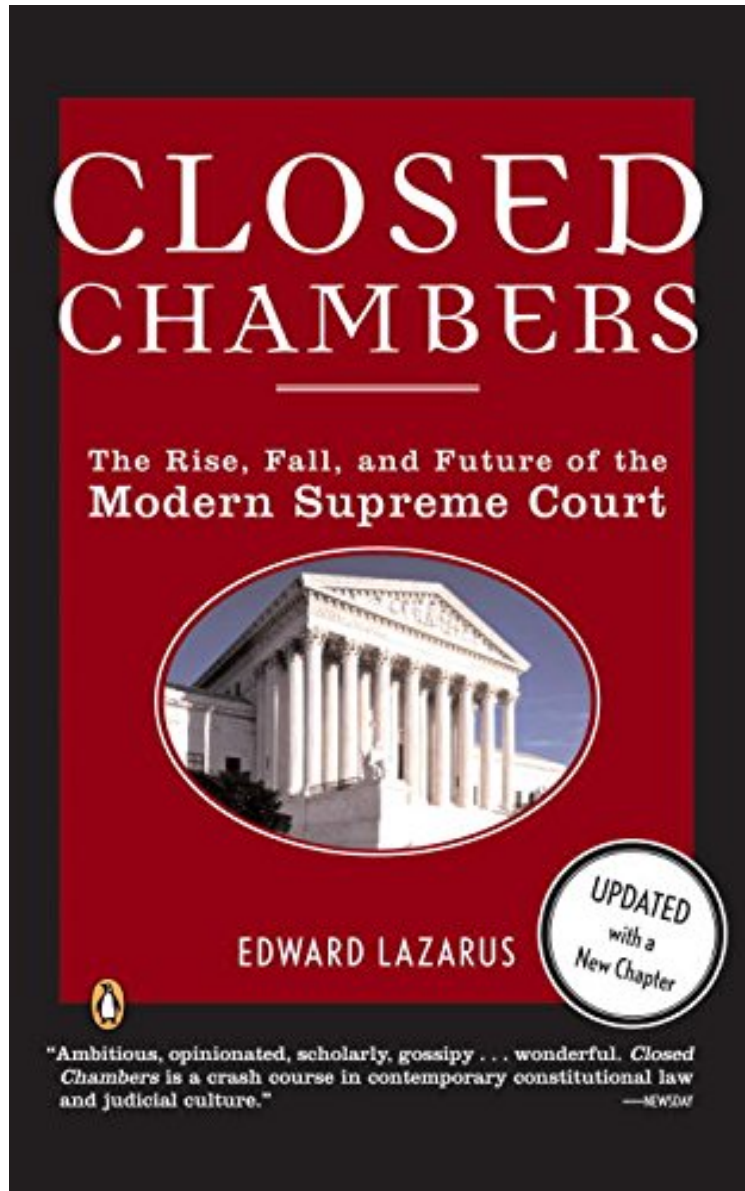


(Download) Closed Chambers: The Rise, Fall, and Future of the Modern Supreme Court

Closed Chambers: The Rise, Fall, and Future of the Modern Supreme Court

Edward Lazarus

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



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#299005 in Books 2005-05-03 2005-04-26Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.00 x 1.10 x 5.40l, 1.09 #File Name: 0143035274608 pages | File size: 60.Mb

Edward Lazarus : Closed Chambers: The Rise, Fall, and Future of the Modern Supreme Court before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Closed Chambers: The Rise, Fall, and Future of the Modern Supreme Court:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Erudite yet still compelling
By AmeripenThe Supreme Court is a body that is so important, but about which so little is known. Even, I think, the intelligence agencies are more public about the manner in which they operate. This book changes all that. I enjoyed it thoroughly. It is erudite yet still compelling. It has persuaded me to pursue a law degree.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Nothing but praise
By TouffuLazarus does a great job explaining complex legal issues without dumbing them down and Justice Blackmun really comes alive on these pages. He's like one of those great fictional characters: you might have never heard of him before, never gave a damn and now you do. Totally captivating in some parts: no mean feat for a legal non-fic. The section on capital punishment should be required reading for all Amnesty International members (especially the non-American ones). Thank you Mr. Lazarus!
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Significantly useful for my angloamerican law studies
By Edoardo PalazzoloExactly what I expected. Significantly useful for my angloamerican law studies.

