

Someone asked me the other day, "How has *The Nation* survived for 150 years?" There's the astonishing loyalty of our readers, who see us as a magazine and a website, but also as a cause and a community. There's our independence of thought and ownership that has meant we are beholden to no one. There's our abiding belief that it's possible—by the passionate airing of bold ideas—to force new perspectives into the public debate. On this exciting anniversary, we're passionate about introducing *The Nation* and its mission to the next generation of readers.

— **Katrina vanden Heuvel**
Editor & Publisher of *The Nation*



► "It's more than a magazine—it's a crucible of ideas."

—President
Barack Obama



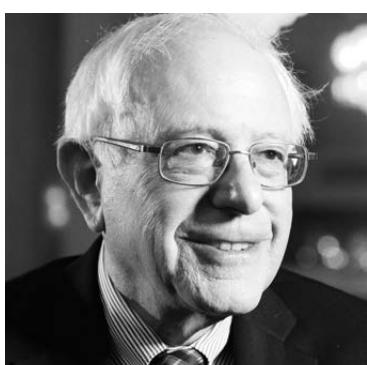
► "An indispensable voice in our political dialogue."

—Elizabeth Warren



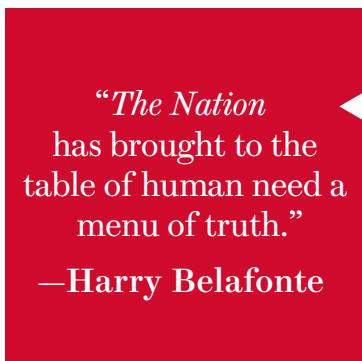
"We are better people as Americans because of *The Nation* magazine."

—Bill de Blasio



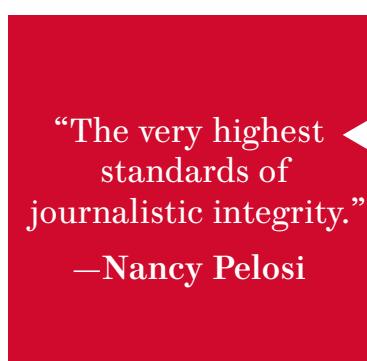
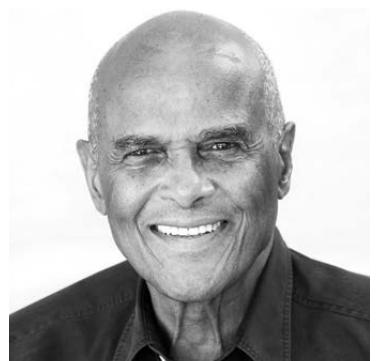
► "[*The Nation*] has never played a more important role than it does today."

—Bernie Sanders



"*The Nation* has brought to the table of human need a menu of truth."

—Harry Belafonte



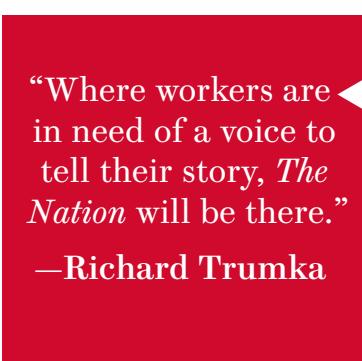
"The very highest standards of journalistic integrity."

—Nancy Pelosi



► "...for showing that community and uniqueness go together; and for proving that we can only lose our power by failing to use it."

—Gloria Steinem



"Where workers are in need of a voice to tell their story, *The Nation* will be there."

—Richard Trumka





► PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA

President of the United States (2010–present)

In an era of instant, 140-character news cycles and reflexive toeing of the party line, it's incredible to think of the 150-year history of *The Nation*. It's more than a magazine—it's a crucible of ideas forged in the time of Emancipation, tempered through depression and war and the civil-rights movement, and honed as sharp and relevant as ever in an age of breathtaking technological and economic change. Through it all, *The Nation* exhibited that great American tradition of expanding our moral imaginations, stoking vigorous dissent, and simply taking the time to think through our country's challenges anew.

If I agreed with everything written in any given issue of the magazine, it would only mean that you are not doing your jobs. But whether it is your commitment to a fair shot for working Americans, or equality for all Americans, it is heartening to know that an American institution dedicated to provocative, reasoned debate and reflection in pursuit of those ideals can continue to thrive.

