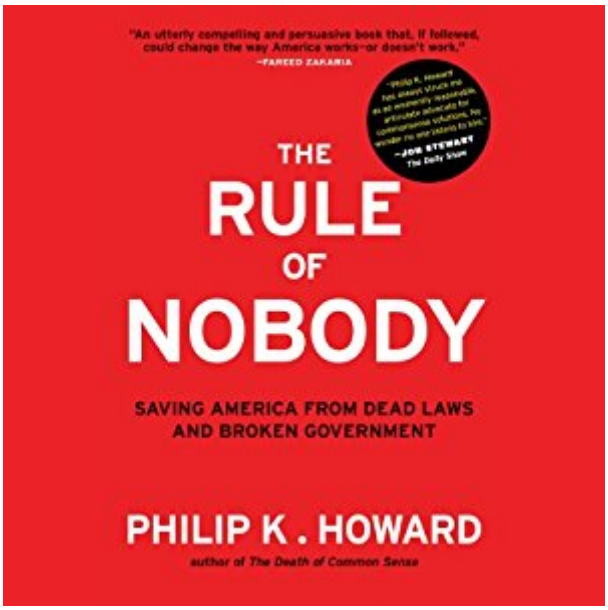
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The Rule Of Nobody: Saving America From Dead Laws And Senseless Bureaucracy



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Synopsis

The secret to good government is a question no one in Washington is asking: "What's the right thing to do?"What's wrong in Washington is deeper than you think.Sure, there's gridlock, polarization, and self-dealing. But hidden underneath is something bigger and more destructive. It's a broken governing system. From that comes wasteful government, rising debt, failing schools, expensive health care, and economic hardship.Rules have replaced leadership in America. Bureaucracy, regulation, and outmoded law tie our hands and confine policy choices. Nobody asks, "What's the right thing to do here?" Instead, they wonder, "What does the rule book say?"There's a fatal flaw in America's governing system-trying to decree correctness through rigid laws will never work. Public paralysis is the inevitable result of the steady accretion of detailed rules. America is now run by dead people-by political leaders from the past who enacted mandatory programs that churn ahead regardless of waste, irrelevance, or new priorities.America needs to radically simplify its operating system and give people-officials and citizens alike-the freedom to be practical. Rules can't accomplish our goals. Only humans can get things done.In The Rule of Nobody, Philip K. Howard argues for a return to the framers' vision of public law-setting goals and boundaries, not dictating daily choices. This incendiary book explains how America went wrong and offers a guide for how to liberate human ingenuity to meet the challenges of this century.

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Customer Reviews

A good analysis of what has grown up around us - fields full of weeds (of rules and regulations). An

example: our little city of 35K is looking to put 14 pages of ordinances in place to govern how local churches can "minister" to the homeless in our community. When can they feed them, where can they feed them, how many days in a row can they be housed or fed in one location (in a freaking church for crying out loud). There are already program guidelines in place that go farther than constitutionally allowed, were they to be put into municipal code, but, because some individual on the council is "concerned" about what "might" happen in the future they want to put bubble-wrap around it now to ensure nothing happens in that uncertain future. Oh, and lets not forget about the staffers (policy wonks) who went to school for this very thing, who need to justify their jobs, so give them a code to write and off they go, mindless as an amoeba replicating itself, writing code without thinking of the unintended consequence. BECAUSE, they have been educated in universities that no longer teach ethics, but rather relativism. No absolutes, no hitching post. Like migrating geese - they wake up in a new world every day. When you ask them about virtue and ethical reason they give you that "duck looking at thunder" look. Great book, highly improbable we could ever meet the challenge. Sad!

Excellent book. Gives real life events that cost US tax payers tens of millions of dollars just because of out dated laws and no one in authority with the power to change them or make the final decision. Their are examples of good politicians (all parties), lawyers, public employees, unions and more that are saddled with outdated laws so they can not make good public policy or act in the good for the general population. There are a few examples where because of these outdated laws individuals can slowdown, stop or use these laws to better their common interest. I bought this book because Time magazine had an article on Jeb Bush and it suggested to understand some of his thinking to move this country forward, you should read one of his favorite authors, Philip Howard and "The Rule Of Nobody". If you like history and what to see why things for schools to public works projects don’t get done in a cost effective manner and what to have well thought out ideas on how we can start fixing these issues, I highly recommend this book. Favorite quote "No act of government is morally valid unless it can be justified as being in the common interest."

In writing my book "Rule of Law: Why and How We Must Amend the Constitution" there were many instances where I felt the urge to give detailed examples of why a particular issue was a real problem that needed to be solved. In the end I chose to focus more on the solutions. I wish I could merge "The Rule of Nobody" with my book because it vividly describes the disaster that is the bureaucratic state and gives a stronger impetus for reform. Some have complained that this book is

too repetitive or is too much of a rant but the numerous examples given are well-researched and are necessary to make a powerful case for reform.Howard has a different world view than me. I think his analysis is slightly off kilter in some respects and I am skeptical of some of his proposed solutions but this book is a valuable guide for understanding how government's laws are smothering our people. This book is an objective and fair critique of how chaotic and dangerous our legal system is.Howard also deserves praise for calling attention to the fact that amending the Constitution is the best hope of restoring sanity to government. This book is one more proof of the growing sentiment in America that deep structural reforms are necessary to fix government. Regurgitating new (but really the same) politicians will not suffice.

I read The Death of Common Sense a few years ago and it became one of my 10 seminal books in understanding how the legal system in the US works and needs urgent reform. The Rule of Nobody is just as good. It lays out in easily readable prose how the US legal, political and regulatory system has evolved over the years and what the consequences are if US citizens do not get involved in reforming it. In this book Mr Howard also describes the solution. I highly recommend this book.

A thorough description of the faults of a bureaucracy where officials write such convoluted regulations that they actually make just about every situation they govern worse. And many do nothing government workers find it much easier to say no to any request since then it doesn't require them to try anything close to customer service. While he doesn't state this specifically I came away with a simple between the lines idea. "If a bureaucrat doesn't have the authority to give final approval to a request and grant any waivers that might be required, they shouldn't have the authority to say no".

Mr. Howard again present extremely poignant facts and viewpoints. This book should be read by every American.

Nicely details why government frequently does not work--and the solution is not to remove discretion from public officials, but to enable public officials to use good judgment.

Nobody on the political scene talks about the problems that Mr Howard sees. Nobody wants to mention the secret that both the left and right depend on to avoid making the right decisions. A great and fun read that did make me a little sad because the fix is obvious, but tough. Please buy this

book and tell all your friends!!

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