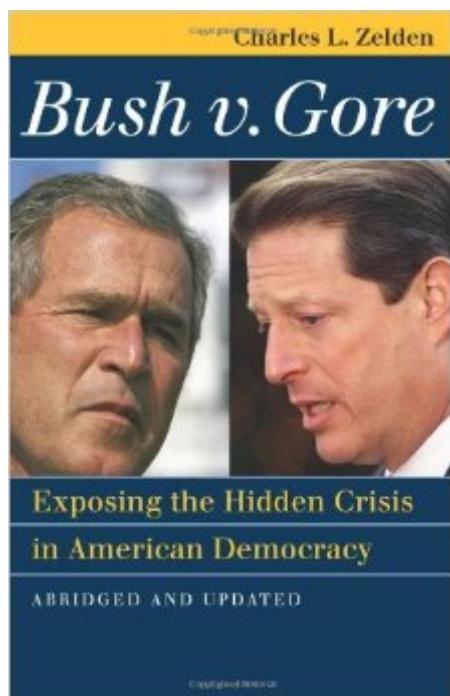


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Bush V. Gore: Exposing The Hidden Crisis In American Democracy: Abridged And Updated (Landmark Law Cases And American Society)



Synopsis

Who could forget the Supreme Court's controversial 5-4 decision in Bush v. Gore or the 2000 presidential campaign and election that preceded it? Hanging chads, butterfly ballots, endless recounts, raucous allegations, and a constitutional crisis were all roiled into a confusing and potentially dangerous mix-until the Supreme Court decision allowed George W. Bush to become the 43rd President of the United States, despite losing the popular vote to Al Gore. Praised by scholars and political pundits alike, the original edition of Charles Zelden's book set a new standard for our understanding of that monumental decision. A probing chronicle and critique of the vexing and acrimonious affair, it offered the most accurate and up-to-date analysis of a remarkable episode in American politics. Highly readable, its comprehensive coverage, depth of documentation and detail, and analytic insights remain unrivaled on the subject. In this first paperback edition, Zelden has abridged and simplified the original to focus on the core story and its essential details, greatly increasing its appeal for a wider and more diverse readership, including students and general readers. He has also added a postscript that deals with developments of the past decade relating to the case. Like the original edition, this volume distills the events, issues, and voluminous commentary relating to Bush v. Gore into a sharply insightful and nonpartisan account of a remarkable election, the crisis it produced, and the litigation that followed. Ultimately, it shows that both the election controversy of 2000 and Bush v. Gore signaled major flaws in our electoral system that remain with us today.

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Customer Reviews

If you thought you never wanted to hear or read another word about BUSH v. GORE, you must read this definitive examination of the most controversial Supreme Court case in modern times. Charles L. Zelden, an expert scholar of the history of voting rights and the American South, writes clearly and directly, without a wasted word. And even though you know the ending, you keep reading because this book is so well crafted and its story so well told. The research is thorough, scrupulous, and easily followed. Zelden has done a fine job of blending conventional primary sources such as legal briefs, court cases, and newspaper, magazine, and book accounts with Internet sources; his judgment is always sound, and you can take his research to the bank and get a loan on it. With all these virtues, the book's most important achievement is its central thesis. The story of BUSH v. GORE is about more than the bitter contest over who would be declared the winner of the 2000 presidential election. Zelden proves that BUSH v. GORE is the tip of a great and threatening iceberg. In Zelden's view, the American electoral system is broken, and BUSH v. GORE was the danger signal that we all should have heeded. This argument has nothing to do with the electoral college. Instead it has to do with the ways that we register voters, cast votes, tabulate votes, and count votes. For at least two generations, we have run our elections on the cheap -- entrusting them (for reasons mixing constitutional habit, laziness, and stinginess) to local partisan officials; tolerating widespread disparities in voting methods; and allowing our electoral infrastructure to deteriorate over time while we tell ourselves that every vote counts and every vote is counted.

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