



With piercing moral clarity and exacting rigor, Wayne Barrett tracked political corruption fact by fact, document by document for 40 years in the pages of the *Village Voice*. The first to uncover – in 1979 – the crooked deals that fueled the rise of Donald Trump, Barrett's prescient reporting on routine betrayals of the public trust and the racism and greed that defined them is collected now for a new generation of readers in this first ever anthology of his work. Accompanied by intimate essays from friends who worked alongside the legendary muckraker, *Without Compromise* sheds new light on how the country arrived at today's crisis point. In an age of lies, fog, and propaganda, when the profession of journalism is degraded by the White House and the industry is under financial threat, Barrett reminds us that facts, clearly accumulated, are worth fighting for.

“In this two-part history we’ve been looking into a world where only the greed is magnified. The actors are pretty small and venal. Their ideas are small, never transcending profit. In it, however, are the men elected to lead us and those who buy them. And in it, unhappily, are the processes and decisions that shape our city and our lives.” – Wayne Barrett, in the conclusion to his 1979 Village Voice articles on young Donald Trump.

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Advance praise for *Without Compromise*:

“As Donald Trump rose to power, no journalist busted him earlier or better than the late investigative reporter Wayne Barrett, whose indispensable work is gathered in *Without Compromise*. Barrett’s pieces provide an x-ray into Trump’s soul, and into the civic corruption that fueled his rise. These stories are essential reading, alive with fresh insights and information illuminating today’s politics, and remind us that rigorous journalism is still democracy’s best defense.” —**Jane Mayer, author of *Dark Money: The Hidden History of the Billionaires Behind the Rise of the Radical Right*.**

“An instantly classic collection by one of the greatest reporters New York ever produced, and one of the greatest of his era. Few could combine righteous fury with dogged attention to detail like Barrett.

This collection is a treasure and (somewhat maddeningly) a reminder that the fools, crooks, and wannabe strongmen that have our republic dangling over a precipice have been this way for a long, long time.” — **Chris Hayes, host of *All In with Chris Hayes* and author of *A Colony in a Nation*.**

“These pages bring Wayne Barrett back to life in all his investigative glory, his moral clarity, his righteous rage. Barrett was prescient, not just about Donald Trump and Rudy Giuliani, but also about how, time and time again, individuals and institutions would fail to rein in the greed of those who feed off the public trough and to address the racism that undergirds both public policy and private behavior. Wayne Barrett’s life and work continue to inspire, especially at a time when truth and facts are under siege. He had a mantra: ‘The job of our profession is discovery, not dissertation.’ Journalists are paid to tell the truth, he said, and that he did, no matter who, no matter what.” — **Sheila Coronel, Dean of Academic Affairs and Director Stable Center for Investigative Journalism, Columbia Journalism School.**



Though Barrett died the night before Donald Trump took office, his reporting has trailed the president through the ensuing years, forming the basis of dozens of subsequent investigative pieces. Wayne spent decades chronicling the corrupt political and business milieu that produced Trump, along with Rudolph Giuliani, Roger Stone, Roy Cohn, Michael Cohen, and many lesser-known scoundrels who have faded into the patina of history. Working from a deep well of outrage, an abiding faith in the power of journalism and the sheer joy of digging for the truth, Barrett unmasked a parade of crooked pols and scam artists. His columns on the kickbacks, payoffs and special favors that loot the public till are methodical, fact-packed, eloquently written – and often delightfully fun – antidotes to the confusion and befuddlement of this post-truth era. Taken together they tell the story of the turn of the 21st century, how decisions steeped in racism and greed brought the city and the country to the precipice it is at today. ***Without Compromise*** is a call to action for the dogged, painstaking work of investigative reporting – and a reminder to keep fighting for what's true.

With the most important election in modern history fast approaching, Barrett's laser focused and passionate journalism illuminates how we got here and reminds us, again and again, with clarity, relentless drive and an ultimate optimism, that we deserve better: honest leadership beholden to the public good, ***Without Compromise***.

