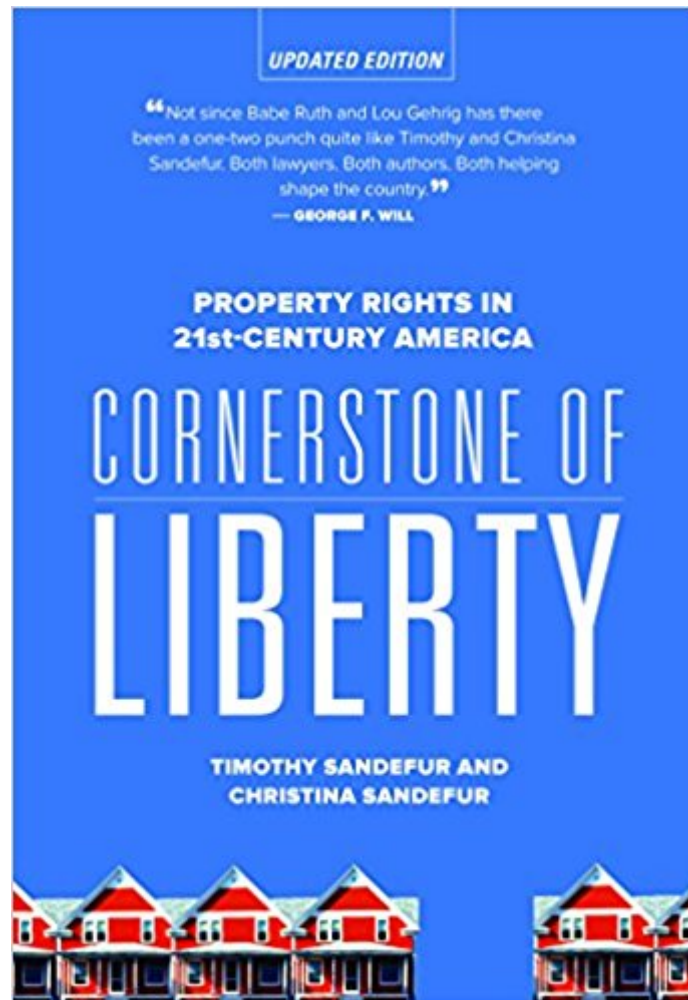




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Cornerstone Of Liberty: Property Rights In 21st Century America



Synopsis

Ten years after the Supreme Court's infamous eminent domain decision, *Kelo v. New London*, Timothy and Christina Sandefur's *Cornerstone of Liberty* surveys the landscape of property rights in the United States, from redevelopment projects that seize people's homes and businesses for the benefit of politically-connected developers, to environmental regulations that forbid people from building homes on land they supposedly own, to asset-forfeiture laws that let the police seize property involved in a crime even if the owner is not accused of any wrongdoing. This second edition has been almost completely rewritten, incorporating details learned only after *Kelo* was decided, as well as an analysis of the post-*Kelo* reform efforts, and more recent Supreme Court decisions such as the *Sackett and Koontz* cases. The Sandefurs combine real-life stories with the philosophical and legal background of private property rights to show why the right to ownership is one of the most essential of human rights. The Sandefurs also provide practical recommendations for better protecting property owners.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Not since Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig has there been a one-two punch quite like Timothy and Christina Sandefur. Both lawyers. Both authors. Both helping shape the country." -George F. Will

Timothy Sandefur is an adjunct scholar at the Cato Institute and a Principal Attorney at the Pacific Legal Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to defending property rights and economic liberty nationwide. He is also the author of *The Right to Earn A Living: Economic Freedom And The*

Law (2010) and The Conscience of The Constitution (2014). Christina Sandefur is Vice President for Policy at the Goldwater Institute, where she develops strategic plans to transform public policy ideas into real-world results and litigates cases advancing economic liberty, private property, free speech, and taxpayer rights. She is a graduate of Hillsdale College and the Michigan State University College of Law, where she served as notes editor on the Michigan State Law Review.

This updated edition of the Cornerstone of Liberty is the one of the best, if not the best, end-to-end articulations and defenses of property rights I have read. This concise and well-written volume covers the importance of property rights morally and practically while offering steps we can take to end the erosion of property rights that has been occurring in the United States over the last century. The book has 4 chapters (covering 160 pages), all of which are excellent, but I want to draw attention to the first and last chapters as they are truly outstanding. The first chapter covers “Why property rights are important” and stresses the moral and practical benefits of property rights as well as true horrors of life without property. The discussion of sentimental value (wedding rings, family heirlooms, personal mementos, etc.) has this wonderful quote on the tie between property and our values: “We often literally love these things, not for their material value, but because they represent “physically embody” our values.” The entire chapter explains important theoretical concepts and ideas (property as natural, the “right to huddle”, “expressive association”, “the tragedy of the commons”, etc.) with vivid, real life examples and quotes. The passages from Frederick Douglass on ownership and slavery were especially meaningful to me as Douglass has been a hero of mine since childhood. The horrors of life without property are also demonstrated in a dramatic fashion to show what the absence of property rights means in practice. After covering “The Place of Property Rights in the American Constitution” and “State of Property Rights Today”, the Sandefur’s discuss “A Path to Reform” in the final chapter. They highlight the reforms that are working in Arizona under Proposition 207 as well as a series of ideas for regaining the property rights we have lost and protecting them into the future. Most importantly, they stress the need for individuals to fight for their right to property by returning to the fundamental principles upon which that rests. The Sandefur’s practice what they preach - they are working hard in defending property rights through this book and the institutions they work for. I highly recommend reading this book and joining them in the battle for defending property rights as a means to fulfilling one’s own life and happiness by protecting the things we value and love while securing the foundation of human liberty.

This book is about 160 pages of good information on what is happening to people's property rights. It is very interesting and somewhat scary when you see how our government has misinterpreted the property rights laws and how the Supreme Court is going along with it. Lots of information in this book that will help you if you find yourself involved in an imminent domain situation. It can happen to anyone anywhere.

Fantastic book. I bought three copies to give away. Doesn't matter if you are a republican or a democrat, this is a book for Americans who love freedom.

Never thought about the connection between property and liberty like this. They made me think.

Very good book. Shows how much government has eroded the rights of property owners.

Excellent read! I was blown away with the real world examples of how over zealous bureaucrats have taken property rights away. This book lays the foundation of how important private property rights are, examples of where we are losing or have lost them, and a clear path to get back on track where we need to be. I learned a great deal by reading this book and highly recommend it. I'm inspired to be part of the solution to turn back the horrible mess we have and bring back property rights to where they should be. I believe most people would be shocked to find out how far we have slipped down the slippery slope. Just do a search on "Civil Asset Forfeiture" read some of the outrageous things going on, buy the book, read it and get involved. Kudos to the authors, Timothy Sandefur and Christina Sandefur; job well done! I must point out they are from the great state of Arizona.

Excellent and concise. Am buying more copies to share with friends.

lots of useful, well-researched information and insight delivered by a smart (and adorable) couple and i hope we all hear more from both of them.

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