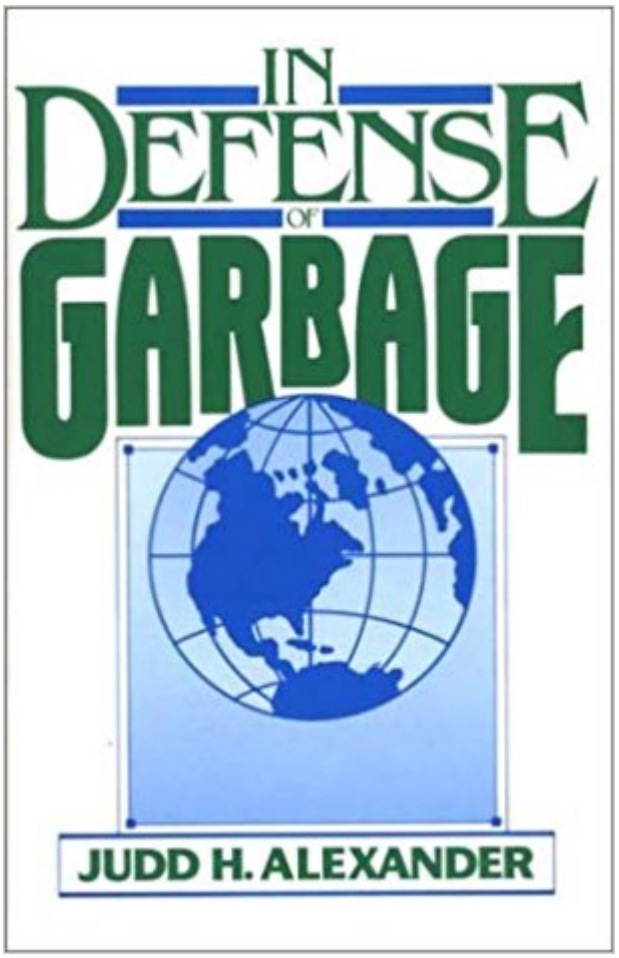
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In Defense Of Garbage:



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Synopsis

This other side of the story is the first to show how waste products contribute positively to the economy, and to place garbage in perspective when considering the total use of America's resources. Alexander comes to this subject with 40 years of experience in making and recycling disposable products and in studying litter and municipal waste issues. He sees the garbage crisis as a political, not a physical, problem and introduces a non-cash national solution. He deals with popular misconceptions about the quantity and growth of garbage, resource consumption, forest productivity, packaging, disposal taxes, landfills, incineration and recycling. Written for open-minded lay readers, policymakers, professionals, and serious-minded students, this is an important contribution to the study of our current environmental situation.Alexander proposes that the problem does not necessarily lie with the quantity of our resources, population growth, affluence, or with space or pollution, but rather with politics, fear, and misinformation. Alexander offers a survey of the history of garbage, considers the quantity and contents of the waste, and provides us with ways to save our nonrenewable resources. Especially compelling is the discussion of the characteristics and products of our throwaway society. Also covered is the role of packaging, measures for source reduction, the promise and problems of recycling different types of material, biodegradation, compost and litter, and the collection and disposal of municipal solid waste. In Defense of Garbage is about the politics of garbage. Reading this eye-opening book is a sure way to become part of the solution to one of the most hotly-debated problems in the world today.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Is the American public cognizant of the real crisis that surrounds garbage? A retired executive of American Can and a professor at SUNY’s school of forestry and environmental science, the author views the garbage crisis as stemming directly from the public’s misconceptions, resulting from continuous misrepresentation of information by the media and environmentalists. Both concerned citizens and businesses need to be reeducated as to where efforts should be directed in attempting to solve the current crisis and in understanding the ramifications of these efforts for the future. The work is well documented and includes an impressive litany of published and unpublished sources. Although its pro-business perspective on garbage will be controversial, it is interesting reading and will provoke lively discussions. Recommended for public and academic libraries.- Margaret B. Bartlett, Rochester Inst. of Technology, N.Y.Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc.

..."eminently readable, entertaining, and a very important statement about what grabage is, why it is important, who should care about it, and what is likely to happen in profligate societies. Alexander’s industrial and academic experience together with his sprightly literary style informs, educates, and instructs the reader on the nature of waste, the disposal problem, the value of garbage, the impact of packaging in a throw-away society, the benefits of source reduction, the promise and problems of reclaiming and recycling, the illustion of simple solutions based on biodegradability, the politics of garbage, and a host of other issues. But suprise, suprise! Alexander sounds an optimistic note. Complete and accessible bibliography; essentially flawless editing. The only other thing one could ask for is an affordable price, and the publisher has given that. All levels."-Choice"There is much in his book to think about regarding the handling of municipal solid waste, and the accounts of the history of garbage and the development of modern packaging are peppered with quirky detail."-New York Times Book Review"A retired executive of American Can and professor at SUNY’s school of forestry and environmental science, the author views the garbage crisis as stemming directly from the public’s misconception, skewed through continuous misrepresentation of information by the media and environmentalists. The work is well documented and includes an impressive litany of published and unpublished sources. Although its pro-business perspective on garbage will be controversial, it is interesting reading and will provoke lively discussions."-Library Journal?There is much in his book to think about regarding the handling of municipal solid waste, and the accounts of the history of garbage and the development of modern packaging are peppered with quirky detail.?-New York Times Book Review?Alexander sides with the critics of pollution alarmism, and asserts that no garbage crisis exists . . . [His] reasoned insistence on the economic and technical

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