ELIZABETH WARREN ◀

US senator from Massachusetts (2013–present)

The *Nation* has been a fixture in our household for over thirty years. Throughout that time, and for more than a century before that, it has prodded, challenged and informed readers. It has demanded that we act on the progressive values that will make our communities, our nation and the world fairer and more just for everyone. It is an indispensable voice in our political dialogue. I look forward to reading it for many years to come.



► RICHARD TRUMKA

President of the AFL-CIO

The *Nation* and America's first labor union were founded within a year of each other. Over the last 150 years, both have served as strong voices for working men and women. We celebrate *The Nation*'s tremendous achievements, while recognizing the work that remains. Across our country and around the world, workers are falling behind while big corporations continue to put profits before people. Falling wages have made it harder for families to get by, and corporate money funds right-wing efforts to silence the voices of men and women in the workplace. In the face of long odds and determined opponents, publications like *The Nation* are needed now more than ever. Where there are dark places, *The Nation* will be there to shine a light. Where there is injustice, *The Nation* will be there to speak out. Where workers are in need of a voice to tell their story, *The Nation* will be there; and just as they have for the last century and a half, Americans will be reading.

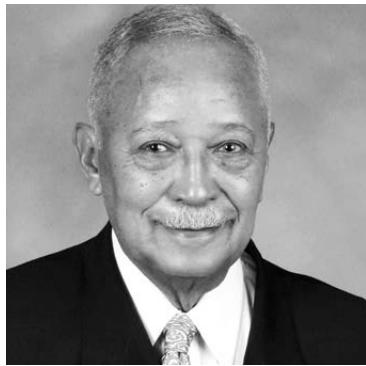


ELINOR TATUM ◀

Publisher and editor in chief, *New York Amsterdam News*

The *Nation* magazine and the *Amsterdam News* have stood shoulder to shoulder on so many issues over the decades. While *The Nation* is the oldest continuously published magazine in the country, the *New York Amsterdam News* is considered the oldest continuously published black newspaper in America. That being said, the struggles that both publications have faced have made us kindred spirits. *The Nation* has given a voice to the often unseen and unheard and has put into context the struggle of America in a way accessible to all people. I salute *The Nation* for 150 years of honest, steadfast and unbending reporting in a world that sometimes would much rather hear fiction.





► DAVID DINKINS

Mayor of New York City from 1990 to 1993

The *Nation* has been a tireless advocate for the progressive voice since its founding right here in New York City in 1865. Writers and intellectuals such as Langston Hughes, Howard Zinn, W.E.B. Du Bois, I.F. Stone and too many others to name have contributed their unrivaled insight into the pressing issues of the day. From the need for civil service reform during the Gilded Age and the expansion of social programs in the decades following World War II to the imprisonment of Nelson Mandela in 1962 and his subsequent release twenty-seven years later, it was *The Nation* that illuminated these issues long before widespread recognition brought them to the forefront of the national consciousness.

Throughout its 150 years, *The Nation* has endured as the “flagship of the left” and served as a beacon for those dedicated to the promotion of liberal ideals—even as other periodicals shut down production. I have no doubt that as a new wave of progressivism sweeps across both New York City and the country as a whole, *The Nation* will continue to adhere to its principles and launch the kinds of essential conversations that have earned it its place as the iconic progressive American publication. May *The Nation* continue its fine work for 150 more years.

NANCY PELOSI ◀

US representative from California (1987–present)



For 150 years, *The Nation* has achieved the very highest standards of journalistic integrity—with courageous reporting, fearless coverage, brutal honesty and a refreshingly progressive voice in our civic discourse. From the shadow of the Civil War through the present day, *The Nation* has left an enduring imprint on the lives of its readers and on the life of our country. In every era and every generation, *The Nation* remains an institution defined by new thinking and new ideas, devoted to the core American principles of justice, equal treatment and a free press—and its contributions will remain vital, essential and invaluable for decades to come.

