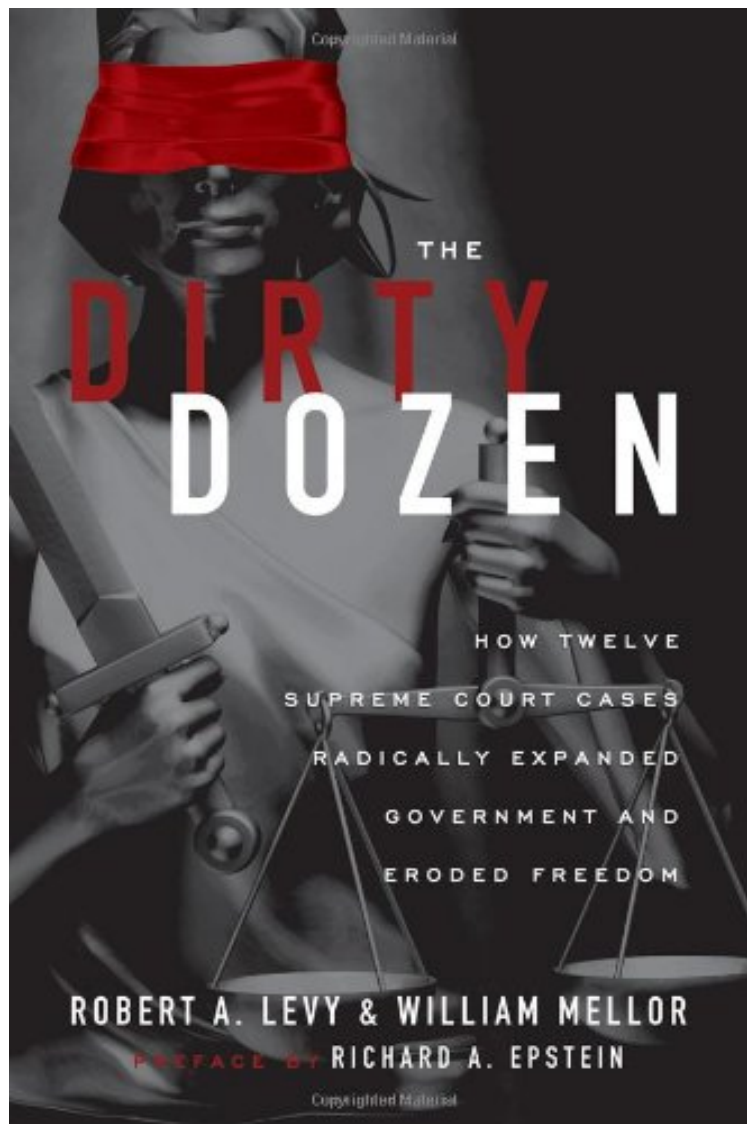


(Download) The Dirty Dozen: How Twelve Supreme Court Cases Radically Expanded Government and Eroded Freedom, With a New Preface

