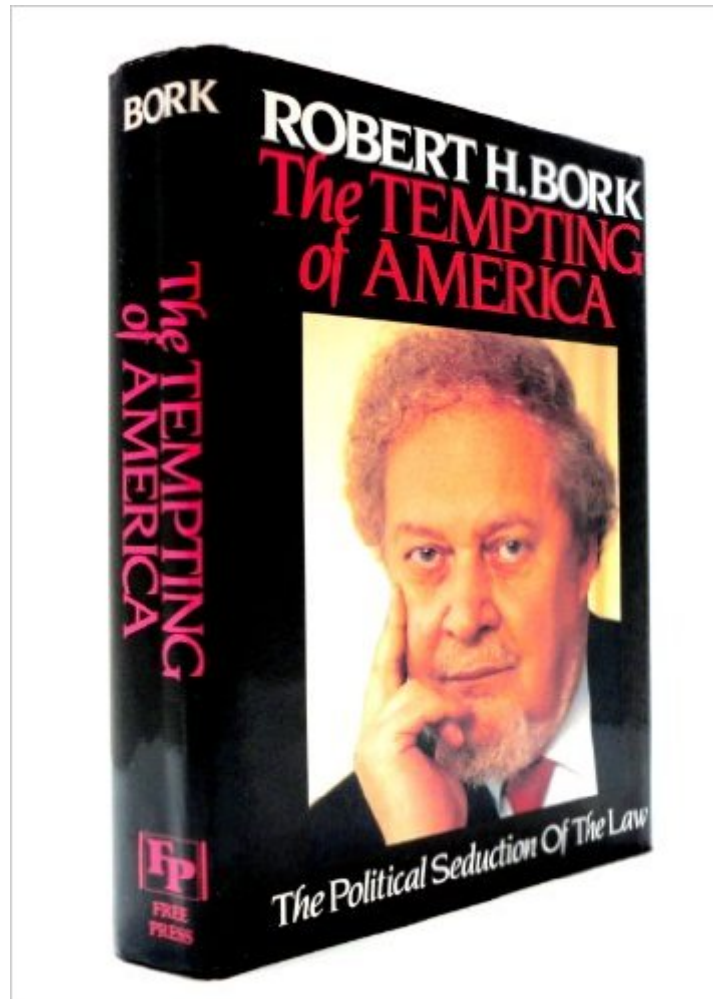


The book was found

# The Tempting Of America (The Political Seduction Of The Law)



## Synopsis

The author offers a statement of his social and legal philosophy, and presents his view that we are witnessing the ultimate "tempting of America" - the triumph of the invitation to place politically desired results above legitimate process in law whenever possible. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 432 pages

Publisher: Free Press; First Edition edition (November 15, 1989)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0029037611

ISBN-13: 978-0029037614

Product Dimensions: 1.5 x 6.5 x 9.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.8 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (49 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #896,213 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #335 inÂ Books > Law >

Philosophy #7430 inÂ Books > Textbooks > Law #11850 inÂ Books > Textbooks > Social

Sciences > Political Science

## Customer Reviews

Robert Bork has written a masterpiece defending the "original understanding" of the American constitution as the ONLY valid approach to constitutional understanding. In his introduction, Bork describes how American institutions have struggled with the temptation of politics and egalitarian outcomes. He sets the tone with the following passage:"In law, the moment of temptation is the moment of choice, when a judge realizes that in the case before him his strongly held view of justice, his political and moral imperative, is not embodied in a statute or in any provision of the Constitution. He must then choose between his version of justice and abiding by the American form of government. Yet the desire to do justice, whose nature seems to him obvious, is compelling, while the concept of constitutional process is abstract, rather arid, and the abstinence it counsels unsatisfying. To give in to temptation, this one time, solves an urgent human problem, and a faint crack appears in the American foundation. A judge has begun to rule where a legislator should."Judge Bork traces many movements of the Supreme Court from its beginning, through the new deal and into the Warren, Burger and Rehnquist courts, focusing on the slow slide away from original understanding the framers intended. He then devotes several chapters to original

understanding, objections to original understanding and various alternative constructions to original understanding. He completes the book with an examination of the political processes mobilized to keep him from being appointed to the Court by President Reagan. I'm no lawyer, and hardly a major student of the constitution. Still, I found this a compelling book which I pick up again and again. I must agree with the Chicago Tribune's review, "A conservative legal classic"!

