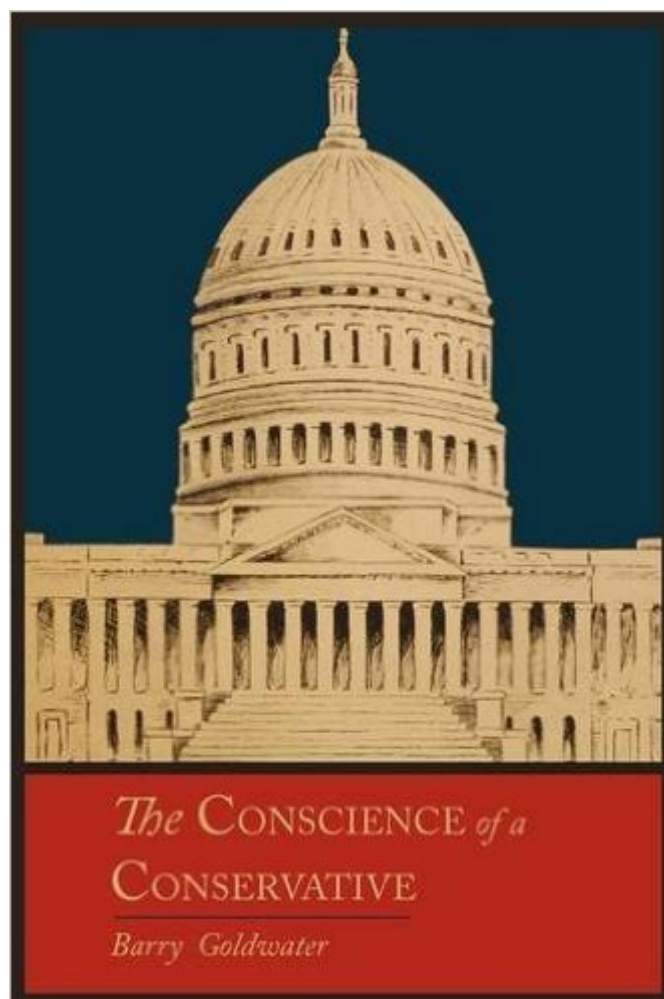


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The Conscience Of A Conservative



Synopsis

2011 Reprint of 1960 Edition. Full facsimile of the original edition, not reproduced with Optical Recognition Software. "The Conscience of a Conservative" was published by Goldwater when he was an Arizona Senator and a potential 1964 Republican presidential candidate. The book reignited the American conservative movement and made Barry Goldwater a political star. The book has influenced countless conservatives in the United States, helping to lay the foundation for the Reagan Revolution in 1980. The book is considered to be a significant statement of politically and economically American conservative ideas which were to gain influence during the following decades. The book continues to inspire contemporary political commentary.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Barry was very knowledgeable of the US Constitution and the spirit of its framers. A good primer. He examines the issues and abuses rampant in the US government, and shows how our freedoms are threatened; he shows an equal understanding of liberalism. He puts the blame not on liberals, but on conservatives for standing idly by while the US Constitution is dismantled with spurious legislation. Pertinent for our current affairs. I'd recommend reading it side by side with the Penguin guide to the US Constitution. A good read whether you're liberal or conservative. If you're liberal, you'll probably be glad he's not around anymore--that is, until you see your rights evaporating.

Tyranny is coming fast. As I write this, Congress and the President just passed the NDAA, authorizing indefinite detainment of US citizens. No evidence, no warrant, no charges, no trial, no public record of your arrest. This is what a power hungry Fed Govt will continue to do. Violation of your 4th amendment rights. what's next? Read up, so you'll know why.

So I bought this book to try inform myself on some fundamental conservative principles (not like they really change much!) and the book that inspired two presidents (Reagan and Bush II). It is a very well written book and even though many of the points in it are very, very outdated in today's world (like talking about how the Eisenhower's administration was spending the astronomical amount of 85 billion a year ha ha ha!) the core philosophy Goldwater is espousing is timeless. Overall it informed many of my arguments with practical reasoning that applies even today. My only main concern aside from the history he used was his argument about Civil Rights which while I agree in principle to some of it, my modern sensibilities conflicted with his statements. If you're flirting with libertarian conservatism and want a book from an icon, then certainly order this book today! If you are very left wing in your opinions I think this book may overwhelm you with it's brevity, but I always suggest finding out about the 'other' side because my next book will likely be *The People's History of the USA!*

Credited with being the author of modern Conservatism, Goldwater was able to state much of his philosophy in this little book. One need not be a conservative to appreciate what Goldwater has to say. Goldwater's argument essential boils down to whether the government should be taking care of people or acting as a "nanny state". Many of Goldwater's points are tough to dismiss. Any role not explicitly given to the federal government is assumed by the states. Yet it is the federal government that weasels its way into education and other places where it has little business. Perhaps the most dated points are the ones made on foreign policy. With the Cold War finished, Goldwater's proposals seem to be lacking in hindsight. Reagan proved a more appropriate way to win the cold war without putting the country at greater risk of conflict. When one agrees with Goldwater's arguments, he/she must have a valid replacement for any programs that are to be eliminated. With these elements omitted, I feel that Goldwater's argument is somewhat incomplete.

I am NOT a Republican...sorry, I have a functioning brain...but I wanted to get back to the "father of American conservatism" to try to get a sense of how a more sober conservatism in days of yore had degenerated into the batshit-crazy extremist clowncar that is now the GOP. While I don't agree with

everything Goldwater believed in, I think he was unfairly tarred as an extremist by the politicians of his day. He lays his arguments out, whether you agree with them or not, in a much less emotional and far more rationally-presented manner than anything you'll see from any politician today, Republican or Democrat. Since I'm not an extremist liberal myself (like I said, I have a functioning brain) I can agree with at least some of his points on fiscal responsibility and individualist choice (which has been taken to far by the extreme right-wing today). This is an excellent read from the source of modern-day conservatism, however little the mess that is the current GOP resembles the sober thought of Goldwater.

I heard about this book from a Fox News series. The concepts of this book still hold true today, probably more than ever. If you are new to conservatism, this book is a quick read, only 120 pages, that will give some insight into conservatism. If you are not a conservative, still read this book so you can be see both sides.

All conservatives must have this book. Period. Fact is a few things are not completely true to goldwaters position never the less, great book and a classic must read for all conservative minded folks... And others too, great for any American.

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