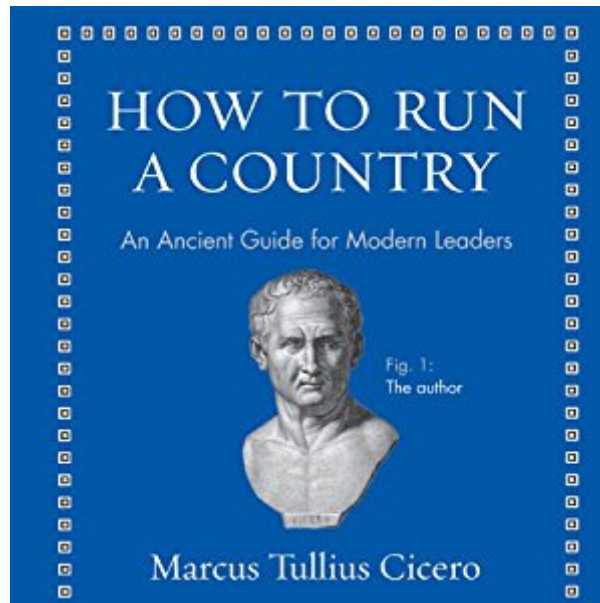


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# How To Run A Country: An Ancient Guide For Modern Leaders



## Synopsis

Marcus Cicero, Rome's greatest statesman and orator, was elected to the Roman Republic's highest office at a time when his beloved country was threatened by power-hungry politicians, dire economic troubles, foreign turmoil, and political parties that refused to work together. Sound familiar? Cicero's letters, speeches, and other writings are filled with timeless wisdom and practical insight about how to solve these and other problems of leadership and politics. *How to Run a Country* collects the best of these writings to provide an entertaining, common-sense guide for modern leaders and citizens. This brief book, a sequel to *How to Win an Election*, gathers Cicero's most perceptive thoughts on topics such as leadership, corruption, the balance of power, taxes, war, immigration, and the importance of compromise. These writings have influenced great leaders - including America's Founding Fathers - for 2,000 years, and they are just as instructive today as when they were first written. Organized by topic and featuring lively new translations, the book also includes an introduction, headnotes, a glossary, suggestions for further reading, and an appendix containing the original Latin texts. The result is an enlightening introduction to some of the most enduring political wisdom of all time.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

There is actually very little in the book. Given how much Cicero wrote, would think that there would be more material. Good for starting discussions on how a government "ought" be run.

Shipment on time, all great!

short book but a good read

A gift for my son- he seems to enjoy it.

Half of this book is written in Latin which is of little use to those who do not understand Latin. Also, on iTunes you can get the english half which is only about 1 hour long and is a better bargain if you ask me.

Philip Freeman's latest book follows *How to Win an Election: An Ancient Guide for Modern Politicians*, and brings the writings of Roman statesman and orator Marcus Tullius Cicero to us today, in a highly readable form that selects passages from Cicero's many writings that relate to the governing of a nation and which just may be of great relevance to our present society. Freeman writes in his introduction "The questions he (Cicero) asked echo still today: What is the foundation of a just government? What kind of rule is best? How should a leader behave in office?". He then goes on to provide answers to these questions, from Cicero's own writings. This book is really an anthology; in writing it, Freeman has drawn on a number of works by Cicero, who is one of the ancient Romans most well known to us today (with over 30 volumes of his writing available in various editions). He has selected passages from Cicero and grouped them into ten important lessons, beginning with "There are universal laws that govern the conduct of human affairs". Cicero's writings are built on the belief that there is a foundation on which we should construct our societies and governments. We see this reflected in our own Declaration of Independence: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness", for our Founding Fathers were themselves students of Cicero and well versed in his writings. He continues with "The best form of government embraces a balance of powers", and continues with writings addressing leadership, friends and enemies, persuasion, compromise, money and power, immigration, war, corruption, and tyranny. Each of these categories is addressed in the book with statements from Cicero providing his viewpoint and advice, with Freeman's own comments and introduction provided to put it all into context. The latin text has been translated by Freeman into a highly readable English, with the original Latin also provided for reference. Cicero

remarks on the desirability of a mixed form of government, as we have with our separation of powers. He addresses the redistribution of wealth through taxation, highly relevant today and I was very interested in reading his very balanced views (that government should ease the burden on the needy but not to the extent that it would be harmful to the country, for example). He expresses his views that immigration, a divisive issue even in Roman society 2000 years ago, makes a society stronger. He is a very strong proponent of protecting the individuals property, while recognizing the danger when too few men control too much of the wealth of a nation. I am struck by how relevant these topics are to our present-day society here in the U.S. This is a modestly sized book, so full of wisdom that I found it impossible to read very far without pausing to think about how the points being made by Cicero are useful ones for us today. The value of this book is not in the quantity of pages but in the quality of the content. Reading Cicero can remind us that there are in fact lasting values that we may guide our lives by. It might be too easy to read these writings from someone 2000 years ago and allow despair at the present state of our own government to stop us from considering how these values do have relevance today. Some may consider the basic values and moral guidance provided in these writings from Cicero to be naive or impractical in our present society. And yet perhaps such idealism is needed. Perhaps we should consider how we can work to restore such standards to our government and our society. Perhaps our leaders will return to these values if we in the general populous express our support for them when they do so. Who knows what might develop if only one or two courageous politicians would actually begin such a movement by taking this guidance to heart, and imagine what could happen if in return they did receive the admiration and support of the public? This is a very thought provoking book. I happen to believe that reading such advice from someone 2000 years removed, and realizing how the societal and governmental issues that we face today are so timeless, has real value to our lives today. For reference and further reading, several of the currently published volumes of Cicero's works are referenced in Freeman's book, including M. Tullius Ciceronis De Re Publica, De Legibus, Cato Maior de Senectute, Laelius de Amicitia (Oxford Classical Texts), Cicero: De re Publica (On the Republic) , De Legibus (On the Laws) (Loeb Classical Library No. 213), Cicero, Volume XXI. On Duties (De Officiis): De Officiis (Loeb Classical Library No. 30), as well as letters Cicero: Selected Letters (Penguin Classics).

good price and it works five star excellent They have been good so far I believe I have purchased products are suitable for their own, the price on is a very good quality product sales is very high. Exactly what was promised earlier than expected I would tell my friend about this, he need one.

A pocket size book that has the reader identifying modern day politicians from the local level to the national level. Philip Freeman has translated Latin to present day English so anyone with an eighth grade education and an interest in politics will see that what was written by Marcus is relevant today. Be sure to also read "How to Win an Election: An Ancient Guide for Modern Politicians" by Quintus Tullius Cicero and translated by Philip Freeman.

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