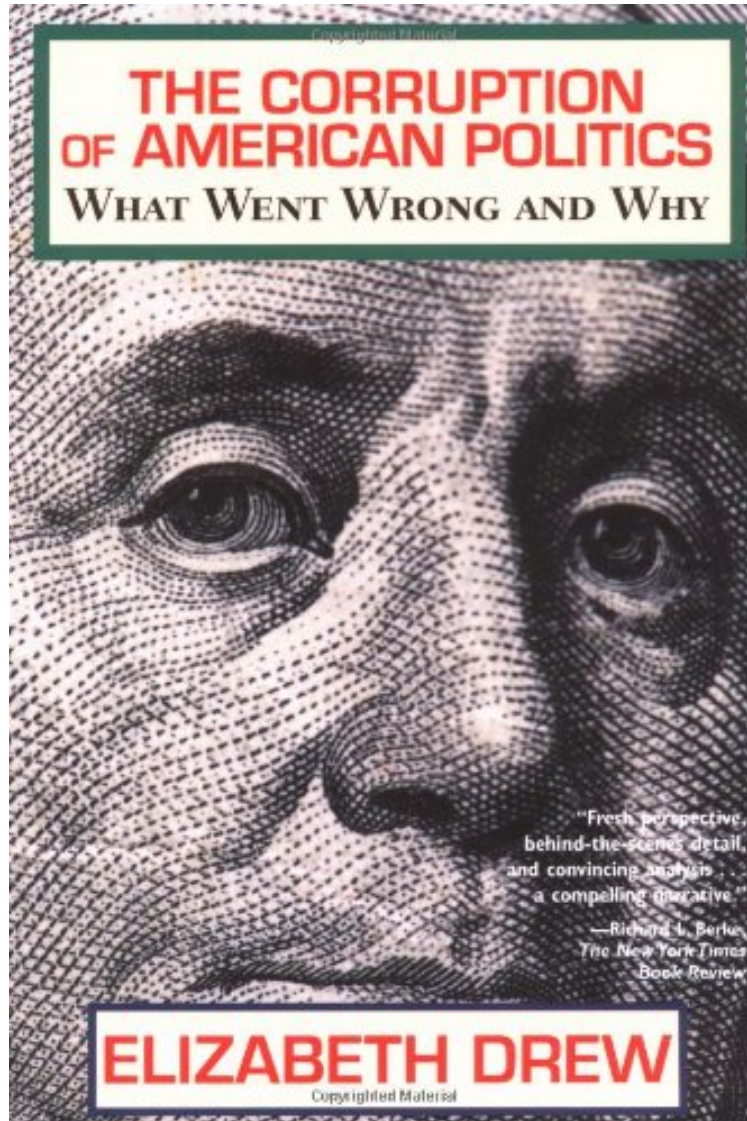


[Free and download] The Corruption of American Politics: What Went Wrong and Why

The Corruption of American Politics: What Went Wrong and Why

Elizabeth Drew

**Download PDF | ePub | DOC | audiobook | ebooks*



DOWNLOAD



+

READ ONLINE

#2843560 in Books 2000-03-01 2000-03-01Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 .86 x 5.33 x 7.911, .0 #File Name: 1585670499278 pages | File size: 45.Mb

Elizabeth Drew : The Corruption of American Politics: What Went Wrong and Why before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Corruption of American Politics: What Went Wrong and Why:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The sad truth about American PoliticsBy Readin' RickInteresting yet sad in that politics isn't about doing the right thing for the right people. It's about getting even with people who disagree with your opinion or your voting. It's about getting inexperienced freshly minted MBA's to do your work for you. It's not realizing that experience counts for something and that the inability to see (or want to see) beyond the next

election has dire consequences for the medium term and long term. Elizabeth Drew shares an insiders view of our flawed political system. It's no wonder that those fully qualified don't run or elect not to seek reelection. A strong "must read" for all voters! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. InformativeBy MutleighBegan reading and have had to reread many paragraphs because they are informative and detailed. The information in this book explains many events in a way no news media has reported. I'm recommending this book to many of my friends and relatives. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Money talks, regardless of political stripeBy J. LombardoThe theme of this book - that political favor can be bought with hard currency in Washington - is neither surprising nor really the point. Rather, one main reason that Drew's book is recommended is the insider access to the banality of it all; how Republicans and Democrats alike feed at the trough of private political contributions, and refuse to reform the system because any such reform will, almost by definition, reduce the power of those who hold it. This is really the key, although often unstated, theme of the book: power. In Washington, money = power, and, as noted, the most interesting aspect of the book is that no one really denies this. They just try to keep it bottled up in committee. Drew is sometimes charged with that dogmatic descriptor "liberal bias," but her heroes in this book are two Republicans: Fred Thompson and John McCain. So I don't think said "bias" influences this book one way or another (anyone can find bias if looking for it). Rather, the heroes of the book are those who try to "do something" for the public good, and the villains are those who manipulate the political process to block the do-gooders. Drew can be a bit pithy and spiteful, but isn't that part of her charm? Any hack can report the facts of a Senate floor debate, but very few (1) have access to the much more important behind the scenes deal-brokering and (2) have the integrity and journalistic chops to gossip about it. Reading her describe a Senator that you've always suspected of being an idiot as an idiot should be part of the fun, regardless of your political preference. In sum, if you follow politics with any sort of a balanced view, you should enjoy *The Corruption of American Politics*. It's an insider account of how Congress slowly works for the public good, but only to a point. Good stuff.

