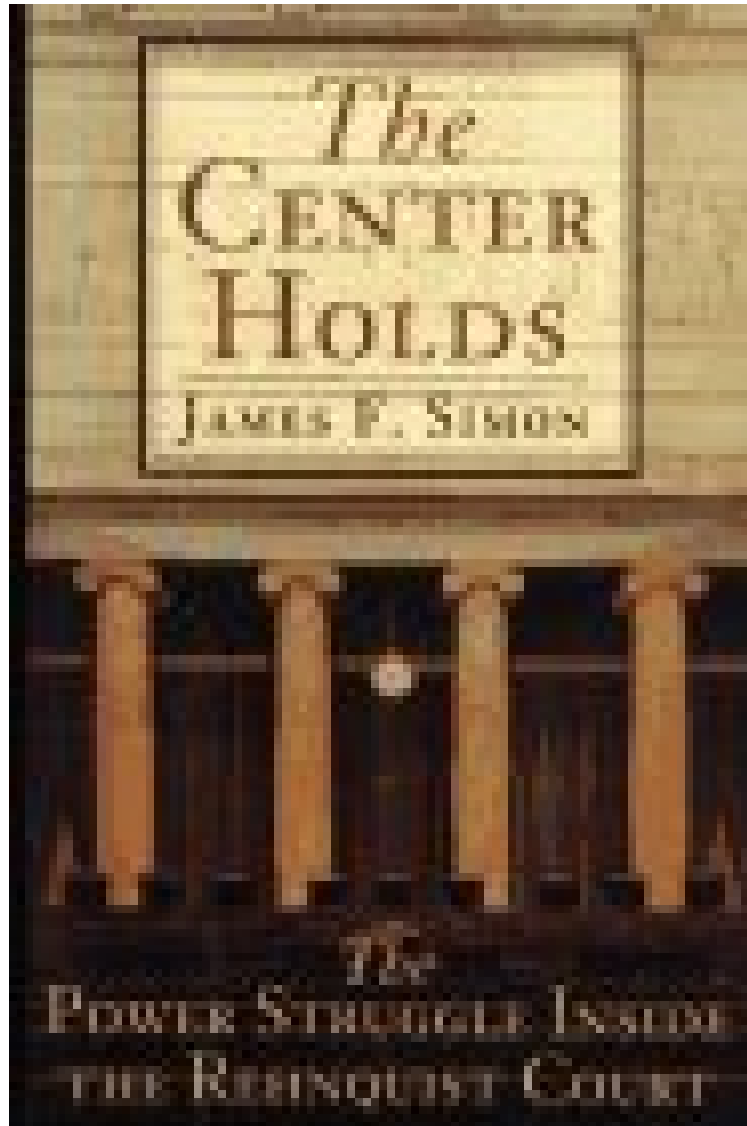


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The Center Holds

James F. Simon

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James F. Simon : The Center Holds before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Center Holds:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Well organized; Not my top pick By Craig Anthony Nicholas Well organized, issue focused, format by that allows the reader to follow the development of case law and the efforts to influence outcomes of decisions through the nomination process. Professor Simon writes with a benign liberal bias and ends the book in the same tone as "The Brethren" with "moderates" in fair amount of control through their influence

