



Rednecks & Bluenecks: The Politics of Country Music

Chris Willman

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Now in paperback, the nationally acclaimed *Rednecks and Bluenecks* is veteran *Entertainment Weekly* journalist Chris Willman's lively account of "how music makes strange political bedfellows and how artists' perceived politics change over time" (*Booklist*). How did the erstwhile music of the rural working class come to be the music of choice of the GOP? *Rednecks and Bluenecks* looks at the way country's increasing popularity and conservative drift parallel the transformation of the Democratic South into the heart of the Republican mainstream.

Written in a "breezy, irreverent style" (*Publishers Weekly*), *Rednecks and Bluenecks* "explore[s] the left- or right-wing leanings of his subjects, from heavyweights like the Dixie Chicks, Toby Keith, Steve Earle, Brooks & Dunn, and Clint Black to newer, minor artists like the Drive-By Truckers." Interviewing "nearly everyone who's anyone in country music, from Merle Haggard and Loretta Lynn to current superstars like Ronnie Dunn" (*In These Times*), Willman makes clear that country is a place where a passionate American political debate is taking place.

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