► BERNIE SANDERS

US senator from Vermont (2007–present)

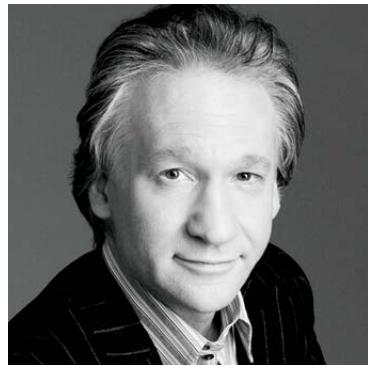
Throughout *The Nation*'s long and distinguished history, the magazine has never played a more important role than it does today. At a time when a handful of huge media conglomerates own and control what we see, hear and read, *The Nation* has filled the information void by focusing attention on the major issues that the corporate media ignore or downplay. *The Nation* has been at the forefront of analyzing the collapse of the American middle class, exposing the obscene level of wealth and income inequality in America, and opposing Supreme Court decisions that allow billionaires to buy elections and subvert American democracy. *The Nation* has been loud and clear about the need to reverse the planetary crisis of global warming and make sure our children live on a planet that is habitable. What I love about *The Nation* is that, decade after decade, it continues the fight for a vibrant democracy and social, economic and environmental justice for all.

JOHN WATERS ◀

American film director and actor



Reading *The Nation* makes me yearn for the days of the “red diaper” baby! Oh, how I wish I had been a communist sympathizer in the '50s. But no, I was born too late so I had to settle for being a yippie and then, as I matured politically, morphed into a bleeding-heart liberal with admittedly “limousine” tendencies. Preaching to the converted is not necessarily a bad thing, and I depend on *The Nation* to keep me thinking in the right (left) way just in case I get too big for my social and financial britches.



► BILL MAHER

Stand-up comedian, television host

The *Nation* is America's oldest continuously published weekly magazine, but it hardly shows its age. In a field of boutique journals, it remains a leviathan. When I chide Democratic politicians to grow a spine, it is to the truth-seeking prose of *The Nation* that I could point them for an example of what I mean. It, as much as any institution, has sought to cast a beam of disinfecting sunlight on the murky messes in both the public and private sectors. (It railed against the excesses of the Catholic Church long before I was an atheist, or, for that matter, a zygote.)

As a producer of a weekly TV show that features hopefully smart and witty panelists, I often turn to the stable of *Nation* workhorses. The crosshatched section in the Venn diagram of *Nation* contributors and my guests has included Noam Chomsky, Gore Vidal, Christopher Hitchens, Jeremy Scahill, Hunter S. Thompson, Melissa Harris-Perry, Ralph Nader, Tom Hayden, Kurt Vonnegut, Naomi Klein, Calvin Trillin and, of course, current editor and publisher Katrina vanden Heuvel.

DAN RATHER ◀

Journalist and former anchor for the *CBS Evening News*



For 100 years, *The Nation* has provided consistently uncompromising and important journalism and, in so doing, has made itself a vital, influential voice in the American discussion. It's worth the subscription price for its deep-digging investigative reports alone, but there's so much more: thoughtful coverage and analysis of international affairs, domestic policy and elective politics, plus opinion pieces and commentaries that regularly touch off new sunbursts of thought, whether you agree with them or not.

► MIKHAIL GORBACHEV

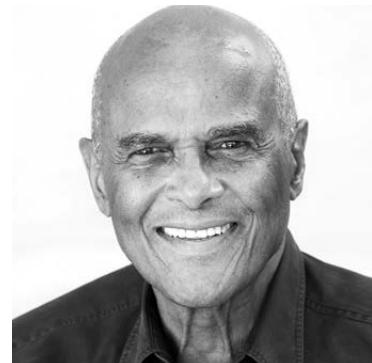
Soviet Union head of state from 1988 to 1991

I am happy to convey my greetings to *The Nation* and its contributors and readers. It is very important that a magazine that stands for left-wing, progressive ideas has an audience in America. Today, such ideas are of particular relevance as a counterweight to concepts that, though they have different names in different countries, endorse and promote inequality and put vested interests above the interests of the people. My life, which spanned a large part of the twentieth century and continues in the new one, has made me a supporter of social democracy. I see social democratic ideals as humankind's best hope for avoiding social and environmental catastrophes and building a safer, more just and stable world order. I am confident that *The Nation* will continue its thought-provoking work, bringing together concerned individuals disturbed by the current state of the world and ready to act in order to change it for the better.