on the Court. This is a useful for those who want to appreciate more intimately where the court has come to on prevailing issues. I have also have made reviews on: Storm Center: The Supreme Court in American Politics, Eighth Edition, Closed Chambers: The Rise, Fall, and Future of the Modern Supreme Court, and Reason and Passion: Justice Brennan's Enduring Influence. My favorite overall on the high court is Storm Center: The Supreme Court in American Politics, Eighth Edition. It is great for those that want to study both the court as an institution as well as the politics of the major case issues. For a deeper study on issues, I recommend: Closed Chambers: The Rise, Fall, and Future of the Modern Supreme Court. The book on Brennan is not intended to be on balance. 6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Nothing new, but well-written. By Tung Yin. I've read a lot of books on the Supreme Court, from Woodward's "The Brethren" to Lazarus' "Closed Chambers." Professor Simon's "The Center Holds" is a well-written entry that sheds little new insight into the court but provides a good introduction for the student of the Rehnquist Court. In terms of structure, this book is a little different than others. Rather than proceed chronologically, Professor Simon organizes his discussion thematically. He covers employment discrimination, abortion, federal habeas corpus, and the First Amendment (flag burning, church and state separation) in different chapters. In some ways, this makes a lot of sense, because you get to see the development of controversy over a particular area of law, such as the Reagan administration's repeated efforts to overturn Roe v. Wade. These efforts included attempting to pack the Court with anti-Roe Justices such as Robert Bork (who was not confirmed), and ultimately culminated in Planned Parenthood v. Casey, a case that reaffirmed Roe's central holding (the constitutional right to abortion) but weakened its application. Like most of what is written about the Supreme Court, there is a slight to moderate liberal tilt to "The Center Holds." What is written is accurate and probably does not paint an unfair picture of anyone, but you also get a clear sense of what Professor Simon thinks of the Court's rightward swing. In summary, this is a good introduction to the Rehnquist Court, and in some ways, is a good companion piece to "The Brethren." Interestingly, both books end on the same tone: the "moderates" are in control of the Court. 3 of 6 people found the following review helpful. slanted, yet fascinating. By A Customer. Simon has managed to construct a book with a heavy liberal tilt that is both fascinating (insofar as it reveals the Court's recent inner-workings) and well written.

Focusing on four key areas of civil rights and liberties--racial discrimination, abortion, criminal law, and First Amendment freedoms--an in-depth look at the Supreme Court documents the battle between the old liberal order and emerging conservative majority. 40,000 first printing. \$40,000 ad/promo.

From Publishers Weekly "This is the story of a conservative judicial revolution that failed," declares Simon (The Antagonists), a professor at New York Law School, in this readable, sometimes intimate look at some key Supreme Court cases since the early 1980s. While the leadership of Chief Justice William Rehnquist and the country's conservative tilt in the '80s portended a shift to the right in the Supreme Court, the unpredictable independence of Justices Sandra Day O'Connor, Anthony Kennedy and David Souter has, argues Simon, staved off such change. President Clinton's two appointees, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Stephen Breyer, have solidified the center. Simon intersperses biographical sketches of the justices with close looks at cases in areas like abortion (Webster), capital punishment (McCleskey) and flag burning (Johnson). Most valuable are Simon's descriptions of the memos and drafts--gleaned from confidential sources and the recently opened Thurgood Marshall papers--in which the justices argued and struggled to find majorities. While neither as juicy nor as deep as Bob Woodward and Scott Armstrong's The Brethren, this book has some valuable material for Court followers. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist For 22 years (1969-91), Republican presidents filled every Supreme Court vacancy, 10 in all. When Nixon nominee Rehnquist became chief justice in 1986, conservative Republicans were confident the Court would finally reverse the liberal decisions of the Warren and Burger eras. But they were wrong, and Simon--former Time correspondent and contributing editor, ex-dean and now a professor at New York Law School, and author of four award-winning books on judicial history--examines why. Simon focuses on key decisions on civil rights and civil liberties issues. On the subject of race, he scrutinizes Patterson v. McLean Credit Union (1989). On abortion, he retraces the evolution of Roe v. Wade (1973) and sketches the internal debate over later cases, particularly Webster (1989) and Casey (1992). The central concern of the section "Crime and Punishment" is capital punishment, especially the appeals of Warren McCleskey and Oreste Fulminante; a fourth section analyzes First Amendment cases involving the Establishment Clause and laws criminalizing flag burning. The Center Holds is a fascinating inside look at who the Supreme Court justices are, how they have made vital decisions, and why, ultimately, the Rehnquist Revolution failed. Mary Carroll About the Author James F. Simon is the Martin Professor of Law and Dean Emeritus at New York Law School. He is the author of seven previous books on American history, law, and politics. His books have won the American Bar Association's Silver Gavel Award and twice been named New York Times Notable Books. He lives with his wife in West Nyack, New York.