Clinton Cash

Clinton Cash: The Untold Story of How and Why Foreign Governments and Businesses Helped Make Bill and Hillary Rich is a 2015 New York Times bestselling book by Peter Schweizer, in which he investigates donations made to the Clinton Foundation by foreign entities, paid speeches made by Bill and Hillary Clinton, and the Clintons' personal enrichment since leaving the White House in 2001.

The New York Times, The Washington Post and Fox News were granted exclusive agreements with the book’s author to pursue the story lines found in the book. In the wake of the book’s publication, the Clinton Foundation admitted that it made mistakes in disclosing some of its contributions, and it implemented new rules increasing financial reporting and limiting foreign donations.

In May 2016, a film adaptation of the book, funded by co-founder of Government Accountability Institute and Breitbart News executive chairman Stephen Bannon, was screened at the Cannes Film Festival. The film’s U.S. premiere is scheduled for July 24 in Philadelphia (ahead of the 2016 Democratic National Convention there) and the film will have a limited release in four other major U.S. cities in early August. On that same day, Breitbart News uploaded the film on YouTube.

1 Synopsis

Hillary Clinton being sworn in as Secretary of State in 2009. Her husband and former U.S. President, Bill Clinton, holds the Bible.

Clinton Cash is an investigation of the foreign benefactors of Bill and Hillary Clinton and the Clinton Foundation. It investigates alleged connections between Clinton Foundation donors and Hillary Clinton’s work at the State Department.

The book argues that the Clinton family accepted lavish donations and speaking fees from foreign donors at times when the State Department was considering whether or not to award large contracts to groups and people affiliated with those donors.

The book is organized into eleven chapters. Some chapters focus on particular transactions or deals, such as the creation of UrAsia Energy and Uranium One in Kazakhstan, and the connection shareholders had and have to the Clintons. Other chapters focus on a broader set of relationships, particularly with regard to Bill Clinton’s paid speeches during the years Hillary Clinton served as Secretary of State, and whether those paying for his speeches had significant business before the State Department. Schweizer dubs the Clintons’ blend of government service and private remuneration the “Clinton blur.”

2 Publication


The first New York Times article generated from the outlets exclusive agreement with Schweizer centered on the complicated history of Uranium One, a company which controls 20% of U.S. uranium production capacity and which eventually ended up in Russian hands. The acquisition needed to be approved by several government agencies, including the State Department. While Hillary Clinton was serving as Secretary of State, her husband’s foundation was receiving millions of dollars from people with financial stakes in Uranium One. The Times concluded that it is “unknown” whether the donations played a role in the deal’s approval, but that they presented “special ethical challenges.” Schweizer echoed that conclusion in an interview where he stated that there is “no direct evidence” that Hillary Clinton intervened on the issue but that the donation is part of “a broader pattern” that “warrants further investigation.”

The day the book was published, Hillary Clinton’s campaign set up a portal called “The Briefing” on its official website. The Briefing is designed to rebut the alle-
gations made in Schweizer’s book. Clinton’s campaign manager, John Podesta, wrote: “The book has zero evidence to back up its outlandish claims...While we will not be consumed by these kinds of attacks, we will also not let them go unchallenged.” Various spokespeople for the Clintons disputed the book’s allegations.[13]

3 Reception

Clinton Cash debuted at number two on the New York Times Best Seller list. Writing for The Washington Post, academic and political activist Lawrence Lessig wrote “On any fair reading, the pattern of behavior that Schweizer has charged is corruption.” Ed Pilkington, writing for The Guardian, wrote that “Even in the hyper-partisan world of American political publishing, the storm generated by the latest book about the Clintons has been impressive.” Pilkington writes that Schweizer does not prove corruption on the part of the Clintons, but that he reveals several “glaring conflicts of interest.”[12] James Freeman reviewed the book for The Wall Street Journal, writing that “Almost every page of the fascinating Clinton Cash...will be excruciating reading for partisans on both sides of the aisle” and that “The fact that even liberal media outlets are taking the book seriously suggests that a post-election payday is getting harder to achieve.”[15]

PolitiFact.com confirmed that between leaving the White House in 2001 and 2013, Bill Clinton made thirteen speeches for which he commanded more than $500,000. Eleven of these thirteen speeches were made while Hillary was at the State Department.[16]

Several weeks after the book’s initial publication, Harper Collins and the author made several corrections to the Kindle edition of the book. Schweizer corrected “seven or eight” passages that were revealed to be inaccurate after the book was released.[7] FactCheck.org found Schweizer’s assertion that Clinton, as Secretary of State, could have stopped Russia from buying a company with extensive uranium mining operations in the U.S. to be false.[17] PunditFact found the assertion that Clinton changed her views on a nuclear deal with India in response to donations to her family’s foundation to be false.[18] A spokesman for Bill Clinton disputed charges that Clinton was paid for speeches by Dennis O’Brien of Digicel in exchange for help in securing telecommunications contracts in Haiti in 2010.[19]

4 Impact

Journalist and former Bill Clinton staffer George Stephanopoulos donated a total of $75,000 over several years to the Clinton Foundation, but he did not disclose the donations to ABC News, his employer, or to his viewers.[20] Stephanopoulos did not reveal the donations even on April 26, 2015, while interviewing Schweizer about Clinton Cash.[20] After exposure of the donations by Politico on May 14, 2015, Stephanopoulos apologized and said that he should have disclosed the donations to ABC News and its viewers.[20][21] The story was broken by The Washington Free Beacon which had aggressively questioned ABC News regarding the matter.[22] The donations had been reported by the Clinton Foundation, which Stephanopoulos had considered sufficient. ABC News characterized this as “an honest mistake.”[21]

Based on Stephanopoulos’ donations to the Clinton Foundation and his behavior during prior interviews and presidential debates, Republican Party leaders and candidates expressed their distrust and called for him to be banned from moderating 2016 presidential debates due to bias and conflict of interest.[22][23] He agreed to drop out as a moderator of the February 2016 Republican presidential primary debate.[24]

5 See also

- Government Accountability Institute

6 References


[24] Bash, Dana (May 15, 2015). “Stephanopoulos seeks to move past Clinton donations scandal”. CNNMoney (Atlanta, Georgia). Retrieved 15 May 2015. On “The Daily Show” last month, Stephanopoulos said that when foreign governments and other entities give millions to the Clinton foundation, “everybody” knows there’s “a hope that that’s going to lead to something, and that’s what you have to be careful of.”

7 External links

- Clinton Cash at Harper Collins
- Peter Schweizer interview with Brian Lehrer
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8.1 Text


8.2 Images


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