HARRY BELAFONTE ◀

Singer, songwriter, actor and social activist



Controlling what people know is a critical component in shaping how people behave. Human behavior is conditioned by how people are informed. In its 150 years of existence, *The Nation* has brought to the table of human need a menu of truth. Its stories enlighten us and give us choices in ascertaining how to deal with the complexities of daily life. They fuel our need for honesty. Knowing that mortality is non-negotiable, I express regret that I shall not be here to celebrate *The Nation*'s next 150 years. I sincerely hope its mission and purpose will endure.



► ALEC BALDWIN

American actor

In my lifetime, the most significant, nontechnological change in the area of politics is the transformation of media. Traditionally liberal media—and I define liberal as willing to publish stories that attack/offend the White House, CIA, FBI, Pentagon or Wall Street without reservation (*The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, NPR, *Harper's*, *The New York Review of Books*)—have taken to pulling their punches. Hard news that is not about covering some natural disaster or mass shooting, news that exposes the essential friction between democracy and capitalism and how that conflict may best be managed, is viewed as a castor oil that should be taken on an as-needed basis.

Concurrently, Fox has achieved ratings supremacy by offering the culturally and economically disenfranchised, Nixon's former "silent majority," a series of scapegoats for their devolution.

Perhaps Fox's greatest success, remarkably, has been in pulling even many moderates to the right and liberals to the center by demonizing liberal thought as un-American, even seditious, while the network's indefatigable online armies attack their chosen liberal targets 24/7, minus a newspaper's correction page. There are few places where one can still read thorough, courageous journalism. *The Nation* is one such publication.

GLORIA STEINEM ◀

American feminist, journalist, and social and political activist

When I first moved to New York in the 1960s, I made a list of all the things New Yorkers did that made me afraid of them. They ate rare meat, they said things three times that Midwesterners wouldn't say once, they lived by past political divisions I'd never heard of, and they argued all the time.

Gradually, I discovered that repetition was passion, that those political divisions were still playing out in the present, that arguing was evidence of caring—and that it was OK I became a vegetarian.

I want to thank *The Nation* for being my most consistent and long-term instructor in all these things; for giving me the inspiration of voices like Victor Navasky, Patricia J. Williams and Katha Pollitt; for demonstrating how to argue with respect for each other and the facts; for showing that community and uniqueness go together; and for proving that we can only lose our power by failing to use it.



► NORMAN BIRNBAUM

Editorial board member

I began to read *The Nation* at age 12 in 1938, the year of the Nazi seizure of Austria, the Munich capitulation to Hitler, the November pogrom in Germany, the departure of the International Brigades from Spain, an ominous respite in the Stalinist purges in the USSR, FDR's failed campaign against reactionary Southern Democrats, and a US recession occasioned by federal budget cuts. As reader, writer and member of the editorial board, I have been with *The Nation*, then, for half of its lifetime and most of mine. Its large and steady contribution to the education of successive generations (my late daughter was an intern) has been to combine the depiction of immediate events with a large historical perspective. Culture and politics, for *The Nation*, remain inseparable. I am sure that my younger contemporaries are worthy of the inheritance and am equally sure that the next seventy-five years will see *The Nation* rise to the challenge.





► JIM HIGHTOWER

Former Texas secretary of agriculture, grand populist

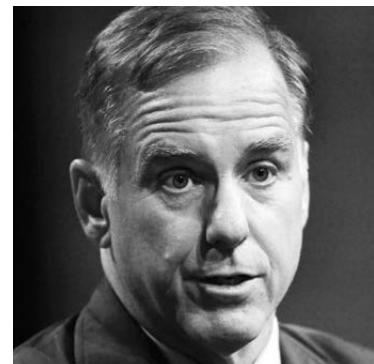
For many of us, *The Nation* actually is a nation. It's a large, sprawling, complex society—people from all walks of life who share a broad domain of progressive thought and cultural sensibility. What unifies this conceptual nation is that everyone who chooses to enter has a passion for actually implementing America's core democratic values of economic fairness, social justice and equal opportunity for all.

Every week, *The Nation* brings us together to observe and absorb, piece by piece, the larger world, and to consider how we as individuals and as a progressive community both fit into it and can affect it (or not). Like the town square bulletin boards and taverns of revolutionary America, this magazine is a natural gathering place for twenty-first-century thinkers, activists, strategists, dreamers, iconoclasts, provokers (and, yes, some hotheads, oddballs and blowhards)—all of whom help plant, enrich, refine, protect and advance progressive thought in our time.

