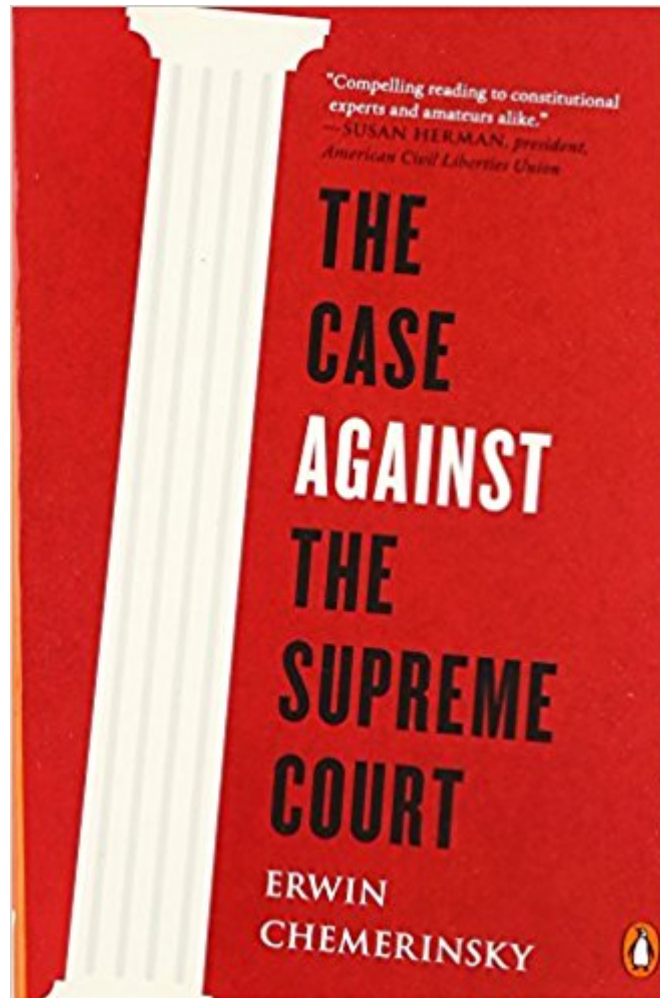




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The Case Against The Supreme Court



Synopsis

Both historically and in the present, the Supreme Court has largely been a failure. In this devastating book, Erwin Chemerinsky "one of the shining lights of legal academia" (The New York Times) shows how, case by case, for over two centuries, the hallowed Court has been far more likely to uphold government abuses of power than to stop them. Drawing on a wealth of rulings, some famous, others little known, he reviews the Supreme Court's historic failures in key areas, including the refusal to protect minorities, the upholding of gender discrimination, and the neglect of the Constitution in times of crisis, from World War I through 9/11. No one is better suited to make this case than Chemerinsky. He has studied, taught, and practiced constitutional law for thirty years and has argued before the Supreme Court. With passion and eloquence, Chemerinsky advocates reforms that could make the system work better, and he challenges us to think more critically about the nature of the Court and the fallible men and women who sit on it.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Praise for Erwin Chemerinsky "A catalyst for fundamentally changing the nation's most important and . . . least democratic institution . . . A scholar with intellectual power, passion and pluck." Los Angeles Review of Books "One of the shining lights of legal academia." The New York Times Praise for THE CONSERVATIVE ASSAULT ON THE CONSTITUTION "Our Constitution depends on the courts to keep it alive; we all depend on Erwin Chemerinsky to remind us why that is so important." This book is essential reading for anyone

who cares about preserving our constitutional birthright."--Susan N. Herman, President, American Civil Liberties Union"Erwin Chemerinsky knows the Constitution as a legal scholar and the Supreme Court as a lawyer who represents clients there. It's a rare and powerful combination that makes him uniquely qualified to write this disturbing and persuasive book about the impact of the current Supreme Court's approach to constitutional interpretation."--Linda Greenhouse, lecturer, Yale Law School; former New York Times Supreme Court correspondent

From the Hardcover edition.

Erwin Chemerinsky is the founding dean, Distinguished Professor of Law, and Raymond Pryke Professor of First Amendment Law at the University of California, Irvine, School of Law. He has written for the New York Times, the Los Angeles Times, and the Boston Globe, among many other publications. He lives in Irvine, California.

This book is that rarity: an extended scholarly analysis that maintains the reader's constant interest while buttressing its arguments with facts galore. Unlike misguided critics who think abolishing the supreme court would be a solution to its deficiencies, Prof. Chemerinsky, who spends most of these pages laying out the various flaws associated with the court, winds up by outlining and explaining practical measures that would radically reduce those flaws. If you have any interest in federal law but have been bored by other non-fiction works, this is for you!

Professor Chemerinsky is a Constitutional Law scholar who is rightly revered by many law students. His "Case Against the Supreme Court" strives to explain how the Court has often failed to fulfill its two most vital roles: protecting minorities against abuses by the political process and defending the Constitution as the basis of our democracy. This is not a Jeremiad but a heartfelt plea to make the Supreme Court he so deeply reveres even better, and in so doing avoid repeating the mistakes of the past to defend against the as yet unknown threats of the future. This is a book that should be read by every American.

This Court has long been anything but 'Supreme'. And the men that have worn the prestigious robes of the institution have only sporadically deserved the moniker "Justice". Mr. Chemerinsky gives candid and nonpartisan assessments of the men (and more recently, women) who have served in this capacity. There have been very inspiring and intelligent decisions (Civil Rights legislation, Women's Rights, Roe vs. Wade), and dismal disappointments ('Citizens United - the Billionaires' Bill - and Voter Discrimination legislation). Sometimes argument-inspiring, often thought-provoking,

always interesting and educational.

If you ever thought the U.S. Supreme Court was fair and truly cared about constitutional and individual rights, this book by the noted scholar and Dean of the University of California Irvine Law School will dissuade you of that view. An eye-opener. Dr. Chemerinsky reveals an almost constant bias against individual rights (versus the rights of business and government) during the past 100 years.

A good argument that the Supreme Court has usually been more interested in politics than in justice, and that many justices have not exactly been great legal thinkers. Sheds light on some shortcomings of our vaunted system of government.

One of the best books on the Supreme Court written for the lay person by an academic. It not only explains in plain language the significant points of each case discussed, but also ties them together (or not). It will be clear that consistency and respect for stare decisis has gotten short shrift from the Roberts court. SCOTUS jurisprudence unfortunately has been far more activist, intellectually incompetent or dishonest (you decide), and "outcome" oriented than one would expect. This book provides a good brief summary, overview, and common sense critique of most of the cases of recent public notoriety (Hobby Lobby, Citizens United, etc.) as well as a number of others over the years; some of considerable import and reputation and some hardly known but to the lawyer interested in the particular issue. A good source for one who wants to be able to understand the news and participate intelligently in discussions without having to go to point of reading the cases. It is unfortunate but I mostly agree with Dean Chemerinsky that SCOTUS has been far more of a failure as the institution than most of us expect or even realize

Surprisingly great and interesting historical case against what we take as a necessity but really isn't. Mind opening!

This is a frank and clear exposition of how the Supreme Court has perpetuated slavery and other injustices over the course of many decades. It is a must-read for constitutional lawyers and anyone concerned about social justice. I interviewed Dean Chemerinsky about this book on Season 2, Episode 1 of Meet The Professors, available online at all times on You Tube, at [...]

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