How I wish I had read this book before I took con law. Not only would it have been good preparation, but it would also have given me the ammunition to argue positions that I felt were intuitively correct. Even at my school, the Constitution is presented to students loaded with assumptions the framers never had in mind. And although I think that, given the political reality of the world, our professors would be doing us a disservice if they didn't present it so, it is still hard to reconcile the discrepancies that surface while staying within the parameters of modern constitutional thought. Robert Bork masterfully and eloquently blows away all the false assumptions and everything begins to make sense. This book is truly a classic of American legal thought. It is the best argument for an original intent understanding of the Constitution that I have ever read. Bork also illustrates the politicization of our law in vivid detail by recounting his nomination for a seat on the Supreme Court and his defeat in the Senate. Still, though I understand the slippery slope concomitant with looking beyond the four corners of the Constitution, Bork couldn't convince me that the Ninth Amendment is superfluous. Everyone in law school should read this; especially before taking con law. You'll thank me for the tip!

To make a long story short, the media did an first-rate hatchet job (one of the best of all time) in painting this balanced, admittedly conservative (judicial restraint etc.), and extremely fair minded jurist as some sort of crazy, backwards racist. Judge Bork has more legal acumen than several justices sitting on the Court right now. His clear and concise overview of substantive due process and the slippery slope of unwarranted judicial expansion that began with *Lochner v. New York* (where the Court overturned a state law which set hourly labor standards) to *Griswold v. Conn.*, which created a "right to privacy" out of thin air, is basic Constitutional Law 101 that even non-lawyers or the general public should be familiar with. Bork makes in this book the same case that he was simply unable to fully articulate on TV and in the Senate confirmation hearings: The Constitution gives the power of the Judicial Branch to interpret, not to make the law. It sounds plain enough, but when you read this, you (should) realize that one of the all-time biggest media smears caused an injustice to be done to this wise judge. Bork is dry in spots here, but certainly not as dry

as your average law school textbook or basic court opinion.

This book has forever changed how I look at the judicial branch of government, namely by showing that the greatest threat to the rule of law in the United States occurs when the judiciary takes on legislative functions. As Robert Bork explains in this book, there are key differences between legislators and judges which make it vital that judges do not usurp legislative authority. When the judiciary creates the law instead of merely applying it, democratic representative government is replaced by judicial oligarchy. Because Supreme Court judges are unelected, appointed for life, and exercise a governmental power which is virtually unchecked, their decisions can threaten the rule of law when the justices choose to depart from the law in favor of their own moral philosophies. Robert Bork presents a litmus test for all judges to use when extrapolating legal principles from legislation and the Constitution: these principles must be neutrally derived, neutrally defined, and neutrally applied. This doesn't mean that the Constitution itself or other legislation is neutral, but it does mean that when judges hear a case, they must defer their personal moral philosophies to the rule of law. The law must provide the standard of neutrality which the judge is to apply, not the judge's own subjective views. This book is a masterpiece of judicial analysis. Robert Bork not only builds an excellent case for his thesis, but addresses the major arguments against his thesis in a way that bolsters his argument's credibility. This book examines the phenomenon of judicial activism superbly, not only offering criticism, but presenting a logical solution.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The Tempting Of America (The Political Seduction of the Law) Fork in the Trail: Mouthwatering Meals and Tempting Treats for the Backcountry Russian, German & Polish Food & Cooking: With Over 185 Traditional Recipes From The Baltic To The Black Sea, Shown Step By Step In Over 750 Clear And Tempting Photographs Tempting Tropicals: 175 Irresistible Indoor Plants Taboo Erotica: Tempting Daddy Tempting Two (A Regency Erotic Romance/Menage) (Scandalous Ballroom Encounters Book 3) Tempting the Highlander The Seduction of Brazil: The Americanization of Brazil during World War II (Llilas Translations from Latin America) Understanding the Political World: A Comparative Introduction to Political Science (11th Edition) Rousseau: 'The Discourses' and Other Early Political Writings (Cambridge Texts in the History of Political Thought) (v. 1) Kant: Political Writings (Cambridge Texts in the History of Political Thought) The Craft of Political Research (Pearson Classics in Political Science) Democracy More or Less: America's Political Reform Quandary (Cambridge Studies in Election Law and Democracy) Tax Evasion and the Rule of Law in Latin America: The Political Culture of Cheating and Compliance in Argentina and Chile Data Love:

The Seduction and Betrayal of Digital Technologies Sorority: A Lesbian Story of Seduction Texting Women: 7 Simple Steps From Text to Sex (Flirty Texts, Texting Girls, How To Text Girls, Art Seduction, How to Seduce a Woman, Funny Text, Pick Up Women, Funny Pick Up Lines, Picking Up Women) The Art of Seduction The Dictator's Seduction: Politics and the Popular Imagination in the Era of Trujillo (American Encounters/Global Interactions) Seduction & Secrets

[Dmca](#)