

[PDF] Packing The Court: The Rise Of Judicial Power And The Coming Crisis Of The Supreme Court

James MacGregor Burns - pdf download free book

Books Details:

Title: Packing the Court: The Rise o

Author: James MacGregor Burns

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Description:

From Publishers Weekly Pulitzer-winning historian Burns gives a brisk, readable tour of the history of the appointment of Supreme Court justices since 1789. In this respect, the book is fresh and compelling. But Burns (*Running Alone*) has another aim. Particularly aggrieved by the Rehnquist and Roberts courts, he argues that every president since Washington has sought to fill the Court with justices who think as he does; that judicial review is unconstitutional; that the unelected Court has never been politically accountable to the American people; and that a courageous

president (like Barack Obama, he suggests) should simply announce that, like Andrew Jackson, he won't abide by Supreme Court rulings that invalidate laws enacted by Congress and signed by him. Known for the liberal flags he flies, Burns runs up the radical pennant here. There's no evidence that the American people are as aggrieved over the Court as Burns is. And the term packing should be reserved, as until now it has been, for extreme manipulative efforts like FDR's. This is a terrific little book—save for its politics run amok. *(June)*

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Review [Audio Review] Most U.S. citizens of the 21st century take for granted that the Supreme Court will decide the most divisive issues of our day but this is not what the Constitution's framers had in mind when they wrote that document. The author's argument is that the Court has become too partisan and has misused its power to overturn state and national legislation. Narrator Norman Dietz has a deep, assured voice that lends authority and gravitas to the book. His tone and pacing make it easy to follow the constitutional arguments, and he pauses at crucial intervals to allow listeners to consider Burns's ideas. At times, he sounds like a professor at the lectern, but he's an interesting professor who demands our attention. R.I.G. Â© AudioFile 2009, Portland, Maine -- AudioFile

"Here a legendary American scholar has brought us an irresistible gift—a brilliant, compelling and consistently surprising history of the Supreme Court's role in American life. Like all of Burns's work, *Packing the Court* looks backward and forward, drawing crucial lessons from the past that should guide every American leader and citizen today. This important volume is basic and essential and should be vigorously read and debated by all of us."

-Michael Beschloss

"Provocative and timely... Mr. Burns uses his intimate knowledge of America's past to situate judicial rulings within a political and social context, even as he dissects the practical consequences of particular decisions."

-Michiko Kakutani, *The New York Times*

"*Packing the Court* is just what you would expect of Burns: a readable and accessible history, full of memorable details... I was engaged, entertained and provoked by this surprising and energetic history of the Court."

-Jeffrey Rosen, *The Washington Post*

"In graceful prose, Burns takes us on a quick historical tour of many famous and infamous decisions, demonstrating how the court, frequently imagined as the protector of the weak and powerless, has more often been the friend of the powerful and a 'choke point for progressive reforms,' contemptuous of popular legislation."

-Kirkus Reviews

"The singular James MacGregor Burns never disappoints, not with any of his more than two dozen books. In *Packing the Court* he continues his unbroken streak, with yet another volume on the American experience, this one focused on the trajectory of the Supreme Court. The book is past and present at its best—a rigorous and revealing recounting of this most elusive and even reclusive of the three branches of government. Burns concludes with a clear caution: that failure to reform the nation's highest court risks having it deviate still further from what the Founders originally intended."

-Barbara Kellerman, author of *Bad Leadership* and *Followership*

"Provocative and well-written."

-Clive Crook, *TheAtlantic.com* --Various

[Audio Review] Pulitzer Prize winning author Burns's latest is a jeremiad against the influence and unelected power of the Supreme Court. Burns ably guides reader through a brief history of the court, concentrating on its instances of overreaching the bounds of its authority, condemning the unconstitutionality of judicial review and closing with a series of suggestions for reform that include more rigorous presidential oversight of Supreme Court rulings. Norman Dietz is as polished and assured as ever; he reads ably and clearly, eliding Burns's exasperation and laying out the facts with a minimum of inflection and understated authority. A Penguin Press hardcover (Reviews, Apr. 27). (Aug.) --Publisher's Weekly --This text refers to the edition.

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