"What made Wayne special as a reporter were his commitment to facts, his moral vision, and his indefatigable persistence in pursuit of a story. He believed we had a duty as journalists to uncover the truth for readers. Reading Wayne's work today allows us to see contemporary political issues and personalities within the context of recent history. It's a yardstick by which to measure today's journalism." **Joe Conason, Editor at Large, Type Investigations, Editor in Chief, *The National Memo*, worked closely with Wayne Barrett at *The Village Voice* from 1978 until 1990.**

"What I learned diving into the totality of Barrett's work is that his career tracked the post-fiscal crisis city, the deals with the devil we made then that shaped the next 40 years. One logical outcome was the rise of Trump, another was the endless austerity that squeezes the life out of neighborhoods and makes high class corruption a norm. As the city enters a period of economic crisis that has folks invoking the bad old days of the 70s, Barrett's work is filled with lessons on what not to do. And as the country belatedly struggles to disentangle racism from our national core, Barrett's is the story of a white reporter who was at his deepest center motivated by outrage at the structural racism he saw as a young man. Barrett read it as the undertow of nearly every political act. That was an outer analysis for much of his career, a common one today." **Eileen Markey, editor, *Without Compromise*.**

The following elements are included in the book, and all are available of interviews:

- Preface by **Joe Conason**
- Essays by **Kim Phillips-Fein** on how the fiscal crisis gave rise to Donald Trump.
- **Errol Louis** on the need for Barrett's depth of accumulated knowledge.
- **Gerson Borrero** on how a Barrett maintained relationships, even with people he skewered.
- **Tom Robbins** on Barrett's long relationship with Rudy Giuliani.
- **Tracie McMillan** on learning to calculate racism's financial cost.
- **Peter Noel** on what Barrett understood about the endemic nature of racism.
- **Adam Fifield** on working for an impossible boss, and loving it.
- **Jarrett Murphy** on what Barrett learned about the mayor who bought New York.
- **Andrea Bernstein** on chasing Barrett's Trump work and carrying it on.
- **Jennifer Gonnerman** on the mentor who never gave up.
- **Mac Barrett** on his father's life and legacy.



Editor Eileen Markey is an assistant professor of Journalism and Media Studies at Lehman College City University of New York where she tries to teach students as well as Barrett taught her when she was an intern in 1997. She's written widely on housing, migration, public memory and religion and social movements. She is the author of *A Radical Faith: The Assassination of Sr. Maura*, also from Bold Type Books.

Available September 29, 2020 from Bold Type Books. For information, interviews and booking, contact:

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Potential topics for discussion with Markey, Conason or the essay contributors:

- How 1970s NYC fiscal crisis gave rise to Donald Trump; Trump had a thousand fathers, a thousand respectable enablers in NY politics and business.
- The racism embedded in budgetary choices, including those facing NYC and the nation during today's COVID crisis.
- How the political and budget choices of the 1980s and 90s built the militarized policing BLM is confronting today.
- The power of investigative journalism, the long gaze and mentoring but also their paucity in today's reactive and warp-speed media landscape.
- "Objective reporting" vs the journalism of focused anger. Public information, transparency and democracy.
- Crooks, some long gone, some still haunting the halls of power, colorful and shocking characters from recent political history.
- Rudy Giuliani. What he was, what he became, why Barrett was brokenhearted by him.
- Mayor Bloomberg's role in the death of two firefighters.
- Looting. What do we call looting, what profit?
- What we deserve. The essential optimism of Barrett's work and why hope is necessary for change.

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About Bold Type Books

Bold Type Books is a project of Type Media Center and an imprint of the Hachette Book Group. Founded in 1966 (as The Nation Institute), Type Media Center is home to a half-dozen programs and a community of hundreds of journalists, authors, and writing fellows.