Drawing on her superb skills as a probing journalist and shrewd analyst, Washington reporter Elizabeth Drew details precisely how money and ideology, as well as a lower quality of politicians and lower standards of political behavior, have debased American politics over the past twenty-five years. Wise, insightful, and timely, *The Corruption of American Politics* offers invaluable suggestions as to how we can restore our government to be responsive to the needs of its citizens. "[Drew] nimbly brings to life the machinations on Capitol Hill and the White House with fresh perspective, behind-the-scenes detail and convincing analysis. . . . In fact, Drew's examination of campaign finance makes a compelling narrative."--Richard L. Berke, *The New York Times Book Review*. . . one of the most skillfully written, as well as insightful, looks inside the Beltway to appear in a very long time."--Publishers Weekly, starred review "There is no one better on Washington than Elizabeth Drew."--Joan Didion "What Rachel Carson was to the nascent environmental movement of the 1960s, Drew is to the campaign finance reform movement of the 1990s. . . . [A] profoundly important and disturbing work . . . Elegant, magisterial, and persuasive, this book establishes Drew as the political conscience of the nation."--Library Journal

.com Elizabeth Drew, longtime Washington correspondent for *The New Yorker*, provides an up-close look at the scandalous roots of America's political culture. With its focus on campaign-finance reform, *The Corruption of American Politics* is not a flashy read but a surprisingly engrossing one, full of vivid characterizations and sly observations (one senator, for example, is described as "unburdened by brilliance"). Drew places her subject in the larger context of what has happened to American political life since Watergate. The public has lost most of its faith in government, she writes, warning: "Lack of trust creates the risk of susceptibility to demagoguery, or of abuses of the democratic process." Her behind-the-scenes descriptions are a real strength--she has incredible access to Washington's movers and shakers--but they also give rise to a weakness: the politicians who double as sources tend to come off well, while the reverse is true for those who didn't invite Drew into their confidence. In addition, readers who lean conservative may detect a whiff of liberal bias on these pages; yet they need not agree with all of Drew's judgments to appreciate her journalism. For a glimpse at how Washington really works--from the naked partisanship of Congress to the White House spin machine--Elizabeth Drew is hard to beat. --John J. Miller From Booklist Drew has been writing about Washington for a generation, so she is more than qualified to consider "the debasement of American politics over the past twenty-five years." In *Whatever It Takes*, she described how campaign finance law was manipulated in 1996; it was said that Senator Fred Thompson (R-TN) kept a copy of her book nearby as he headed the Senate committee investigating campaign finances. It comes as no surprise, then, that *Corruption* is largely about the travails of that committee and the unsuccessful efforts of legislators, including Thompson, John McCain (R-AZ), Russ Feingold (D-WI), Christopher Shays (R-CT), and Marty Meehan (D-MA), to pass legislation to reform the system. But the same issues central to the campaign reform battle--the dominant role of money, intense partisanship, lack of civility, erosion of trust, institutional failures, lack of leadership--were on display in the impeachment struggle, which Drew also discusses here. True to her years with *The New Yorker*, Drew never hesitates to deliver opinions; how awful to be one of the legislators she labels a "dim bulb" ! For political junkies and others who care about what happens

inside the Beltway, Corruption offers fascinating insider detail. Mary Carroll From Kirkus sAn up-to-date indictment of an oft-charged institution. A distinguished political journalist, Drew (Showdown, 1996, etc.), formerly with the New Yorker, observes the cesspool of American politics for a living. She argues that politics and politicians have degenerated over the last two decades and that this perception is not just conventional grouching about officeholdersit really is true. Much of what she describes is familiar: the disrespect for public service engendered by constant attacks on government; the mindless partisanship that has poisoned efforts to legislate; and the overriding importance of money, money, money. But Drew pursues these themes in the context of recent events, providing bluntly honest versions of the failed attempts to reform campaign finance and to remove the president from office. The former features two hapless heroes, senators Fred Thompson and John McCain, whose efforts illustrate the loneliness of ``being a reformer in an institution that doesn't want to be reformed" and the utter intransigence of congressional leaders zealously defending their advantaged positions. Not even a quixotic champion can be found in the impeachment saga, of course, for in it ``an unworthy man overmatched zealous foes who showed no sense of boundaries or proportion." Anyone shocked by Drew's revelations has been seriously out of touch with reality, yet the ease with which genuine reform is brushed aside indicates a continued reluctance to recognize that the appalling facts of electoral politics in this country really do matter for the lives of private citizens. This is not, however, a fundamentally pessimistic book. Drew believes there is public interest in reform and that even today's politicians will respond to voters as well as donors if citizens stop assuming that government is inherently evil and start expecting more from officeholders. Should be required reading for anyone who doubts the corrupting impact of money, partisanship, and antigovernment rhetoric in contemporary American politics. -- Copyright 1999, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.