

## A Fall Cornucopia of Readings

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For those wanting something more than the television and internet “breaking news” versions of the state of our political affairs, this column will provide references to articles appearing in thought-provoking periodicals. *If you are reading this column online, each article’s title serves as a link to that article.* If you are reading this column in print, you can use your favorite search engine to find the articles yourself. However, if you really want to experience reading at its finest, you should go ahead and buy print copies—remember those? There’s still something so satisfying about holding a physical artifact and turning its pages, one-by-one. Plus, if you buy your own copy, you can tear out pages and attach them to your fridge door with magnets—the real things look much more aesthetically pleasing than a printout from a computer. If you don’t want to store those pesky publications in your already over-crowded home, find them in a library—but, remember, do **not** tear out any pages from a library copy! So, here goes—Michael Cantwell and I are offering these suggestions for your fall reading pleasure:

### From *The Atlantic Monthly*

**Ta-Nehisi Coates, [“The First White President”](#)** . . . “It is often said that Trump has no real ideology, which is not true—his ideology is white supremacy, in all its truculent and sanctimonious power.”

**Jack Goldsmith, [“Will Donald Trump Destroy the Presidency?”](#)** . . . Donald Trump is testing the institution of the presidency unlike any of his 43 predecessors. We have never had a president so ill-informed about the nature of his office, so openly mendacious, so self-destructive, or so brazen in his abusive attacks on the

courts, the press, Congress (including members of his own party), and even senior officials within his own administration.”

### From *The Nation*

**Katrina Vanden Heuvel, [“What’s Even Scariest Than Donald Trump?”](#)** . . .

“President Trump’s increasingly manic careenings are terrifying to behold, but the remorseless suicide mission of the Republicans caucus in Congress should horrify us as well.”

**David Dayen, [“How America’s Biggest Bank Paid Its Fine for the 2008 Mortgage Crisis—With Phony Mortgages”](#)** . . .

“Here’s how the alleged scam worked. JPMorgan moved to forgive the mortgages of tens of thousands of homeowners; the feds, in turn, credited these canceled loans against the penalties due under the 2012 and 2013 settlements. But here’s the rub: In many instances, JPMorgan was forgiving loans it no longer owned.”

**Julie Reynolds, [“How Many Palm Beach Mansions Does A Wall Street Tycoon Need: Vulture Capitalists Devour the News”](#)** . . . “Think of those luxury homes as the shuttered offices and fired workers of hometown newspapers across the United States, because gutting those newspapers helped make spending \$57.2 million on 16 Palm Beach mansions a trifling expense for the tycoon.”

### From the *New Yorker*

**Ryan Lizza, [“John Kelly and the Dangerous Moral Calculus of Working for Trump”](#)** . . . “Sean Spicer learned this on his first day on the job, when Trump sent him into the White House briefing room to tell the press lies about Inauguration-crowd

sizes. He never recovered.”

**Amy Davidson Sorkin, [“Why Bush and Obama Shouldn’t Hold Back in Criticizing Their Successor”](#)** . . . “this is a time when each man’s party needs him, if in different ways: the Democrats to organize their despair and anger, the Republicans to articulate the nature of their doubt and compromises.”

**From *The New York Times***

**Paul Krugman, [“Lies, Lies, Lies, Lies, Lies, Lies, Lies, Lies, Lies, Lies, Lies, Lies”](#)** . . . “Modern conservatives have been lying about taxes pretty much from the beginning of their movement . . . But the selling of tax

cuts under Trump has taken things to a whole new level, both in terms of the brazenness of the lies and their sheer number.”

**From *Rolling Stone***

**Matt Taibbi, [“The Madness of Donald Trump: The pressures of the presidency have pushed Trump to the edge, but is he crazy enough to be removed from office?”](#)** . . . “The president of the United States is seeing things. He might as well be shooin imaginary ants off his suit. His followers still love him, but even they're starting to notice. They come for the old standards, but this new Trump material gets mixed reviews.”