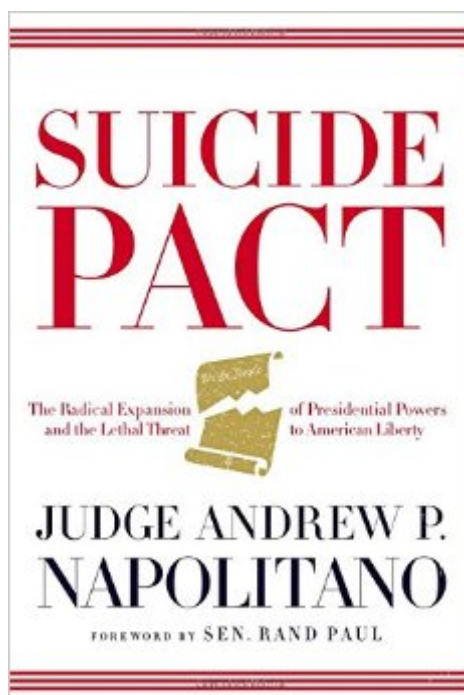


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Suicide Pact: The Radical Expansion Of Presidential Powers And The Lethal Threat To American Liberty



Synopsis

New York Times's bestselling author Judge Andrew P. Napolitano exposes the alarming history of presidential power grabs performed in the name of national security. Judge, scholar, bestselling author, and Fox News Senior Judicial Analyst Andrew P. Napolitano is back with a shocking chronicle of America's descent from a free society to a frightening surveillance state. In *Suicide Pact*, Napolitano details a long, sordid history of governmental—and especially presidential—encroachments on liberty, enacted in the name of protecting America but which serve instead to undermine national security and erode the nation's founding freedoms. Appealing to all politically aware Americans but especially to highly engaged conservatives and libertarians (including his 576,000 Facebook fans and 240,000 Twitter followers), Napolitano's sobering-yet-patriotic perspective unmasks rampant political doubletalk and Washington power plays by taking a clear, legally grounded look at how we got here. Blending fascinating history with fresh reporting and analysis on contemporary issues such as drone warfare and executions, NSA surveillance, and secret federal courts, *Suicide Pact* casts a vision beyond hollow rhetoric to common-sense solutions for returning sanity to our shores.

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Customer Reviews

This is a book every American should read. It is not easy going. It's not the writing. Judge Napolitano is a fine writer. It is just that the material is so disheartening, reading about the unconstitutional power expansion of the president. This book reveals actions of the U.S. Presidents

that are miscarriages of justice and outright assaults on our civil liberties. “This book argues that the greatest trick the federal government ever pulled was convincing us that we should voluntarily surrender our liberties, just because the monsters who perpetrated the 9/11 attacks did not get caught beforehand.” The book is in two parts. The first part is an overview of the history of presidential lawmaking and lawbreaking before 9/11. The second half concentrates on the presidencies of Bush and Obama. The first part of the book is bad enough, reading about Lincoln suspending the writ of habeas corpus. Then there were The Espionage Act of 1917, The Sedition Act of 1918 and The Alien Act of 1918. The Supreme Court would not temper these acts. The account continues with the actions of FD before and during WW II and The Smith Act of 1940. But the most disheartening part of the book is about the Bush administration. His assault on personal freedom went beyond anything previously known. Reading the kinds of actions President Bush advocated on his watch almost makes me ill. The descriptions of the torture President Bush approved and Vice President Cheney directed is just sickening. The Bush administration was “driven by the idea of a completely imperial executive,” Napolitano writes. “Perhaps the legacy for which George W. Bush will best be remembered is his use of torture.” What a legacy! The lies the Bush administration told about WMD and spying on U.S.

Our Enemies, the Presidents - reviewed by Lew Rockwell: lewrockwell.com Two summers ago Judge Andrew Napolitano joined the faculty of Mises University, the Mises Institute’s summer program for students. He was interested in teaching a nine-session special seminar to a select group of attendees. Students didn’t know what the format would be, but they were all thrilled at the opportunity. As it turns out, they were treated to a high-level seminar with a professor who spoke with authority, pulled out obscure legal references without notes, and traversed the room interacting with students. It was an experience they would not soon forget. And this is the Judge Napolitano who comes through in *Suicide Pact: The Radical Expansion of Presidential Powers and the Assault on Civil Liberties*: the law professor in command of his material, presenting his case, anticipating objections, and leaving his audience spellbound. Had the Judge given us nothing but a blow-by-blow overview of the enormities of George W. Bush and Barack Obama, we would have been in his debt. But *Suicide Pact* does much more than just this. For one thing, the Judge looks beyond the presidents to the whole federal apparatus, which “checks and balances” civics lessons to the contrary notwithstanding “is so often complicit in presidential misdeeds. For another, he cuts through the delusions of left and right alike. While he places special emphasis on the outrages of the past two presidential administrations, he will admit of no golden-age mythology. Presidential

crimes and overreach are not strange aberrations, explains the Judge. They extend back into American history for more than two hundred years.

Napolitano has again performed an invaluable service warning Americans that their freedom is slipping away in *Suicide Pact*. The people have evidently become indifferent to the country's founding principles of limited government, individual autonomy, respect for privacy, and the rule of law. *Suicide Pact* sounds the alarm in a beautifully written call to action. Will the people listen? That the modern president has terrifying powers, the powers of a king, is not the same as exercising them--but surely it's just a matter of time. Napolitano examines the rise of the executive branch from the country's founding to the present, achieved by torturing and twisting the plain meaning of the Constitution's elegant language along the way. When the "Supreme Law of the Land" is willfully violated, then the land is lawless. The president and Congress today recognize no limit to their power. Particularly egregious is the executive's relatively new and easy ability to unilaterally make war against foreign nations, a power that is gradually turning into the making of war against the people here at home, using the same methods and weapons employed abroad. What happens when all these new powers are put into play, not just in the form of lethal threats, but the real thing? What happens when Guantanamo is brought stateside? We are a heartbeat away from internal passports, secret arrests, and civilian military tribunals. Spying by drone and satellite, universal electronic surveillance, and warrantless search and seizure are already in play. Extraordinary rendition to black-site prisons and "enhanced" interrogation have already been done, without public backlash. Secret kill lists are drawn up without popular protest.

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