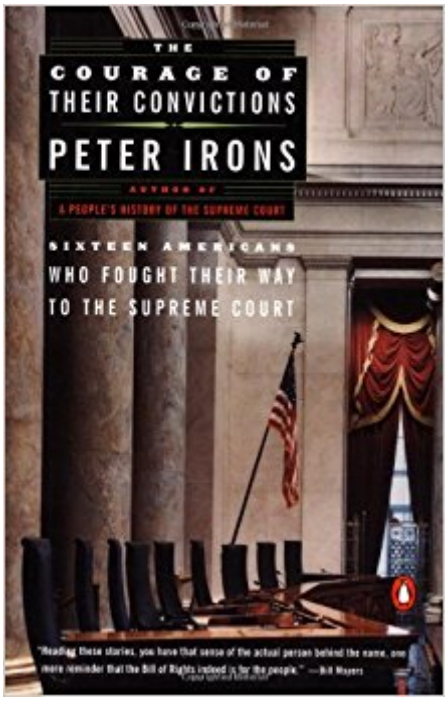
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The Courage Of Their Convictions: Sixteen Americans Who Fought Their Way To The Supreme Court



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Synopsis

An "extraordinary book reveal[ing] the live faces behind the masks of constitutional law; to read it is to understand the inner dynamics of law’s outward development."—Laurence H. Tribe.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Peter Irons is professor of political science at the University of California, San Diego. He is the author of five previous award-winning books. The most recent, A People’s History of the Supreme Court, was awarded the Silver Gavel Certificate of Merit by the American Bar Association.

I was instructed to read The Courage of Their Convictions as a summer reading assignment for AP US Government. Usually, I dread reading summer assignments, but this book was written in a way that made the cases relatable and interesting. I appreciated the fact that it had first hand accounts of the major player in each of the suits, the person who was defending their freedoms as an American. It wasn’t written in a complex way, the text had a good flow to it. I felt like I was getting a proper idea of how the Supreme Court actually runs, and overall it was a worthwhile read.

Not bad for giving you a personal perspective on some landmark cases. Gives a view from the different parties to the case, which is not needed for briefing, but good to understand the human element. I took it like client interviews to help you develop the case into what it became.

excellent and easy to read. Each case is presented and then followed by a short account written by

the defendants.

Well, this book will certainly give students some ideas for heroes and heroines! Book arrived in excellent condition within just a few days of ordering. Thank you!

We have become an apathetic society. This book is the story of those who dared enough to care.

I have used this book three times in UC and CSU public law classes have taught: Intro to Judicial Process, Intro to Judicial Politics, and American Government. It is a personalized, almost biographical approach to leading constitutional rights cases, replete with the "human" as well as "legal" story behind each of the 16 cases. Though short on some of the important legal arguments at the Supreme Court level, it covers well the dispositons and judicial personalities of the lower courts. More importantly, however, it deals with the suffering and courage of the litigants themselves. As such, it is a terrific book for both introductory American Government and judicial politics/process courses at the college level.I have also used Irons' new book JIM CROW'S CHILDREN in my upper division course on Racial Equality and the U.S. Supreme Court at U.C., Irvine, just this summer.

This was a fantastic book! People may know about some Supreme Court decisions and its impact but I do not think people understand why such important cases were brought before the Supreme Court. We never learn in school who these people were, (they are everyday people) and exactly how much courage and determination it takes to fight your case to the Supreme Court (after all I think S.C hears about 1% of all cases filed to the Court). Irons is an academic but boy you can read this in a day-this is not a dreaded book you are assigned to read for school.

Irons does of fine job of describing the uphill battle that a variety of individuals have faced in asserting their basic rights as Americans. Some of these cases righted grevious wrongs, and others are more open to debate. But then, the law is not a popularity contest. The fact that humble and even unpopular cases can nonetheless get their day in court, and get fair and due process, is something that every American should be proud of. It's something worth remembering and defending, something worth protecting, and Peter Irons shows you *why* in this book.

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