



**Suicide Pact: The Radical Expansion of
Presidential Powers and the Lethal Threat to
American Liberty**

Andrew P. Napolitano

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New York Times 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.

Suicide Pact: The Radical Expansion of Presidential Powers and the Lethal Threat to American Liberty Details

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From Reader Review Suicide Pact: The Radical Expansion of Presidential Powers and the Lethal Threat to American Liberty for online ebook

Jason says

Judge Andrew Napolitano's new book "Suicide Pact, The Radical Expansion of Presidential Powers and the Lethal Threat to American Liberty" analyzes legal and historical treatment of individual liberty under a Natural Law philosophy. Much of the book is devoted to wartime society's balance of security concerns with respect to the rights of the individual.

Going back to the Revolutionary War era, Napolitano explains that soldiers accused of treason were given a chance to defend themselves in court before being punished, and gives examples to support his claims. As the book progresses, he gives his perspective on major legislation and changing views of society with excellent analysis of The Alien and Sedition Acts of 1798, The Posse Comitatus Act of 1878, The Espionage Act of 1917, The Sedition Act of 1918, World War II internment of Japanese, Cold War conflicts, and concludes with the Global War on Terror.

While I agree with many of his views, and much of what he has to say regarding the Patriot Act, I disagree that all of those accused of terrorism should be tried in civilian courts. However, there is no denying the lack of justice in the security state, where people like Edward Snowden have disclosed the complete lack of respect the government is showing to the rights of individual citizens.

Given the abuses that are possible when Presidents are given near dictatorial power, it is no surprise that shameful things are being done in the name of "protecting" Americans. For these reasons, Napolitano makes an excellent case for judicial proceedings that are as open to the public as possible, with appropriate checks and balances on the various branches of government.

This book will surprise you with its modern and historical examples, and leave you second guessing the current crop of those in the political class. Restoring the values enshrined in the Bill of Rights is of vital importance if our American way of life is to continue for future generations.

A solid five of five stars for this book.

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received this book free from the publisher through the BookLook Bloggers book review bloggers program. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255: "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising."

Heather says

Presidential overreach.

This is an interesting and informative read . I knew some of this but some of it was new and eye opening for me.

Power does corrupt, as the Presidents mentioned in this book have confirmed for me.

Janice says

Great book. Everyone in America needs to read this.

Julie says

A well-documented account of presidents behaving badly (in an extra-constitutional sense)

Joan says

This is a book every U.S. citizen needs to read. The presidential expansion of power, especially during the Bush administration, is chilling. The torture Bush approved and Cheney directed is sickening. And the Supreme Court and Congress just let it all happen. Napolitano has done an excellent job explaining how the three branches of government are supposed to act and how the presidents have usurped power. This is a truly chilling book.

See my complete review at <http://bit.ly/1CaCGoI>.

I received a complimentary digital copy of this book from the publisher for the purpose of an independent and honest review.

Tim Kern says

Good history of the increasing tyranny of our executive, from Lincoln through Obama, yet ignoring one of the worst acts ever: Bill Clinton's Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996, forgetting its Star Chamber courts, secret lists, rules, and evidence.

Otherwise, learned discourse on many of our worst presidents and their grabs for power.

Nancy says

Worried About Your Loss of Civil Liberties? – Read This Book

In *Suicide Pact*, Judge Napolitano traces the loss of our civil liberties, not just from the most recent incursions by Presidents Bush and Obama, but throughout the history of our country. In high school, most of us heard of the acts that curtailed our freedoms at least the names of the acts should be somewhat familiar: Alien and Sedition Act; Lincoln's suspension of habeas corpus and use of military courts rather than civilian; Wilson's Overman Act; Franklin Roosevelt's imprisonment of the Japanese during WWII; and more recently Bush's Patriot Act.

When you see all these incursions into our liberty discussed in a single book, it makes you realize how much we citizens have abdicated our responsibilities because of fear, or because of political advantage for the party

we support. This book is well researched. The cases are discussed by a legal scholar, but are easily understood by a general audience.

The book is not a condemnation of a single party. Napolitano is even handed in showing the deprivations into our liberty by both parties and by some of our most revered presidents. I highly recommend this book. It's a wake-up call.

I reviewed this book for BookLook Bloggers.

Radicle5 says

Judge Napolitano makes it perfectly clear how our federal government has been trampling or revoking the rights of American citizens in the name of war and national security almost since day one! This is an excellent book that every American should read.

Andrew says

I was a fan of Napolitano, even before reading this book, and so I approached this book with eager anticipation. I must say, "Suicide Pact" does not disappoint. This book clearly details the Executive Branch's breathtaking disregard for the Constitution in the 20th century, and the acceleration of that trend after 9/11, in the Bush 43 and Obama administrations. Napolitano lays out a great case that Presidents since 1930 have turned the Executive into an almost king-like and/or dictatorial position, rather than one whose powers are limited by the Constitution. This book is steeped in legal analysis and review of Supreme Court precedent, which I believe adds strength to the arguments given. For any reader interested in the cause of liberty, this book is an absolute must-read.

Tim Kern says

Solid research, ignores Bill Clinton

Good history of the increasing tyranny of our executive, from Lincoln through Obama, yet ignoring one of the worst acts ever: Bill Clinton's Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996, forgetting its Star Chamber courts, secret lists, rules, and evidence. Otherwise, learned discourse on many of our worst presidents and their grabs for power.

Cassandra says

I received a complimentary copy of this book from Book Look Bloggers.

This is a very intense read that will grip your mind. I could not believe all the details and information that was jammed into this chapters. To read from a Judges thoughts first hand is so powerful. I would highly

recommend this to adults and older teens who are really interested in the system and strings that get pulled.

Glen Stott says

I have been a Napolitano fan for years, so I was kind of disappointed in this book. Giving him the benefit of the doubt, I could say it is a very informative look about the battle between Presidents' temptations to get all monarchic vs the Constitution. Washington had a chance to become King of the United States, but he turned it down. Right after Washington came President Adams and the Federalist Alien & Sedition Acts which gave him powers far beyond what the Constitution and the Republicans were willing to concede. There has been an ebb and flow of power between the government and the Constitution from Adam to today. Generally, governmental power increases during times of crisis, especially through war and economic setbacks.

Napolitano's research and analysis is impressive as he delves into the political climate and examines specific court decisions during the times when freedom has been exchanged for safety and security. Many times, these concerns have been intentionally exaggerated by government propaganda and national press collusion.

So, I am suitably impressed by the book, however, I have an internal BS sensor when I read this kind of thing, and Napolitano's book sets off the BS alarm in many ways. When people have weak arguments, they do things to camouflage them.

- They call people names. Napolitano uses a lot of unflattering adjectives throughout the book.
- They cover their ideas with high-tone, unfamiliar vocabulary. For example, I didn't realize there are so many Latin terms for legal concepts. Napolitano tosses them around like confetti on "America's Got Talent" when a few words in English would convey useful information.
- They give one side of a story as fact without mentioning there is a potentially credible other side. For instance, he gives the Comey/Mueller story about the hospital meeting between Ashcroft and Gonzales without mentioning Gonzales's story, which is at least as believable as Comey/Mueller. In fact, even more believable given the antics of Comey and Mueller over the past months. However, Gonzales's account would be counterproductive to the argument Napolitano was making.

I am tempted to give "Suicide Pact" five stars because of how important the subject is and the thoroughness with which Napolitano covered it. Mostly, I believe the things he is asserting, so I am predisposed to accept them, but because of the way he wrote it, my BS meter is ringing.
