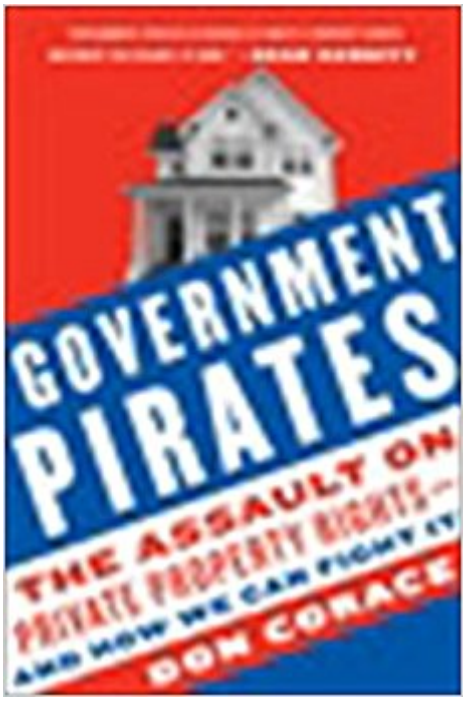
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Government Pirates: The Assault On Private Property Rights--and How We Can Fight It



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Synopsis

After years of hard work and saving, you finally own a home. But don’t get too comfortable. If government officials decide they want your property, they can take it—for a wide variety of shady reasons that go far beyond the usual definition of "public purposes." The courts have allowed these injustices to persist. And there is nothing you can do about it—not yet.Real estate developer and property rights expert Don Corace offers the first in-depth look at eminent domain abuse and other government regulations that are strangling the rights of property owners across America. Government Pirates is filled with shocking stories of corrupt politicians, activist judges, entrenched bureaucrats, greedy developers, NIMBY (Not-in-My-Backyard) activists, and environmental extremists who conspire to seize property and extort money and land in return for permits. Corace provides the hard facts about individual rights and offers invaluable advice for those whose property may be in danger. It is the one book that every property owner in America has to read.

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Customer Reviews

After years of hard work and saving, you finally own a home. But don’t get too comfortable. If government officials decide they want your property, they can take it--for a wide variety of shady reasons that go far beyond the usual definition of "public purposes." The courts have allowed these injustices to persist. And there is nothing you can do about it--not yet. Real estate developer and property rights expert Don Corace offers the first in-depth look at eminent domain abuse and other

government regulations that are strangling the rights of property owners across America. Government Pirates is filled with shocking stories of corrupt politicians, activist judges, entrenched bureaucrats, greedy developers, NIMBY (Not-in-My-Backyard) activists, and environmental extremists who conspire to seize property and extort money and land in return for permits. Corace provides the hard facts about individual rights and offers invaluable advice for those whose property may be in danger. It is the one book that every property owner in America has to read. Questions for Don Corace What will people learn from reading Government Pirates? Readers will learn: How unelected and unaccountable judges have eroded the intent of our founding fathers to protect private property rights Four categories of takings by the government--eminent domain, local zoning laws, the regulation of wetlands and complying with the Endangered Species Act Forty shocking stories from across America of how homes and small businesses are either being seized or whose owners are being strangled by regulations A blueprint on how to turn the tide of abuse There has been a lot of media attention about eminent domain abuse. Explain what eminent domain is for people who are not familiar with the term. Eminent domain is the authority of government to seize property for a "public use." It was widely utilized in the 1800s to acquire land for railroads and post offices and then evolved to be used to build roads, schools, dams, and military bases. The takings clause in the Fifth Amendment of the Constitution permits it: "[N]or shall private property be taken for public use without just compensation." Unfortunately, its definition has been expanded and its use abused. What is your background and qualifications to write a book on property rights? I have been a developer for over 25 years. I was born and raised in Pittsburgh, PA and learned the business from the ground up. My father was a developer and contractor. . .and the guy on the bulldozer. In my teens, I worked as a laborer, carpenter’s apprentice, surveyor by day and attended city council meetings with him at night. Over the years, I have had hands-on experience in every aspect of the development process with projects valued at more than $2 billion. I have been involved in some of the most complex and controversial projects in the country. Although there have been plenty of excellent books written on property rights by lawyers or journalists, Government Piratesis the first to be written by someone who has actually been in the trenches, and who has had their own money on the line. What motivated you to write the book? I picked up my morning newspaper on June 24, 2005, and read that the Supreme Court voted 5 to 4 in the Kelo case. I was outraged. To give government the legal authority to seize property to simply generate more tax revenues is unconscionable. At the time I was also embroiled in an ugly controversy over a bald eagle whose nest was located on some property we owned. Certain neighborhood groups were using the Endangered Species Act as tool to stop the project. I realized that eminent domain abuse

