



Matt Bai

Matt Bai is the chief political correspondent for the *New York Times Magazine*, where he covered both the 2004 and 2008 presidential campaigns and is now writing on the 2012 election. He also writes the "Political Times" column for the *Times* political blog, the Caucus.

Bai often explores issues of generational change in American politics and society. His seminal cover stories in the magazine include the 2008 cover essay "Is Obama the End of Black Politics?" and a 2004 profile of John Kerry titled "Kerry's Undeclared War." More recently, he wrote a definitive cover story on New Jersey Governor Chris Christie and a 10,000-word cover piece titled "Who Killed the Debt Deal?" His work has twice been honored in *The Best American Political Writing*.

Bai is also the author of *The Argument: Inside the Battle to Remake Democratic Politics*, now available in paperback. The book, which chronicles the rise of the first Internet-age political movement and the people who built it, was honored as a New York Times Notable Book for 2007. The *Economist* called *The Argument* "engaging and painstakingly reported," and the *Washington Post* called it "a must read." The *Washington Monthly's* reviewer, Kevin Drum, wrote: "I had more fun reading *The Argument* than I've had reading any political book in ages. It was fun the way *The Boys on the Bus* was fun. The way *Fear and Loathing: On the Campaign Trail '72* was fun...Or maybe even the way *Primary Colors* was fun."

Bai contributed a personal essay to the anthology *I Married My Mother-in-Law: And Other Tales of In-Laws We Can't Live With—And Can't Live Without*, published by Riverhead Books in 2006. He is currently at work on a new book about the failed era of boomer politics for Alfred A. Knopf.

Before joining the *Times Magazine* in 2002, Bai, 43, spent five years as a national correspondent for *Newsweek*. In 2001, he was a fellow at Harvard's Institute of Politics at the Kennedy School of Government, where he led a seminar on the next generation of political journalism. He began his career as a city desk reporter for the *Boston Globe*, and his international experience includes coverage from Iraq and Liberia.

Bai is a graduate of Tufts and Columbia's Graduate School of Journalism, where the faculty awarded him the prestigious Pulitzer Traveling Fellowship. A native of Trumbull, Connecticut, he now lives with his wife and two children in Bethesda, Maryland.