## The Dirty Dozen: How Twelve Supreme Court Cases Radically Expanded Government and Eroded Freedom, With a New Preface

*Robert Levy, William Mellor*

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**Robert Levy, William Mellor : The Dirty Dozen: How Twelve Supreme Court Cases Radically Expanded Government and Eroded Freedom, With a New Preface** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Dirty Dozen: How Twelve Supreme Court Cases Radically Expanded Government and Eroded Freedom, With a New Preface:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not for the faint of heart. The Constitution, and our Constitutionally-limited Republic, died a long time ago. By Sui Juris Sad but indispensable book, for those who want to understand the myriad of crossroads where SCOTUS blew-it and took us down the wrong path (translation: undermined either individual liberty, or Federalism, or states' rights (which was itself an integral aspect of the original system of Federalism)). Most of the reasons for the sell-out are political, in my opinion. And the mistakes usually flow from the 3 biggest loopholes in the Constitution: The Necessary Proper Clause; The Commerce Clause; and The General Welfare Clause. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Not just for Libertarians By Yum This book does a great job of explaining how politicians (from both the left and right) and public appeal have persuaded the supreme court to arrive at unconstitutional rulings, primarily over the last century. The result has been a progressive and scary move towards bigger government at the expense of the personal freedoms and liberties that are the cornerstone of our constitution. The book does much more than complain; it recounts in unbiased details, it offers explanations of the rationale for the decisions, it illustrates the widespread implications of each ruling, and it offers hope with a described path back to the days of achieving and retaining one's own self worth. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. How The Supreme Court Aided The Rise Of The Leviathan State By D. Mataconis Americans have long looked to the Supreme Court as the last bastion of their liberties and as the one institution that stands as a check against the encroachments of an Executive Branch eager to expand its power and and a Legislative Branch intent on satisfying the whims of a grasping majority. As Robert Levy and William Mellor demonstrate in their must-read book *The Dirty Dozen: How Twelve Supreme Court Cases Radically Expanded Government and Eroded Freedom*, that is far from the truth. In reality, and especially in the 3/4 of a century since the New Deal, the Supreme Court has essentially stood by while the Federal Government, and the states, whittle away at long cherished American liberties. Though they deal with at-times complex legal issues, Levy and Mellor have done a great job in this book of making those issues understandable even to someone without legal training. For each case selected, they set forth the facts of the case, their position on where the Court got it wrong, and the consequences that have developed from that decision. They also deal separately with two of the most controversial Supreme Court cases of the past 30-odd years; *Roe v. Wade* and *Bush v. Gore*. For different reasons, they fail to include either case in their "Dirty Dozen" list largely because they believe that the Court at least got the result right even if one could find problems with the way they got there. In each case, Levy and Mellor clearly explain how the Court ignored the plain text of the Constitution, precedent, and quite often common sense, to reach it's decision and how those decisions have increased the power of the state at the expense of individual liberty. One may disagree with the author's choice of cases; it would have been interesting, for example, for them to discuss "Dirty Dozen" cases from the era prior to 1937 (and there are certainly enough of them) and how those decisions lead to the judicial ideology that created the case law they rightly decry. However, it's fairly clear that they've selected a dozen pretty bad cases, and the book provides an object lesson of what happens when one of the branches of government ignores it's Constitutional responsibilities.

The Founding Fathers wanted the judicial branch to serve as a check on the power of the legislative and executive, and gave the Supreme Court the responsibility of interpreting the Constitution in a way that would safeguard individual freedoms. Sadly, the Supreme Court has handed down many destructive decisions on cases you probably never learned about in school. In *The Dirty Dozen*, two distinguished legal scholars shed light on the twelve worst cases, which allowed government to interfere in your private contractual agreements; curtail your rights to criticize or support political candidates; arrest and imprison you indefinitely, without filing charges; seize your private property, without compensation, when someone uses the property for criminal activity even if you don't know about it!

From Publishers Weekly Cato Institute senior fellow Levy and lawyer Mellor, in this excellent examination of twelve far-reaching Supreme Court cases and their consequences, force readers to question the direction in which the judiciary has led our country over the past century-and possibly their own attitudes toward the federal government. The authors deftly navigate the complicated proceedings without slipping into lawyer-speak, while unapologetically leaning on their libertarian sentiments to color their commentary and analysis. Though the writers defend well their claim that the dozen cases under discussion-with a number of "dishonorable mentions" and an appendix each for *Roe v. Wade* and *Bush v. Gore*-have expanded the federal government and eroded civil liberties, one can't help but feel a creeping sense of arrogance when Levy and Mellor assert repeatedly that they know how the Constitution's authors would view the document were they alive today. Still, the authors' canny investigation into the Supreme Court should call into doubt some of the staid political viewpoints readers may have taken too long for granted. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. Many of the most harmful decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court have been subject to sustained attack in separate places. But I am not aware of any volume whose major function is to critique the worst in one place. Into this void step two fearless writers, Bob Levy and Chip Mellor, who through their work have been deeply involved in shaping our legal and political culture. (From the Foreword by Richard A. Epstein, Professor of Law, University of Chicago) A passionate, thoughtful, provocative, and eminently readable book by two of America's most influential libertarian lawyers and legal thinkers. (Eugene Volokh, Professor

of Law, UCLA; Founder of the Volokh Conspiracy Blog)An easy read, and a very informative primer on some long-neglected cases. |fLyle Denniston, Scotus BlogLevy and Mellor offer fascinating insights on twelve of the most important and controversial cases of our time. Readers will gain new appreciation for the Supreme Court's role in affecting their lives and liberties. With that appreciation will come heightened understanding of the stakes in future Supreme Court nominations. (Nadine Strossen, Former President, American Civil Liberties Union)About the AuthorRobert A. Levy is senior fellow in constitutional studies at the Cato Institute. He has written for The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post, and many other publications. William Mellor is the president and general counsel of the Institute for Justice. He litigates constitutional cases involving economic liberty, property rights, school choice, and free speech.