like what happened in the Kelo case was outrageous, but at least in eminent domain cases property owners are supposed to be compensated by law. In endangered species issues, the Endangered Species Act clearly trumps the Fifth Amendment and allows government to not only not compensate land owners, but also to extort land and money in return for approvals. The same applies to local zoning laws and the regulation of wetlands--where I have also had considerable experience. I knew then that I had to write the book. Where do you stand on environmental issues? I consider myself a conservationist, not an environmentalist. There is a big difference in my mind. I was raised to respect the environment and learned at an early age to hunt and fish and enjoy the outdoors. Many people who consider themselves environmentalists have made it their life’s mission to protect the environment at all costs--including at the expense of private property rights and economic growth. On a deeper examination of their motives, you will find that many of them use environmental causes to further that agenda to promote an anti-capitalistic and government-mandated redistribution of wealth. It is true that environmentalists have been successful in shedding light on important environmental issues and have forced landowners and industry to find creative ways to develop property and natural resources while safeguarding the environment. Unfortunately, as evidenced by stories in my book, there are too many instances of environmentalists simply going too far. What are your objectives for the book? Although many property rights organizations throughout the country are doing an excellent job in fighting property rights abuse, we need to take it up another notch and use the media as a weapon. We need to educate the public and get a groundswell of support to make lawmakers and bureaucrats accountable for their actions. Efforts to pass meaningful reforms will not be successful unless these officials--as well as NIMBY’s and environmental extremists are exposed. I feel it is my responsibility to shed light on the issues--and make those who do not respect property rights famous. Why is the protection of property rights so important? The founding fathers believed that "the right of property is the guardian of every other right," but it is also a basic human right. Our homes, land, and businesses are expressions of ourselves. They represent the fruits of our labors and a family’s financial security.

Ã¢â ¬Å“Government Pirates is certain to ignite a property rights movement for decades to come.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Sean Hannity)Ã¢â ¬Å“Every day on my nationally syndicated radio show I do a segment on the Ã¢â ¬Ëœgovernment outrage of the day.Ã¢â ¬â„¢ Don Corace has just given me enough material to last me until retirement.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Neal Boortz)Ã¢â ¬Å“The book, which is designed and organized to maximize readings on the outrage-o-meter, comes chock-a-block with bullet-pointed anecdotes of redevelopers gone wild.Ã¢â ¬Â• (New York Post)Ã¢â ¬Å“[Corace]

covers each area of concernÃ¢â ¬â •eminent domain, zoning, wetlands preservation, the Endangered Species ActÃ¢â ¬â •first defining the issue and then describing illustrative cases. Corace knows his subject, and when the reader is done, he will know it, too....excellent.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Jigs Gardner, Property Rights Foundation of America)Ã¢â ¬Å“Government Pirates provides especially good insights on how government and outside special interests collaborate to take away AmericansÃ¢â ¬â„¢ property rightsÃ¢â ¬Â¦not only a must-read, but a vital reference book for your library.Ã¢â ¬Â• (David A. Ridenour, National Center for Public Policy Research)Ã¢â ¬Å“A very interesting and enlightening bookÃ¢â ¬Â¦exposes the methods and means by which the government can use its eminent domain or regulatory powers to diminish or take our private property rightsÃ¢â ¬Â¦His perspective and stories come as a developer Ã¢â ¬Ëœin the trenchesÃ¢â ¬â„¢ not just one of us eggheads in the ivory tower.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Donald Kochan, Townhall.com)Ã¢â ¬Å“Corace provides the hard facts about individual rights and offers invaluable advice for those whose property may be in dangerÃ¢â ¬Â¦The first in-depth look at eminent domain abuse and other examples of Big Government red tape that are choking off the rights of citizens who own property.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Conservative Book Club)

The taking of private property for government use falls into one of two categories. There is the taking of private property under the absurd legal theory that the object, itself, has committed a crime. This is the basis for taking someone’s car when they are caught with a small amount of drugs, or for taking people carrying large amounts of cash just because cash is sometimes an indicator of criminal activity. The flip side of this type of taking is the taking of private property in a more wholesale way; the taking of property, or real estate, in order to promote "growth," in a community.This book, Government Pirates, discusses the second form of takings. These types of takings are becoming more common through time, to the point that there is little apparent right to own property within the borders of the United States.The author starts with an overview of the problem; how judges have taken power to themselves to simply take property for just about any reason they feel like.Mr. Corace deals with direct takings in the next section of the book, providing a number of examples in the next section of the book, including the Kelo case, the New York Times building scandal, and various others. These types of takings are direct, egregious, and easy to understand. In the next section, the author deals with zoning laws, which are a lower level, and harder to understand, form of taking by the government. Here again he provides seven different examples of zoning laws used to destroy the value of land.The third section deals with takings through regulations, specifically wetlands law. Again, there are several snapshots discussing the

circumstances and issues of several people who have lost their land through wetlands regulation, including those who have been told a simple mud puddle some 20 miles from any major waterway are considered "tributaries" to those waterways, and hence are subject to wetlands regulations. There is even one instance of a couple who were fined for destroying wetlands because they created a wetland on their property specifically for migrating birds. The next section covers the same sorts of material, but in relation to the finding of species being endangered. Finally, the author ends with a call to action, with some ideas on what we, as individuals, can do to stop the takings.This is a well written book, with enough examples to illustrate the principles and problems at hand, but without overwhelming the reader with lots of complicated text. Each idea is explained clearly, in language anyone with a decent education should be able to understand.

Interesting anecdotes about government encroachment.

This book should be mandated reading for all. Especially students!

I bought this book because a local city council is overstepping its bounds and telling private property owners what can and cannot be done on their property, but there are so many other things that intrusive government is attempting that exceeds the limits our Framers put in place in the Constitution. You ought to read this book to see what some of them are and how we can all fight back against the "power that be" and reclaim "power to the people."

Did you know that the government can take your property if a private interest wants it? Yes and it was confirmed by the U.S. Supreme Court. If you own a home and a private developer tells the local govt that it needs your property for a project the govt can seize your property for the private developer. Read this book and see how people are fighting back. It’s a shame that this is happening in the good ole USA.

This book confirms our country is headed into socialism. It will make you sick hearing about our corrupt government.

Every American who is concerned with the direction that our country is headed should read this book!

Shocking tales and unbelievable stories of what the government "deems necessary." The more I read, the madder I got!

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