In this day of digitalization and electronic isolation, we need a place to belong, collaborate and build something important together. To help achieve the astonishingly rich potential for our nation, be a part of *The Nation* and make it your own.

HOWARD DEAN ◀

Governor of Vermont from 1991 to 2003



Serious investigative journalism has been abandoned in the last twenty years by all but a handful of American media organizations as many outlets have become mere profit centers for large corporations. Fortunately, *The Nation* continues to stand out as a fearless publication that is willing to take on the tough assignments that upset corporations, entrenched interests and particularly the authoritarian-leaning far right. Katrina vanden Heuvel and those who have gone before her over the last 150 years have not always been right, but they have always provided a perspective that has allowed America to have the debates we must have and which have saved our democracy when it was most endangered.

► RALPH NADER

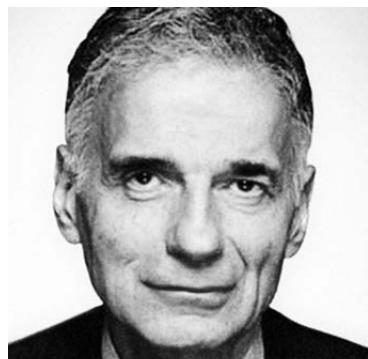
Consumer advocate

Early in 1959, before going into the Army, I dropped by Carey McWilliams's office to give him my article that he later titled "The Safe Car You Can't Buy" [see *The Nation*, April 11, 1959]. That was only one example of the venerable *Nation* editor's sense of what was newsworthy in contrast to his advertisement-indentured peers in the mainstream press. For those were the times when it was taboo to print or report on TV and radio any critical report on unsafe motor vehicles, especially by naming make and model.

McWilliams's office that regular day was piled with newspapers from all over the country. He scanned them and ripped out interesting items that could become articles or become material for his editorials in *The Nation*. His editorials awed his peers. They were fresh, cogent, courageous and beautifully written. His workload and output were prodigious.

This son of California—an origin he never forgot to cover in the magazine—put out, with very few assistants, a weekly edition of *The Nation* during some very lonely, bigoted and red-baiting times.

It wasn't for McWilliams to give up discovering young and older writers or to settle for the "least worst" of political parties or candidates. Long before Jimmy Carter used the phrase, he was driven by the question "Why not the best?" On *The Nation*'s 150th anniversary, let's remember McWilliams and learn from his exemplary carriage of this magazine for so many tumultuous years. I and many others owe him much for his launching genius and the forces for change that he put into motion.





► DANNY GOLDBERG

Music producer

The American left has always contained a cacophonous assortment of passionate (and usually grumpy) beings whose number includes visionaries and angry idiots, saints and provocateurs, rationalists and mystics, those who want to push the political system to the left and those who detest the system itself, artists and policy wonks, those who live mostly in the past and those who thrust themselves as far into the future as their minds can take them, most of whom believe that they and they alone have the insight and character to save whatever portion of the world is being discussed at the moment.

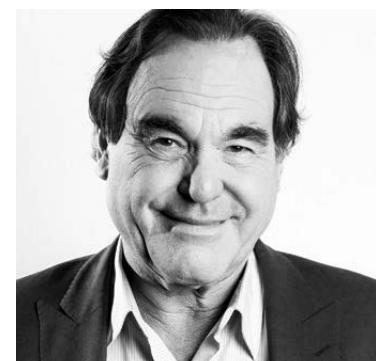
As someone who has regularly read *The Nation* since my teenage years in the late 1960s, I have always been amazed that it has been able to encompass that entire range of energies with such a calm and consistent center. Passionate, brilliant thinkers who literally detest each other somehow coexist as thought leaders in its pages.

While dozens of media comets have shined for a time and crashed, for fifteen decades *The Nation* has been the single lighthouse whose vivid beams shine through fogs of lefty neurosis and self-destruction, fearlessly opposing authoritarianism, oligarchy and whatever trendy philosophies du jour are cooked up to protect the privileged few at the expense of the public at large.

The Nation is an ever-changing and evolving but safe place for progressive thought, a brand and a culture whose uniqueness and relevance uncannily have gotten stronger in the twenty-first century.

