attention from activists, policymakers, and the media. This article delves into the historical context, Pence's personal and political affiliations with conversion therapy, and the broader social and legislative implications of such views.

Understanding Conversion Therapy and Its Controversies

Conversion therapy, also known as reparative therapy, involves psychological or spiritual interventions intended to alter an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity. Despite widespread condemnation from major health organizations such as the American Psychological Association and the World Health Organization, which label the practice as ineffective and harmful, conversion therapy remains legal in many parts of the United States and the world.

The practice is frequently associated with increased risks of depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation among LGBTQ+ individuals. As such, legislative efforts have been underway in various states to ban

conversion therapy, especially for minors, positioning the issue as a critical human rights concern.

Mike Pence's Political History Related to Conversion Therapy

Mike Pence's political career is closely intertwined with conservative Christian values, which have often shaped his perspectives on LGBTQ+ issues. During his tenure as Governor of Indiana (2013-2017), Pence did not explicitly endorse conversion therapy in public statements but was aligned with a political base that has historically supported such practices.

Pence's Legislative Environment in Indiana

Indiana's legislative landscape under Pence featured policies that some critics argue indirectly supported the environment in which conversion therapy could persist. For example, the controversial Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA), signed into law in 2015, was perceived by many as enabling discrimination against LGBTQ+ individuals under the guise of religious liberty.

While Pence did not publicly promote conversion therapy, his administration's lack of support for banning the practice and his broader conservative stance fueled speculation about his tacit approval. Moreover, Pence's personal background as a born-again Christian and advocate for traditional family values has been interpreted as aligned with proponents of conversion therapy.

National Influence and Vice Presidency

As Vice President from 2017 to 2021, Pence's influence on national policy extended to various social issues, including LGBTQ+ rights. Although the Trump-Pence administration did not explicitly promote conversion therapy at the federal level, several appointments and policy decisions suggested a permissive attitude toward conservative approaches to gender and sexuality.

For instance, the administration rolled back several protections for transgender individuals and supported religious exemptions that critics argue could allow conversion therapy practices to continue unimpeded. Pence's own past statements have underscored his belief in traditional marriage and opposition to same-sex marriage, which indirectly relate to the ideological underpinnings of conversion therapy.

Public Statements and Personal Views

Mike Pence's public commentary on LGBTQ+ issues provides insight into his stance on conversion therapy. While he has not openly advocated for conversion therapy in recent years, earlier interviews and speeches reveal his opposition to LGBTQ+ rights expansions, which some interpret as implicit support for therapies aimed at "correcting" sexual orientation.

In a 2000 interview, Pence remarked that homosexuality was a "choice" and that he supported efforts to change individuals' sexual orientation, which aligns with the principles behind conversion therapy. Over time, Pence has moderated his rhetoric but has maintained conservative positions that resonate with the conversion therapy debate.

Impact on LGBTQ+ Communities

The association of Mike Pence with conversion therapy has had tangible effects on LGBTQ+ communities, particularly in conservative regions. Advocacy groups argue that political leaders who embrace or tolerate conversion therapy contribute to environments where LGBTQ+ individuals face discrimination, stigma, and mental health challenges.

Conversely, supporters of Pence's views argue that his positions reflect religious freedom and parental rights, emphasizing the need for diverse perspectives on sexual orientation and gender identity. This dichotomy underscores the complexity of the conversation surrounding conversion therapy and its place in American society.

Legal and Social Trends Regarding Conversion Therapy in the U.S.

In recent years, a growing number of states and municipalities have enacted bans on conversion therapy, primarily targeting its use on minors. These legislative efforts reflect mounting evidence of the practice's harm and a societal shift toward greater acceptance of LGBTQ+ identities.

- **State Bans:** Over 20 states, including California, New York, and Illinois, have banned conversion therapy for minors.
- **Federal Discussions:** While no comprehensive federal ban exists, bills such as the Therapeutic Fraud Prevention Act have been introduced periodically.
- **Public Opinion:** Surveys indicate increasing public opposition to conversion therapy, especially among younger generations.

Despite these trends, conversion therapy remains legal in many regions, often due to resistance from conservative lawmakers who cite religious or parental rights. This resistance aligns with the ideological framework associated with political figures like Mike Pence.

