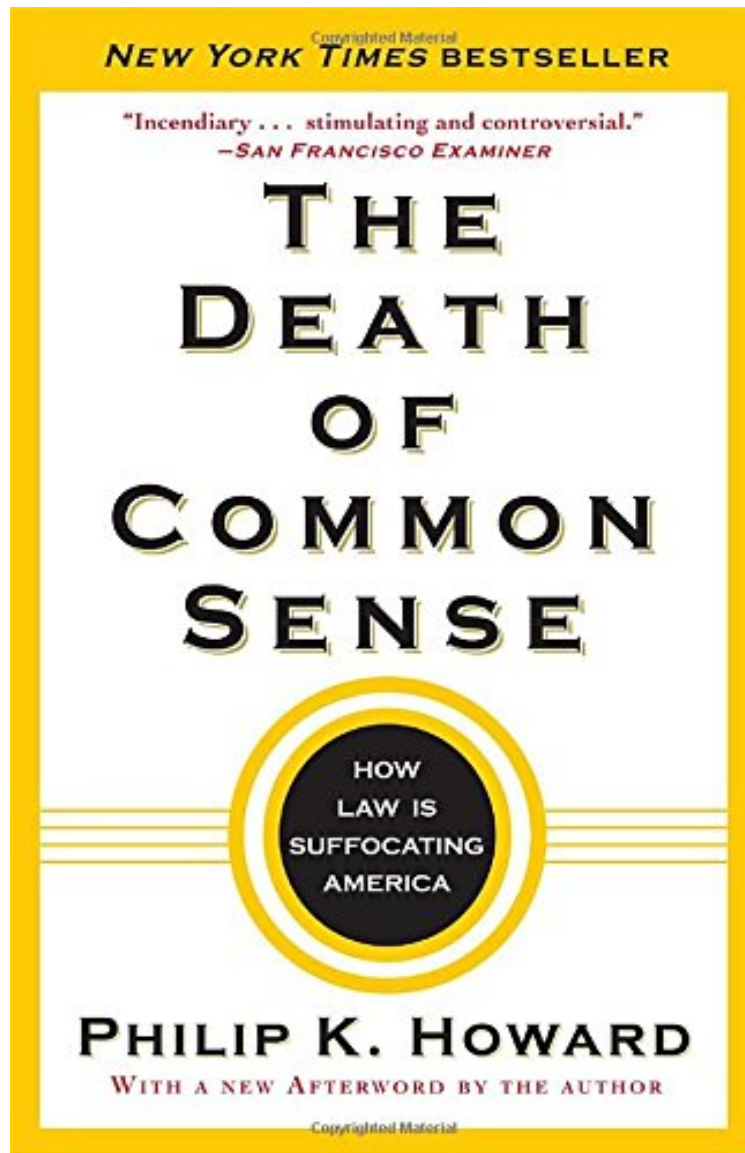


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The Death of Common Sense: How Law Is Suffocating America

Philip K. Howard

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Philip K. Howard : The Death of Common Sense: How Law Is Suffocating America before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Death of Common Sense: How Law Is Suffocating America:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. The growing behemothBy Scott WalkerThe bloated bureaucracy; the rules; the laws; the regulations; are so integral to our lives that we no longer would recognize a life without these burdensome evils. We continue blindly with no discretion, a growing behemoth, with no end in sight; this was never

meant to be. With the thousands upon thousands of pages of rules and regulations we believe we can remove all conceivable risks, contemplate every eventuality, plan for everything; all in the name of "rights", and fairness. What is meant for good, and to bring about harmony, only results in stagnation, closed businesses, higher prices, less choice, rise of litigation, etc. We all pay a price. Ingenuity pays a price. Ironically, "[t]he more precise we try to make law, the more loopholes are created". Mandated perfection only ends in the opposite, along with an incredible waste of money and manpower, not to mention it treats individuals as criminals. This Expansion of law into agencies and programs was never meant to be. Three big culprits (though there are many) are OSHA, EPA, and the USDA. Howard says this emotionally based attitude has replaced humanity; and, that it has its roots in rationalism. He gives numerous examples, with many rulings so ridiculous even to the point of laughable. Although Wilson's "Great Society" and Roosevelt's "New Deal" (whom he quotes) spawned this form of bureaucracy it still took many more presidents to bring us to this point. These two progressives probably never envisioned it to this degree. It takes more than an individual, it requires an unbridled beast--the first beast--government. His sources are lengthy for so compact a volume. There is also a lengthy bibliography, but it would have been helpful to add endnotes. We need to get back to individual responsibility; the direction we're headed is simply not attainable. "The virtue of rights, at least to the advocates, is that they are absolute. What's a little inefficiency when there is complete justice for me? Absolutes sound good, but generally leave behind a landscape of paradoxes and bruised victims." 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. More than a definition of the problem By Michael H. Benton So often in books, concerning issues we face as a society, only a definition of the particular issue is provided. Perhaps some weak attempt is made at providing a direction or conversely the author spins off into the depth of the universe never to return to reason. In "The Death of Common Sense," Mr. Howard leave others behind and give us an example of how to do it right. Rather than providing some drab history on our national problems, Mr. Howard give us an informative, and dare I say entertaining, cause and effect model to help up understand just how we ended up with a government that hardy functions. Moreover, it is not some sort of blame game that suits some hidden agenda or political party's attempt to keep the status quo. It is obvious Mr. Howard understands there is plenty of blame for everyone, even us (the public) that willingly fiddles while our metaphoric version of Rome burns. Though published in 1995, the addition of an addendum for the 2011 release updates us on how we have progressed (or regressed as the case may be) since. Mr. Howard shows us the problem and suggests a process to end the problem. The only question remaining is if you will read his book and help do something about the problem. MH Benton Freelance writer and editorial cartoonist and award-winning author of Life's About the Adjectives 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Reread it recently and was motivated to pursue his next two books and have not been disappointed. This along with "The Collapse By A. Conrad Read this almost 20 years ago and found it to be very informative. Reread it recently and was motivated to pursue his next two books and have not been disappointed. This along with "The Collapse of the Common Good" and "The Rule of Nobody" should inspire all of us to take action toward change in our country.

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER We need a new idea of how to govern. The current system is broken. Law is supposed to be a framework for humans to make choices, not the replacement for free choice. So notes Philip K. Howard in the new Afterword to his explosive manifesto *The Death of Common Sense*. Here Howard offers nothing less than a fresh, lucid, practical operating system for modern democracy. America is drowning in law, lawsuits, and nearly endless red tape. Before acting or making a decision, we often abandon our best instincts. We pause, we worry, we equivocate, and then we divert our energy into trying to protect ourselves. Filled with one too many examples of bureaucratic overreach, *The Death of Common Sense* demonstrates how we and our country can at last get back on track.