OLIVER STONE ◀

Film director



Having come from a conservative upbringing in the United States, I discovered *The Nation* late in my life, only in the early 1980s. But it's certainly affected me in profound ways by opening my imagination to an alternate way of seeing the world. I'm grateful to *The Nation* for its 150 years of consistent, enlightened journalism. We so desperately need it as our country slips further and further into a militarized security state.

► DEEPAK BHARGAVA

Leading antipoverty progressive leader, head of the Center for Community Change

The Nation is the indispensable vehicle for news, reflection, debate and strategic thinking for progressives in the twenty-first century, constantly renewing a tradition it has exemplified for 150 years. *The Nation*'s reporting has helped define the terrain for activism—not only by defining and explaining what we're up against through hard-hitting journalism, but also by providing a vital forum for debating what we stand for. *The Nation*'s engaged and passionate coverage of social movements has helped progressives make meaning and see ourselves as connected across issue and geography. Whether it's the Iraq War, the war on workers or voting rights, or the fight for immigration reform and marriage equality, *The Nation* has fostered a sense of community and common endeavor among progressives. *The Nation*'s respect for our differences, and its commitment to honest dialogue and the presentation of different views among progressives, has made our strategies better and our movements stronger. Above all, *The Nation* has been a beacon of hope, inspiration and ideas that has nourished our minds and spirits through the dark periods of our history, and positioned us to seize the moment as the country once again opens to progressive possibilities.





► SARITA GUPTA

Leading labor leader, Jobs With Justice

As the number of journalists covering the labor beat grows smaller and smaller, and the shifting media landscape makes it easier to cover sensationalist stories instead of serious ones, *The Nation* has forged a much bolder path. *The Nation* has set a standard for journalistic excellence, choosing to bring the voices of working people directly to the pages of the magazine and telling the real stories of poverty, healthcare, aging and other issues facing the 99 percent. When other outlets devote 250 words to these issues, *The Nation* devotes a cover story. It offers insight into organizing strategies and ideas for the future of work in this country. When workers walk out on the job and stand up for better wages, *The Nation* is there. It is a critical ally in lifting up those workers' voices, making sure the larger conversation reflects their side of the story. The magazine has blazed a truly progressive trail. For all of us working in this movement, it feels good to have *The Nation* on our side.

THE REV. JESSE JACKSON ◀

American civil-rights activist and Baptist minister

Founded by abolitionists, *The Nation* magazine has fought the good fight for freedom, peace and justice for 150 years. It was launched just as a new America was beginning, an America based on both freedom and equality, born in the successful struggle to preserve the Union and end slavery.

The Nation was courageous enough to step across the color line back in the 1860s, when it fought to abolish slavery. It was brave enough to step across the color line again in the 1960s, asking Dr. King to write an annual essay on the state of civil rights. It had the good taste to publish James Baldwin and Alice Walker early on. It has always had the moral compass to support voting rights for African-Americans, including the need today to make voting a constitutional right. *The Nation* even had the good sense to be one of the few national journals to endorse my candidacy for president in the 1988 primaries, and few have written about our campaigns as well as the great *Nation* writers from Andy Kopkind to John Nichols.

The Nation can be proud of its history, and under the leadership of Katrina vanden Heuvel, it has every reason to be hopeful about its future. *The Nation* magazine is one of our most useful and honorable institutions—and I offer my best wishes and my thanks for *The Nation*'s first 150 years of keeping hope alive.



► LETTY COTTIN POGREBIN

Founding editor of *Ms. Magazine*

Like historian Daniel Boorstin and authors Joan Didion, Flannery O'Connor and Stephen King, I write either to find out what I think or to discover what I know. When that strategy doesn't work, I read *The Nation*, as I've been doing for decades. These days, the opinions I seek out on a regular basis belong to Katha Pollitt and Patricia J. Williams, Eric Alterman and Gary Younge, Stuart Klawans, JoAnn Wypijewski and, of course, Katrina vanden Heuvel. I read *The Nation* to recover from the bloviating drivel of TV's talking heads and the unfiltered avalanche on the Internet. Quirky, idiosyncratic, progressive, often transgressive and always brave, *Nation* writers don't just keep liberals' hope alive, they keep us sane.



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