Comparative Perspectives: Pence vs. Other Political Figures

Comparing Mike Pence's approach to conversion therapy with other political figures highlights the polarization of the issue. Progressive leaders actively campaigning to ban conversion therapy contrast sharply with Pence's conservative stance, which emphasizes tradition and religious liberty.

For example, President Joe Biden has explicitly condemned conversion therapy and supported federal bans, signaling a stark policy divergence from Pence's ideological environment. This contrast not only reflects differing political priorities but also shapes the lived experiences of LGBTQ+ individuals across the country.

The Future of Conversion Therapy and Political Influence

The debate over conversion therapy continues to evolve, influenced by scientific research, cultural shifts, and political leadership. Mike Pence's legacy on this issue serves as a case study in how political ideology intersects with public health and civil rights.

While Pence himself may not currently champion conversion therapy publicly, his historical positions and affiliations with conservative Christian groups contribute to ongoing discussions about the practice's legality and morality. As more states move to restrict or ban conversion therapy, the role of influential political figures in shaping these policies remains critical.

Advocates for LGBTQ+ rights emphasize education, mental health support, and inclusive policies as alternatives to conversion therapy, highlighting a growing consensus against the practice. However, the persistence of conservative viewpoints ensures that conversion therapy will remain a contentious and highly politicized topic in American society.

Through examining Mike Pence conversion therapy connections, one gains valuable insight into the complexities of political influence on LGBTQ+ issues, the interplay between religion and policy, and the ongoing struggle for equality and human dignity.

Mike Pence Conversion Therapy

mike pence conversion therapy: **Mike Pence** Amanda Sales, 2018-12-15 This biography paints a picture of an intriguing and complex individual who rose from a small-town Midwestern boy to a major player in world politics. From his early days as an altar boy to hosting a popular radio program to obtaining a seat in Congress and then becoming Governor of Indiana, Mike Pence has filled numerous roles, all leading to his most important one yet as running mate of Donald Trump in the 2016 presidential election. Readers will follow the journey of the staunch Christian, conservative, and Republican who became the Vice President of the United States.

mike pence conversion therapy: Queering Families, Schooling Publics Anne Harris, Stacy Holman Jones, Sandra Faulkner, Eloise Brook, 2017-09-19 At a time of increasingly diverse and dynamic debates on the intersections of contemporary LGBTQ rights, trans* visibility, same-sex families, and sexualities education, there is surprisingly little writing on what it means to queer notions of family and kinship networks in global context. Building on the recent wave of scholarship on queerness in families and how families intersect with schools, schooling and educational institutions more broadly, this book considers how we are taught to enact family at home, at school and through the media, and how this pedagogy has shifted and changed over time. Conceived as a collection of keywords that take up the vocabulary of queerness, queering practices, and queer families, the authors employ a nuanced intersectional approach to connect the damaging and

persistent invisibility of their subject to the complex and dominant and normalizing discourses of marriage and family. Offering post-structural, post-humanist, and new materialist perspectives on kinship and the family, this book moves the conversation forward by critically interrogating and expanding upon current knowledges about gender diversity, queer kinship, and pedagogy.

mike pence conversion therapy: Foolproof: Why Misinformation Infects Our Minds and How to Build Immunity Sander van der Linden, 2023-03-21 Winner of the SPSP Book Prize for the Promotion of Social and Personality Science • Winner of the 2024 APA William James Book Award • Winner of the 2024 Harvard Goldsmith Book Prize • Winner of the 2024 Nautilus Book Award • A Next Big Idea Club Must-Read • A Financial Times Best Book of the Year • One of Nature's best science picks • One of Behavioral Scientist's Notable Books of 2023 Informed by decades of research and on-the-ground experience advising governments and tech companies, Foolproof is the definitive guide to navigating the misinformation age. From fake news to conspiracy theories, from inflammatory memes to misleading headlines, misinformation has swiftly become the defining problem of our era. The crisis threatens the integrity of our democracies, our ability to cultivate trusting relationships, even our physical and psychological well-being—yet most attempts to combat it have proven insufficient. In Foolproof, one of the world's leading experts on misinformation lays out a crucial new paradigm for understanding and defending ourselves against the worldwide infodemic. With remarkable clarity, Sander van der Linden explains why our brains are so vulnerable to misinformation, how it spreads across social networks, and what we can do to protect ourselves and others. Like a virus, misinformation infects our minds, exploiting shortcuts in how we see and process information to alter our beliefs, modify our memories, and replicate at astonishing rates. Once the virus takes hold, it's very hard to cure. Strategies like fact-checking and debunking can leave a falsehood still festering or, at worst, even strengthen its hold. But we aren't helpless. As van der Linden shows based on award-winning original research, we can cultivate immunity through the innovative science of "prebunking": inoculating people against false information by preemptively exposing them to a weakened dose, thus empowering them to identify and fend off its manipulative tactics. Deconstructing the characteristic techniques of conspiracies and misinformation, van der Linden gives readers practical tools to defend themselves and others against nefarious persuasion—whether at scale or around their own dinner table.

