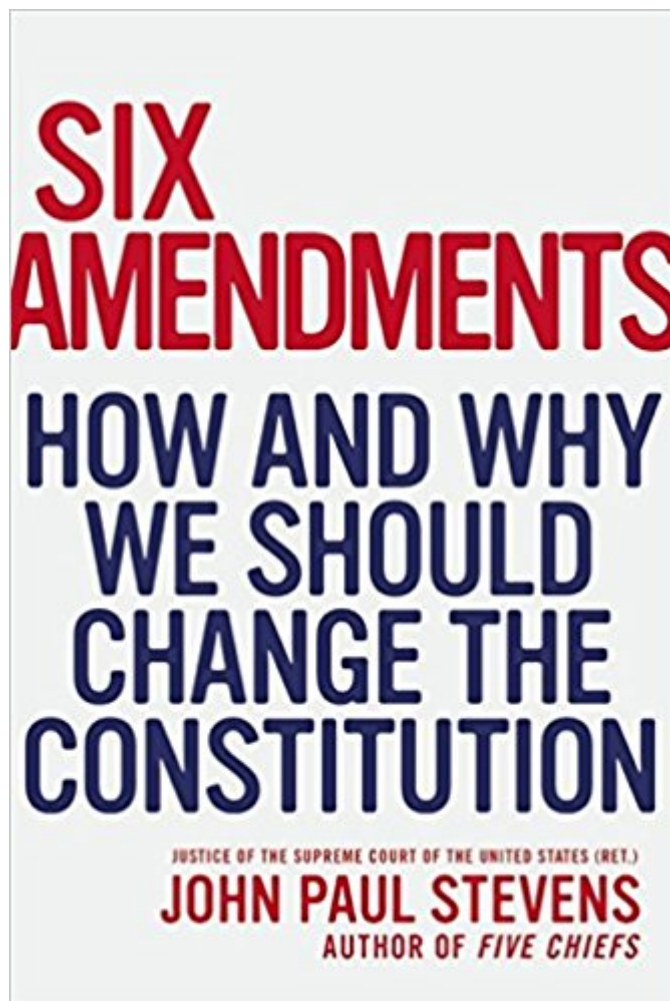


The book was found

Six Amendments: How And Why We Should Change The Constitution



Synopsis

For the first time ever, a retired Supreme Court Justice offers a manifesto on how the Constitution needs to change. By the time of his retirement in June 2010, John Paul Stevens had become the second longest serving Justice in the history of the Supreme Court. Now he draws upon his more than three decades on the Court, during which he was involved with many of the defining decisions of the modern era, to offer a book like none other. SIX AMENDMENTS is an absolutely unprecedented call to arms, detailing six specific ways in which the Constitution should be amended in order to protect our democracy and the safety and wellbeing of American citizens. Written with the same precision and elegance that made Stevens's own Court opinions legendary for their clarity as well as logic, SIX AMENDMENTS is a remarkable work, both because of its unprecedented nature and, in an age of partisan ferocity, its inarguable common sense.

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Customer Reviews

PRAISE FOR THE FIVE CHIEFS:"Informative and very appealing....It's classic justice Stevens: understated and generous to those he differs with, but absolutely clear on where he believes justice lies." --- Adam Cohen, Time"Laced with observations on the court's architecture, traditions and even its seating arrangements, it is the collected ruminations of a man who has served his country in war and peace, across the decades... His memoir is as gracious as its author and a reminder that Stevens is more than a longtime member of the nation's highest court. He is a national treasure." --- Jim Newton, Los Angeles Times"An important addition to American history....At its core, the book is

not just another memoir from yet another judge. It marks instead the end of an era on the Supreme Court and in the broader swath of American law and politics." --- Andrew Cohen, The Atlantic
"Coming from the last of a dying breed of jurists who genuinely believe you can learn something from everyone if you just listen hard enough, it is a lesson in how, at the Supreme Court, civility and cordiality matter more, even, than doctrine."--- Dahlia Lithwick, Washington Post

John Paul Stevens served as a Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit from 1970-1975. President Ford nominated him as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, and he took his seat December 19, 1975. Justice Stevens retired from the Supreme Court on June 29, 2010. He has written for the New York Review of Books and is the author of Five Chiefs: A Supreme Court Memoir.

Sensible suggestions for correcting the most glaring faults of our Constitution. Of course, there is not a snowball's chance in Hell of these things getting through any Congress we shall ever see. And, the alternative of a new Constitutional Convention will provide the open way to complete dominance by the Kochs, the Mercers, and the like.

I have just finished reading the Chapter on "Campaign Finance" in Stevens' very interesting book, Six Amendments. My question is why would he not create a very simple Amendment that simply clarifies that non voting persons cannot contribute to a candidate's campaign fund. This would follow quite logically from Judge Kavanaugh's decision that "the federal government may exclude foreign citizens from activities "intimately related to the process of democratic self-government". P. 69 of his book. Instead he advocates in my opinion a very wishy-washy amendment that the 1st Amendment does not prohibit the Congress or any state from "imposing reasonable limits on the amount of money that candidates...." The heart of his chapter I think is the distinction between voting persons and non voting persons and the cases he cites distinguish between non voting foreign persons and voting citizen persons. He also does not discuss the fact that the concept of corporations as persons goes back almost a century and is not really a question in the Citizens United case..

We are in the midst of seeing how we might have to bring our Constitution up to date with our social and circa changes.

Not as enlightening of a read as I thought it would be. It seems like he only wrote this book

because... well because he recently retired and wanted to sell some books before people forgot who he was. He was a great justice and he is very eloquent and articulate, but the book was not as well thought out as I would have liked-- in other words the book seems rushed.

I'm not usually a deep reader, but this kept my interest and gave this middle age adult some new things to think about.

Incite full, scholarly and legally well thought out. All this and written so both lawyers and laymen can appreciate the force of his arguments.

Intriguing as well as practical. With this Congress and major party splits and a relatively uninformed public who base their decisions mostly on fear, rumors and conspiracies, this practical and up to date solution should be seriously considered, but probably won't be.

This book is exactly as it is described on the cover. Written by retired Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens, who certainly understands this subject, and is described by others as a man of great intellect and integrity. The purpose of most of these six proposed amendments is (he says) to get the understanding of the constitution back to what it originally was (regarding these issues), rather than to change its meaning. Two of the six amendments, I think, would have very broad support among the general public (on gerrymandering and campaign finance). Two would baffle the general public (on sovereign immunity and the anti-commandeering rule). Two are on very controversial issues (the death penalty and gun control). I am not an expert on constitution or law, so I can't 100% say how solid his logic and facts are, but these are great places to start to find out what the people of the United States really want. Please note that this book is not written exclusively for experts, but it is also not an easy read.

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