

## A Conversation with YUVAL LEVIN

Yuval Levin is the editor of [National Affairs](#). He is also the Hertog Fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center, a senior editor of *The New Atlantis*, and a contributing editor to *National Review* and *The Weekly Standard*. He has been a member of the White House domestic policy staff (under President George W. Bush), executive director of the President's Council on Bioethics, and a congressional staffer.

Levin has emerged as one of the chief proponents of [reform conservatism](#)—“an effort to move from arguing about how much we should be willing to spend on the liberal welfare state to arguing about how to replace it with a conservative approach to government that advances our vision of a free society.” Levin tells Kristol that he works at “the intersection between political thought and public policy.” This becomes apparent as the conversation unfolds and Levin discusses modern conservatism and his work with *National Affairs* and its relation to the thought of [Edmund Burke](#), a statesman who was also a great reformer.

**On the tension in liberalism**, Levin says: “People come into the world in a family and in a society, and in a place, in a community. How can we understand the tension between individual rights and liberties, on the one hand, and the actual sociology of the human experience on the other?”

**On the American health care system**, he says: “The federal government is increasingly just a health insurance company that has a Navy on the side, and it’s getting more and more that way all the time. And there’s a reason for that. It’s hard to say no to that. And our system in particular has a lot of trouble saying no.”

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