mike pence conversion therapy: Handbook of Evidence-Based Mental Health Practice with Sexual and Gender Minorities John E. Pachankis, Steven A. Safren, 2019-04-01 Historically, mental health clinical research has taken inadequate account of psychosocial disorders experienced by those who identify as sexual and gender minorities, however, researchers have recently begun developing and adapting evidence-based mental health treatment approaches for use with these groups. Handbook of Evidence-Based Mental Health Practice with Sexual and Gender Minorities offers a comprehensive array of evidence-based approaches for treating sexual and gender minority clients' mental health concerns. The interventions detailed here span a diverse spectrum of populations, including sexual and gender minority youth, transgender populations, same-sex couples, sexual minority parents, and bisexual individuals. Chapters also address numerous mental and behavioral health problems, including anxiety disorders, depression, substance abuse, trauma, body image disturbance, and sexual health. In addition to an overview of the research evidence supporting each clinical presentation and approach, chapters contain practical how-to guidance for therapists to use in their clinical practice. This book reflects a true integration of the best of sexual and gender minority research and the best of evidence-based practice research, presented by the leading experts in the field. As such it is essential reading for mental health professionals who work with these groups, as well as trainees in social work, counseling, and clinical psychology.

mike pence conversion therapy: So You Think You Can Think Christopher W. DiCarlo, 2020-06-03 Unlike any other time in history, we are inundated with information from many sources of media, and depending on one's ideology, the results can be fractious. Everyone's racing to catch up to what is reliable, dependable, and true – all the while, feeling deep, emotional, attachments to our personal understanding of important issues. It has unfortunately become fashionable to claim

that what people feel about issues should be taken as seriously as the facts about those issues. Emotional attachment to specific viewpoints and the facts about the world are often two completely different things, and we need to keep them distinct. The skill set of Critical Thinking allows us to better separate facts from feelings and acknowledges that there is value to our beliefs, our ideas, and our opinions and that some are simply better than others. But what makes these objects of the mind and influences of behavior good, bad, better, or worse? Luckily, much of the hard work has already been done. Philosophers, mathematicians, logicians, scientists, writers, and many others have developed the Critical Thinking tools that require all of us to make such valued distinctions. Here, DiCarlo has taken six of the most important tools and distilled them into a skill set that is easy to remember and practical to apply in everyday life. This skill set provides anyone with the capacity to be mature, diplomatic, and fair, and to disagree in a civil manner. For the majority of us, developing such skills will not happen overnight ... or in a week, or a month. It is something that is ongoing and requires continuous practice, development, and use. And in today's age of immediacy, with information and opinion just a click away, there seems to be less and less time in which to practice such skills. Perhaps this is one of the reasons so many people are feeling their way through issues rather than thinking critically about them. With a better understanding of the tenets of critical thinking, though, readers will come away from this book with a renewed sense of engagement with thoughts, opinions, feelings, and facts.

mike pence conversion therapy: Chelsea Clinton Cathleen Small, 2017-12-15 Chelsea Clinton was immersed in politics when she moved into the White House for her father Bill Clinton's first inauguration. Her studies in history, politics, and public health set her on the path to lead interfaith and cross-cultural education initiatives. The influence of her mother Hillary Clinton imbues Chelsea's personal and professional life. Possessing her father's charisma and her mother's tenacity, Chelsea embraces her family background as she advocates for numerous global issues, including women's rights.

