

Intelligencer

TOPIC

Who Is Ross Douthat?

The Times recently announced its op-ed replacement for William Kristol: a young conservative blogger and author, not yet 30, named Ross Douthat (DOW-thut).

Born in New Haven, to a malpractice/personal-injury lawyer and a stay-at-home Yale-grad mom, both practicing Pentecostals (parents would sometimes speak in tongues).

Attends Hamden Hall Country Day School. **Runs the school paper and the "underground" paper.** Converts, along with his family, to Catholicism.

Harvard. History-literature major. Writes for the campus conservative paper, the *Sablot*, and has a column (titled "Decline and Fall") in the *Crimson*.

Summer intern at the *National Review*; goes **sailing and skinny-dipping** with William F. Buckley Jr.

Begins **reviewing movies** for the *National Review*. Likes: *Thank You for Smoking*, *Apocalypto*, *Junjo*. Dislikes: *Little Miss Sunshine*, *Sex and the City*, *Frost/Nixon*, *W*.



Weds Harvard classmate Abigail Tucker, now staff writer at *Smithsonian*.

Graduates and is recruited to work in D.C. for *The Atlantic*.



1979 ■■■■■ 1994 ■■■■■ 1998 ■■■■■ 2001 ■■■■■ 2002 ■■■■■ 2005 ■■■■■ 2007

BOOKS

Published: 2005
Sales: 10,500

Published: 2008
Sales: 6,500

The book "was Rovean in the sense that it put coalition politics before philosophical coherence, and that's why it failed, despite its many virtues, to impact the debate."

—ATLANTIC COLLEAGUE ANDREW SULLIVAN

HEROES

- » William F. Buckley Jr.
- » G. K. Chesterton
- » Richard John Neuhaus
- » Christopher Lasch
- » Ronald Reagan

STATED POSITIONS

IRAQ

"I supported the war at the time, and it was a popular war, backed by liberals as well as conservatives ... It was critiqued, of course, but mainly by left-wing shouters like the 'poets against the war,' and what seem in hindsight like the best arguments against the invasion—the conservative arguments against it—were often conspicuous in their absence." —11/2006, *IN FIRST THINGS*

SARAH PALIN, PT. 1

"At the moment, I'm probably rooting harder for Sarah Palin to succeed than I have for any politician in recent memory." —8/30/2008, *ATLANTIC BLOG*

WALL STREET

"Hedge funds, which have spawned dozens of billionaires in recent years, have helped accelerate economic growth by making capital markets more efficient. The billionaires in question are thus capturing only a small part of the wealth they've created." —*GRAND NEW PARTY*

TAXES

"By delivering financial relief during the portion of the life cycle when Americans face the highest economic stresses, a family-friendly tax reform seems likely to make parents less likely to look to the welfare state for support." —*GRAND NEW PARTY*

GAYS

"The fact that homosexuality seems to be an innate orientation rather than a choice means that even if one views same-sex sodomy as immoral, it isn't plausible to expect 'the greater part of the multitude' who are inclined toward homosexuality to abstain from it." —3/2008, *ATLANTIC BLOG*

ABORTION

"If your goal is to reduce the number of abortions in America, there's really only one way to do it—you have to pass legal restrictions on the practice. And all the free condoms in the world can't get you around that persistent, inconvenient reality." —8/2006, *IN FIRST THINGS*

SARAH PALIN, PT. 2

"Her performance has been so comprehensively lousy that it has to reflect, to some degree, on her knowledge base and her understanding of policy as well as on her TV chops." —10/2/2008, *ATLANTIC BLOG*



By Ira Boudway