

# Tom Nichols

Staff Writer, *The Atlantic*  
Bestselling Author, *The Death of Expertise* and  
*Our Own Worst Enemy*

*Insights on the fall of democracy & the rise  
of illiberalism*

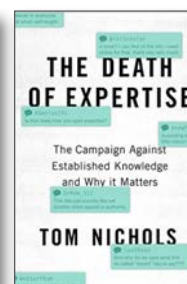
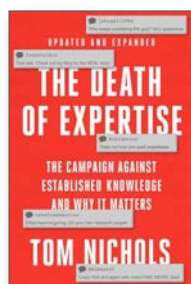
## Biography

Tom Nichols is a bestselling author and staff writer at *The Atlantic*. Confidently contrarian, Nichols is renowned for his commentary on political issues, the decline of modern society, and threats to democracy at home and abroad. He writes *The Atlantic Daily* newsletter, guiding readers through the biggest news, ideas, and cultural happenings of the day. He is also professor emeritus of national security affairs at the U.S. Naval War College, where he taught for 25 years, and he has expertise on a range of foreign policy issues including Russia, nuclear weapons, and the role of war in international affairs.

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## Topics & Books

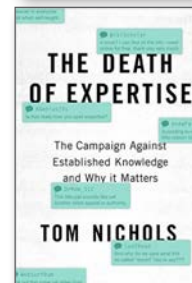
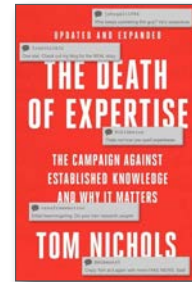
*Education*  
*Management*  
*Politics*



Tom's most well-known book, *The Death of Expertise: The Campaign Against Established Knowledge and Why It Matters*, examines the collapse of trust in experts and the increase in attacks against science and learning from a public that thinks it knows as much as experts. He makes the case that this false egalitarianism is dangerous to democracy. The book, which has been published in fifteen languages, was deemed "a sweeping indictment of the deliberate, widespread and ultimately self-destructive devaluing of knowledge in America" by *POLITICO*. Nichols published, *The Death of Expertise*, Second Edition, in 2024, featuring updated evidence including the COVID pandemic to prove that the assault on expertise has only intensified in the seven years since the original publication.

In *Our Own Worst Enemy*, Tom examines the decline of democracy and the rise of illiberal, anti-democratic movements in the United States and elsewhere. He challenges voters in the democracies to recognize how they themselves, after years of peace and prosperity, have endangered their own system of government with their own lack of civic involvement, their sense of entitlement, and their unwillingness to support basic values such as the rule of law and the equality of others. *Publisher's Weekly* called it "a searing critique of contemporary political culture and the rise of illiberalism on both the right and the left."

Tom Nichols has been named to the *POLITICO* 50, one the "key thinkers, doers, and visionaries reshaping American politics and policy." In addition to the U.S. Naval War College, he has taught at Dartmouth and Georgetown, and he was an instructor at the Harvard Extension School for nearly 20 years. He served as Senior Associate of the Carnegie Council on Ethics and International Affairs, as Fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, and a Fellow of the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard. Nichols also worked as a legislative aide in the Massachusetts House and the U.S. Senate and served as personal staff to the late Senator John Heinz for defense and foreign affairs. Tom is a five-time undefeated Jeopardy! champion and was once listed as one of the top 100 players of the game.



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