mike pence conversion therapy: The 2016 American Presidential Campaign and the News Jim A. Kuypers, 2018-03-14 This book examines perhaps the most contentious election in modern US history—the 2016 United States presidential election. It is unique in its discussion of a wide range of issues affecting the news media coverage of the election, coming from an equally diverse range of intellectual perspectives including the rhetorical, social-scientific, communication studies, and media studies. With eleven chapters grounded in hard evidence and communication theory, *The 2016 American Presidential Campaign and the News: Implications for American Democracy and the Republic* examines significant topics such as fake news, media construction of Hillary Clinton's and Donald Trump's campaign personalities, media bias, visual meme depictions of the candidates, identity politics in the news, Trump's Twitter use, entertainment news, and social media as news. These chapters individually and collectively provide a direct commentary on the implications of the 2016 campaign news coverage for the future of the American Republic and political communication in the media.

mike pence conversion therapy: The Selfie Generation Alicia Eler, 2017-11-07 Whether it's Kim Kardashian uploading picture after picture to Instagram or your roommate posting a mid-vacation shot to Facebook, selfies receive mixed reactions. But are selfies more than, as many critics lament, a symptom of a self-absorbed generation? Millennial Alicia Eler's *The Selfie Generation* is the first book to delve fully into this ubiquitous and much-maligned part of social media, including why people take them in the first place and the ways they can change how we see ourselves. Eler argues that selfies are just one facet of how we can use digital media to create a personal brand in the modern age. More than just a picture, they are an important part of how we live today. Eler examines all aspects of selfies, online social networks, and the generation that has grown up with them. She looks at how the boundaries between people's physical and digital lives have blurred with social media; she explores questions of privacy, consent, ownership, and authenticity; and she points out important issues of sexism and double standards wherein women are encouraged to take them but then become subject to criticism and judgment. Alicia discusses the

selfie as a paradox—both an image with potential for self-empowerment, yet also a symbol of complacency within surveillance culture The Selfie Generation explores just how much social media has changed the ways that people connect, communicate, and present themselves to the world.

mike pence conversion therapy: Feminasty Erin Gibson, 2025-04-08 From the wickedly funny and feminist creator and host of the Throwing Shade podcast, a collection of hilarious personal essays and political commentary perfect for fans of Lindy West and Roxane Gay. Since women earned the right to vote a little under one hundred years ago, our progress hasn't been the Olympic sprint toward gender equality first wave feminists hoped for, but more of a slow, elderly mall walk (with frequent stops to Cinnabon) over the four hundred million hurdles we still face. Some of these obstacles are obvious-unequal pay, under-representation in government, reproductive restrictions, lack of floor-length mirrors in hotel rooms. But a lot of them are harder to identify. They're the white noise of oppression that we've accepted as lady business as usual, and the patriarchy wants to keep it that way. Erin Gibson has a singular goal-to create a utopian future where women are recognized as humans. In Feminasty -- titled after her nickname on the hit podcast Throwing Shade -- she has written a collection of make-you-laugh-until-you-cry essays that expose the hidden rules that make life as a woman unnecessarily hard and deconstructs them in a way that's bold, provocative and hilarious. Whether it's shaming women for having their periods, allowing them into STEM fields but never treating them like they truly belong, or dictating strict rules for how they should dress in every situation, Erin breaks down the organized chaos of old fashioned sexism, intentional and otherwise, that systemically keeps women down.

mike pence conversion therapy: The Intelligence Trap David Robson, 2019-08-06 A “startling, provocative and potently useful” (James McConnachie, Times UK) examination of the stupid things intelligent people do. The Intelligence Trap explores cutting-edge ideas in our understanding of intelligence and expertise, including “motivated reasoning,” “meta-forgetfulness,” and “functional stupidity.” David Robson reveals the surprising ways that even the brightest minds and most talented organizations can go wrong?from some of Thomas Edison’s worst ideas to failures at NASA—while offering practical advice to avoid mistakes based on the timeless lessons of Benjamin Franklin, Richard Feynman, and Daniel Kahneman.