When *Closed Chambers* was first published, it was met with a firestorm of controversy as well as a shower of praise for being the first book to break the code of silence about the inner workings of this country's most powerful court. In this eloquent, trailblazing account, with a new chapter covering *Bush v. Gore*, Guantanamo, and other recent controversial court decisions, Edward Lazarus, who served as a clerk to Justice Harry Blackmun, presents a searing indictment of a court at war with itself and often in neglect of its constitutional duties. Combining memoir, history, and legal analysis, Lazarus reveals in astonishing detail the realities of what takes place behind the closed doors of the U.S. Supreme Court, an institution that through its rulings holds the power to affect the life of every American.

.com Edward Lazarus, a former Supreme Court clerk to Justice Harry Blackmun, spills the beans on an institution that values silence. Nobody is supposed to understand what happens behind the scenes of the high court--that's why the justices rarely speak to the media--but Lazarus tells all he knows from his time as a top aide to Blackmun in the Supreme Court's 1988 term. There's a lot of legal theory and history, but it's well presented and usually focuses on touchstone issues in U.S. politics; cases involving abortion, the death penalty, and racial preferences receive sustained treatment in these pages. There are gossipy bits, too, revealing unflattering details about several current justices. Sure to be one of the more controversial books of the year. --John J. Miller
From Library Journal
Part memoir, part constitutional history, this volume by a former law clerk to Justice Harry Blackmun reflects both his own experience at the U.S. Supreme Court in the 1988-89 term and substantial and original research. Lazarus, now a federal prosecutor in Los Angeles, is a fine writer who makes accessible the legal esoterica behind the compelling struggles about such issues as the death penalty, abortion, and the role of race in the law. But his story is really a lamentation over, in his view, inconsistent and irrational adjudication, driven to an unprecedented degree by ideology and the manipulation practiced by unprincipled law clerks. Justices Kennedy and Brennan come in for particular attack on these grounds, while Justice Souter warrants his praise. Whether Lazarus is right or wrong in his assessment, this book is big news--few law clerks write such behind-the-scenes accounts. The clarity and authority with which he writes makes his contribution to the literature on the Supreme Court even more valuable. Recommended for all libraries.
?Cynthia Harrison, George Washington Univ., Washington, DC
Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.
From Kirkus
sJustice Oliver Wendell Holmes's tart description of Supreme Court deliberations--"nine scorpions in a bottle"--has seldom seemed more apt than in this scathing tell-all screed about the Rehnquist Court from Lazarus (*Black Hills/White Justice*, 1991), now an L.A. federal prosecutor. As a clerk of former Justice Harry Blackmun in the 1988-89 term, Lazarus came to feel that infighting between its conservative and liberal divisions had "corroded [its] institutional culture and driven the Justices to disregard the principles of decision-making: deliberation, integrity of argument, self-restraint that separate the judicial function from the exercise of purely political power." He focuses on the Court's decisions on capital punishment, race relations, and abortion to demonstrate how its comity has become strained. During this time, the politicization of the confirmation process, as evidenced in the Robert Bork and Clarence Thomas nominations, was mirrored in the Court's chambers--sometimes in subtle ways (Sandra Day O'Connor was believed to have stopped joining William Brennan in majority opinions for having tricked her in an unnamed case), sometimes in argument (a shoving match between a conservative and liberal clerk). Only other participants can confirm Lazarus's sensational charges (e.g., that clerks were ceded unwarrantably large roles in crafting Court opinions, and that conservative "cabalists" manipulated Anthony Kennedy into early votes in death penalty appeals because of his reluctance to cast the deciding vote to ensure an execution). His admitted liberalism can be glimpsed, as in his invariable depiction of liberals as "scrupulous," "compassionate," and the like. But his analysis of Court opinions is even-handedly critical. Conservatives, prodded by the brilliant but nasty Antonin Scalia, pushed states rights at every turn. Octogenarian liberals (Blackmun, Brennan, and Thurgood Marshall) fell to name-calling and hypocrisy in abandoning principle to gain victory. Today's badly splintered justices, he claims, no longer speak as one institutional voice. This memoir's revelations based on reporting as well as personal experience may obscure its less controversial but more thoughtful analysis of the Rehnquist Court's poisonous "politics of certainty." (8 pages by

photos, not seen) -- Copyright 1998, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.