



Fall 10-18-2018

Priess '93 Focuses on Attempts to Remove Former U.S. Presidents in New Book

Rachel McCarthy
Illinois Wesleyan University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news>

Recommended Citation

McCarthy, Rachel, "Priess '93 Focuses on Attempts to Remove Former U.S. Presidents in New Book" (2018). *News and Events*. 3805.
<https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news/3805>

This Article is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It has been brought to you by Digital Commons @ IWU with permission from the rights-holder(s). You are free to use this material in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/ or on the work itself. This material has been accepted for inclusion by faculty at The Ames Library at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@iwu.edu.

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

Priess '93 Focuses on Attempts to Remove Former U.S. Presidents in New Book

Oct. 18, 2018

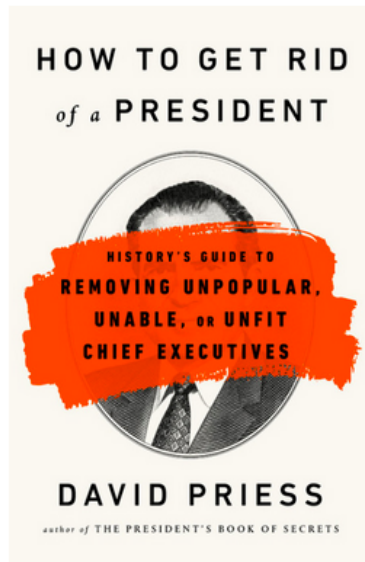
BLOOMINGTON, Ill. — Drawing upon his experience working with U.S. presidents as a former CIA intelligence officer, Illinois Wesleyan University alum David Priess '93 has authored a new book focusing on past attempts to disempower the President of the United States.

Scheduled for a Nov. 13 release, [*How to Get Rid of a President: History's Guide to Removing Unpopular, Unable, or Unfit Chief Executives*](#) offers a glimpse into the backroom ways that past presidents have been undermined, impeached, betrayed, and even assassinated amidst political intrigue.

In his new book, Priess attempts to provide a dark, humorous take on the morbid topics that surround political intrigue in an effort to offer context for current political turmoil. Though the U.S. Constitution has limits designed to keep the president in check, Priess' book argues that the way in which historical figures and groups have resorted to more underhanded means might be more telling of how our democracy functions.



David Priess '93



How to Get Rid of a President:
History's Guide to Removing
Unpopular, Unable, or Unfit Chief
Executives

As a former CIA intelligence officer, manager and daily intelligence briefer, Priess interacted regularly with former presidents Bill Clinton and George W.

Bush. One of his duties during their administrations was to write key sections of the President's Daily Brief (PDB), a document summarizing highly classified intelligence reports, which Priess expanded upon in his 2016 book [*The President's Book of Secrets: The Untold Story of Intelligence Briefings to America's Presidents*](#).

In addition, Priess gave daily briefings to FBI Director Robert Mueller and Attorney General John Ashcroft during his time with the CIA. Since leaving government office, Priess has offered political commentary in the *Washington Post*, *Foreign Affairs*, *Foreign Policy*, *Lawfare*, *Politico*, *War on the Rocks*, *The Cipher Brief*, *Skeptic* and *the Houston Chronicle*. He has appeared as a national security and political commentator on multiple CNN, MSNBC, Fox News, NPR and BBC programs.

Priess taught political science classes at Duke University, George Washington University and George Mason University, before taking on the role of director of analytic services for a Virginia-based consulting firm that offers mentoring and consulting to the intelligence community in public and private sectors.

Priess graduated with a political science degree from Illinois Wesleyan University in 1993, before earning a master's and Ph.D. in political science from Duke. He is currently a Visiting Fellow at the National Security Institute of George Mason University.

By Rachel McCarthy '21