mike pence conversion therapy: The Shadow President Michael D'Antonio, Peter Eisner, 2024-08-06 It presents an entirely damning portrait of Pence. You've seen his colors before, but not so vividly and in this detail. —Frank Bruni, The New York Times Producing a biography of a living, controversial politician is always difficult. D'Antonio and Eisner have succeeded in this well-documented, damning book. Cue the outrage from Sean Hannity et al. — Kirkus Reviews (starred review) In this well-rounded, deeply-investigated biography, the first full look at the vice president, two award-winning journalists unmask the real Mike Pence. Little-known outside his home state until Donald Trump made him his running mate, Mike Pence—who proclaims himself a Christian first, a conservative second, and a Republican third—has long worn a carefully-constructed mask of Midwestern nice. Behind his self-proclaimed humility and self-abasing deference, however, hides a man whose own presidential ambitions have blazed since high school. Pence's drive for power, perhaps inspired by his belief that God might have big plans for him, explains why he shocked his allies by lending Christian credibility to a scandal-plagued candidate like Trump. In this landmark biography, Pulitzer Prize-winner Michael D'Antonio and Emmy-nominated journalist Peter Eisner follow the path Pence followed from Catholic Democrat to conservative evangelical Republican. They reveal how he used his time as rightwing radio star to build connections with powerful donors; how he was a lackluster lawmaker in Congress but a prodigious fundraiser from the GOP's billionaire benefactors; and how, once he locked in his views on the issues—anti-gay, pro-gun, anti-abortion, pro big-business—he became laser-focused on his own pursuit of power. As THE SHADOW PRESIDENT reveals, Mike Pence is the most important and powerful Christian Right politician America has ever seen. Driven as much by theology as personal ambition, Pence is now positioned to seize the big prize—the presidency—and use it to fashion a nation more pleasing to his god and corporate sponsors.

mike pence conversion therapy: Facts Don't Care About Your Feelings Ben Shapiro, 2019-09-20 They say history repeats itself. We've got a lot of work to do to end up on the right side of it after Election Day 2020. This curated selection of columns is quintessential for any Ben Shapiro fan or skeptic. He offers a sharp, insightful reflection on American politics and culture over the last few years. Between elites who just can't get down from their soapboxes, the left's "thought fascism," the rampant media, and more, the nation is in trouble. And if conservatives don't act fast, they'll get what they deserve . . .

mike pence conversion therapy: Whining Doesn't Win Ben Shapiro, 2019-03 Democrats are pulling out all their stops to defeat President Trump and Republicans, and now they're getting desperate. First came the screaming—"We have to do something!" Then came the whining—"This is a national disgrace!" It's too politically useful for them to not rail at whatever they can, from the Kavanaugh nomination to the Trump-Russia collusion conspiracy. For provocative radio host Ben Shapiro, the "voice of conservative millennials," these tactics have made a circus out of American politics, and Trump is not the star performer. Read all about the acts under the big top in this collection of his 2018 syndicated columns.

mike pence conversion therapy: Faith-Based Influences on Legislative Decision Making: Emerging Research and Opportunities Drenner, Karla L., 2021-11-19 In recent years, state legislatures in the United States have been transformed based on the social identities of their membership. At its most fundamental level, the debate over LGBTQ rights always has been a debate over the right of LGBTQ people to exist. While the role faith plays in legislative decision making is rooted within government functions, careful examination and change must be conducted to protect the humanity of those at risk through these influences. *Faith-Based Influences on Legislative Decision Making: Emerging Research and Opportunities* explores the balance between religious freedoms of legislators and the human rights of members of the LGBTQ community. Examining the politics and institutional forces brought to bear on LGBTQ claims for visibility, recognition, and dignity, this book is organized into three sections, each of which uses a distinct institutional lens—historical, legal, and religious. The author attempts to demonstrate that while the clash of cultures between these groups is real, it is not simple. The faith worldviews of each share common structural features but often reach extremely different conclusions. Covering topics such as marriage equality, religious liberty, and court cases, this book is an essential resource for students and educators in political science, policymakers, legislators, historians, sociologists, researchers, universities, administrations, community leaders, and academicians.

