



PROGRESSIVE BOOK CLUB *Company Background*

Progressive Book Club is part book club, part online marketplace and part social networking platform. It's a vibrant forum for community, debate and discussion that has supercharged the successful book club model into a platform to formulate and promote real change. It merges the brilliance of the written word with the dynamism of the Internet to give a contemporary voice to the best progressive ideas and thinking.

Books have always played a pivotal role in our nation's history, changing America in remarkable ways. Imagine the American Revolution without Thomas Paine's *Common Sense*. Where would the abolitionist movement have been without *Uncle Tom's Cabin*? How would the social reforms of the Progressive Era ever have been enacted without Upton Sinclair's *The Jungle*? What would be the condition of the natural environment today if Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* had never been published? The power of books can be seen today in everything from the reach of Oprah's Book Club to the appearances of Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton and John McCain on *The New York Times* bestseller list.

Books inspire people to examine complicated issues from new perspectives, ask the hard questions and press for change when change is needed most. If books alone have helped to shape some of the most critical issues in our history (even with non-electronic means of communication) imagine the impact and influence that books – and their pioneering ideas – can have in the Internet age of the 21st Century.

Conservatives have long used books – and book clubs – to legitimize their ideas and bring credibility to their principles and policies. The Conservative Book Club started to promote its movement's authors and ideas more than 40 years ago. Progressive Book Club was established to help restore balance to American discourse by bringing progressive voices, ideas and issues to the forefront of the national debate. Through Progressive Book Club, progressives can use the same mechanisms that conservatives have used so effectively to mobilize open-minded, forward-thinking Americans who want to transform the current state of affairs to serve the common good.

In a time when people's interests are as varied as they are vast – from the environment, to poverty, to the economy, health care and religion – it has become more and more difficult to filter out the noise and find the ideas that will influence the direction of our country in the 21st Century. Progressive Book Club has recruited some of the best and brightest progressive minds for its



Editorial Board, which will help members discover the most stimulating, provocative, useful ideas out there. The Editorial Board includes such prominent authors, journalists, academics, politicians and other thought leaders as Michael Chabon, Dave Eggers, Barbara Kingsolver, Hendrik Hertzberg, Gail Sheehy, Katrina vanden Heuvel, John Podesta and Andy Stern, among others.

Progressive Book Club is for people who want to learn more and do more. It's for people who have an interest in an issue and want to explore it – whether it's stem cell research or the economy in Argentina. Progressive Book Club is for people who are passionate about a cause and want to give back. It's for people who have found their voice and it's for people who still need to find one. Progressive Book Club is for people who want to learn, connect, interact, debate, ask the hard questions and take action.

Progressive Book Club finds the books – and the ideas – that can change our nation for the better.

Progressive Book Club was started by entrepreneur, Elizabeth Wagley. The company's management team is comprised of seasoned book club executives.