

A Conversation with BRIT HUME

Brit Hume is a senior political analyst at Fox News political and former host of *Special Report*. In this conversation, Kristol and Hume discuss the early days of the cable news giant and its rapid ascent in the ratings. Hume also recalls his experiences in print journalism and his work as a White House and Capitol Hill correspondent for ABC News and reflects on our new media environment and its effects on American politics. This *Conversation* offers a fascinating glimpse into one of the most successful media enterprises of our time.

On Fox News in 1997, Hume says: “You talk about no viewers, I mean...it was a wasteland. We didn't have any viewers, and nobody had heard of Fox News. They thought of Fox, they thought of their local station.”

On Fox News after 9/11, Hume says: “And then 9/11 came and in the aftermath of 9/11 where much of the media was consumed with this handwringing about why do they hate us and what have we done wrong and why has American foreign policy led us to this pass where we're under a terrorist attack and so forth, we didn't look at it that way.”

On Political Bias in Network News, Hume says: “Very few [journalists] would put their political views ahead of anything else. But the political views were so universally shared among the journalists at that time that there was no need for anybody to do it...There was just a sense that...Republicans were the party of the rich and the privileged, and the Democrats were looking out for the little guy.”

On Network News and *The New York Times*, Hume says: “There was always a tendency in New York to let *The New York Times* front page be the thing that tells you sort of what the news was.”

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