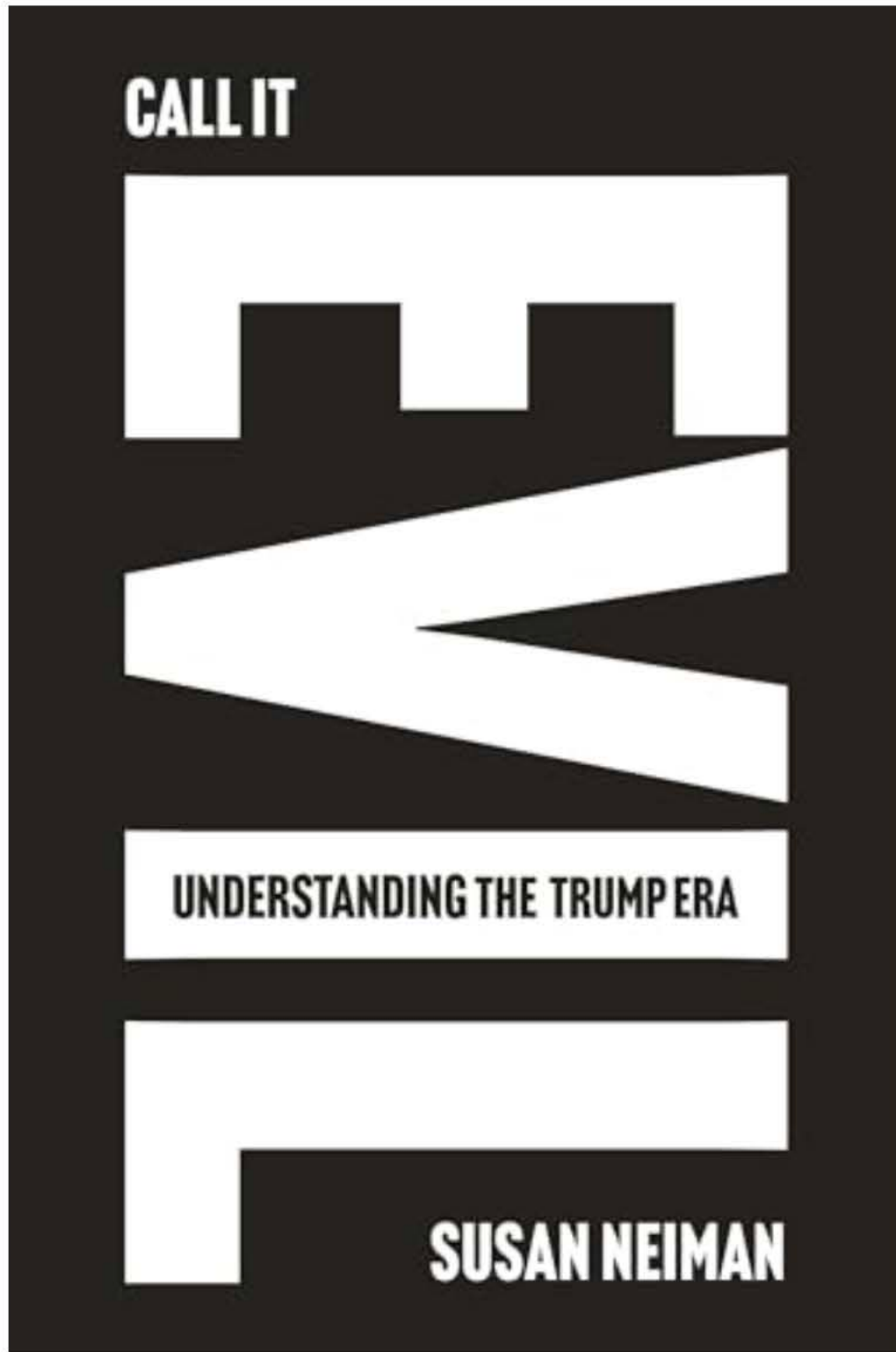




[BUY THIS BOOK](#)

★ Call It Evil: Understanding the Trump Era

Susan Neiman. Norton, \$27.99 (256p) ISBN 978-1-324-13104-5

Philosopher Neiman (*Left Is Not Woke*) argues in this potent treatise that it is imperative to refer to America's current national "nightmare" as "evil." Accusations of crime and corruption, she asserts, do not go far enough. Yet the invocation of evil "threatens" the very "trust in the world that we need to navigate it," making many hesitant to use the term. Defining evil as "an idea that arises whenever the gap between the way the world is and the way the world ought to be becomes too big to bear," Neiman forcefully argues that the Trump administration warrants the term's usage. She goes on to warn that evil itself has become a virtue for many in the West, who have come to believe that "moral capacities like empathy and shame" are "not just naive but suspect," and that "only fools believe in anything but their own advantage." Neiman's account traces how this notion became mainstream, from its emergence from "partial" and "dubious" readings of economists and scientists like Adam Smith and Charles Darwin to its fruition under 1980s Thatcherism and Reaganism. In later chapters, Neiman soberly takes stock of "why the war on Gaza became the moral watershed of our time." The result is a clarifying reflection on the current moment's profound crisis of conscience. (*Sept.*)