mike pence conversion therapy: From the Campaign Trail or Thereabouts Michael Bleicher, Andy Newton, 2019-09-06 *From the Campaign Trail or Thereabouts* is the story of two insulated Upper West Side journalists, Harold Carlyle, a self-serving, incompetent reporter desperate to save both his career and marriage, and his wife, Pattie, an observant, sharp-tongued, and successful television critic. When Harold is assigned to cover the 2016 Presidential Election, he devises a scheme to save his marriage by taking Pattie with him across the country. *From the Campaign Trail or Thereabouts* dives into the contradictory, divided, and all-too-often unsettling state of the union. Like *Huckle Finn* meets *Game Change*, the novel examines the politicians and popular figures who played starring roles in 2016 and holds up a mirror to the electorate that ultimately made Trumpism possible.

mike pence conversion therapy: Pedagogies of Post-Truth Ahmet Atay, David H. Kahl Jr., 2021-12-06 *Pedagogies of Post-Truth* explores the national and international political developments in what has been called a post-truth society; specifically, in which conservative groups target media outlets claiming fabrication of news and that the veracity of evidence-based reporting should be questioned. Truth has been reduced to the validation of opinions instead of the presentation of scientific facts. This collection responds to these issues by initiating a scholarly dialogue about teaching in the era of post-truth in which research-based findings that do not align with political viewpoints are judged, criticized, and often described as "fake." Contributors evaluate the pedagogical challenges of post-truth discourse and how post-truth messages negatively affect

instructors and students. By highlighting ways instructors and students can resist the hegemony of post-truth, this book creates a dialogue among scholars, illustrates the challenges, and offers pedagogical techniques to discuss “post-truth,” the role of the educator, the role of media, and the role of other story-makers of our society.

mike pence conversion therapy: *Blue-State Republican* Mileah K. Kromer, 2022-11-18 A political scientist's perspective on the rise of Republican Larry Hogan as governor of the heavily Democratic state of Maryland and what lessons the Republican Party might learn from his success--

mike pence conversion therapy: *Queer Campus Climate* Benjamin Arnberg, 2020-02-21 *Queer Campus Climate: An Ethnographic Fantasia* is a visceral and provocative account of the lives of ten queer college men living in the Deep South. The book serves many goals. It is an emancipatory research document told in the raucous, fiery voices of these queer men whose narratives are presented free from the sanitizing impulses of traditional scholarship. It is a manifesto on postqualitative paradigms applied to a queer subject. It is a public history of the life and times of queers subjects living under an alt-right political assault. And it is an analysis of how a hostile campus climate impacts psychosocial development of marginalized students. Blurring the line between literature and research, *Queer Campus Climate: An Ethnographic Fantasia* contains a cast of characters (including a bear, a twink, and three drag queens) who dish on sex, gender performance, mental wellness, relationships, harassment, addiction, professional development, and politics. Their stories are told against a musical backdrop that includes selections from Puccini to Frank Ocean, which provides a multisensory experience unlike anything else in sociological research.

mike pence conversion therapy: *Gay Conversion Practices in Memoir, Film and Fiction* James E. Bennett, Marguerite Johnson, 2024-06-13 For over half a century, organizations and individuals promoting ex-gay, conversion and/ or reparative therapy have pushed the tenet that a person may be able to, and should, alter their sexual orientation. Their so-called treatments or therapies have taken various forms over the decades, ranging from medical (including psychiatric or psychological) rehabilitation approaches, to counselling, and religious healing. *Gay Conversion Practices in Memoir, Film and Fiction* provides an in-depth exploration of the disturbing phenomenon of gay conversion 'therapy' and its fictional and autobiographical representations across a broad range of films and books such as *But I'm a Cheerleader!* (1999), *This is What Love in Action Looks Like* (2011) and *Boy Erased* (2018). In doing so, the volume emphasizes the powerful role the arts and media play in communicating stories around conversion practices. Approaching the timely and urgent subject from an interdisciplinary perspective, contributors utilize film theory, queer theory, literary theory, mental health and social movement theory to discuss the medicalization and pathologizing of queer people, the power of institutions ranging from church, psychiatry and family (sometimes in alliance), and the real and fictional voices of survivors.

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