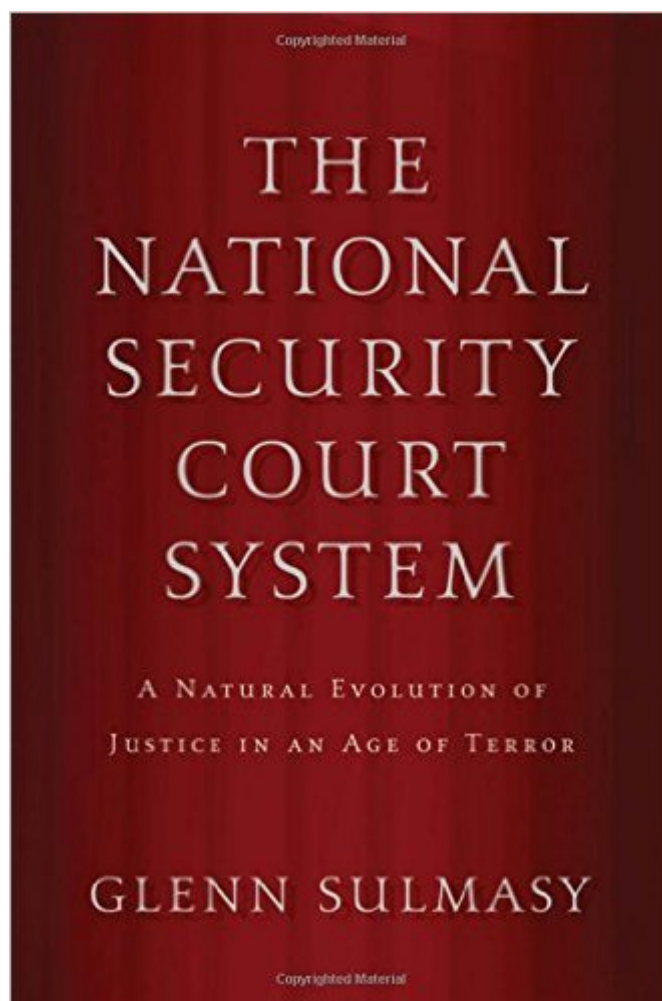


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The National Security Court System: A Natural Evolution Of Justice In An Age Of Terror



Synopsis

The recent *Boumediene v. Bush* decision, which tossed aside the dysfunctional military court system envisioned by the Bush administration and upheld the right of habeas corpus for detainees, promises to throw national security law into chaos, and will also probably lead to the closing of Guantanamo. In this timely and much-needed book, Glenn Sulmasy, one of America's leading experts on national security law, opens with a much-needed history of America's long and complicated experience with such courts since the early days of the Republic. After tracing their evolution in the contemporary era, Sulmasy argues for a more sensible approach to the global war on terror's unique set of prisoners. He proposes a reasonable "third way" solution that avoids even more extreme measures, on the one hand, and a complete shuttering of the court system, on the other. Instead, he advocates creating a separate standing judicial system, overseen by civilian judges, that allows for habeas corpus appeals and which focuses exclusively on existing war-on-terror cases as well as the inevitable cases to come. For all those who want to explore the crucial legal issues behind the headlines about Gitmo and the rights of detainees, *The National Security Court System* offers a clear-headed assessment of where we are and where we ought to be going.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is an absolute must-read for every American. In a time of uncertainty and doubt, Glen Sulmasy challenges what we thought we knew about a hot topic, intelligently proposes new ideas, and never abandons his value system.

Sulmasy takes the reader through this very complicated and relevant topic with care and respect. He makes a strong argument for an alternative national security court system with an emphasis on the human rights perspective. It was a fascinating and timely read.

Glenn Sulmasy does an excellent job providing the reader the necessary historical, political & legal background to understand the ramifications of what is happening within our legal system today with respect to the "War on Al Queda." I am not a lawyer and was a bit skeptical of the book when I first heard about it - I didn't want to be bogged down in legalese. However, I found CAPT Sulmasy's style very readable and he provides the right amount of background to help the reader grasp the significance of the topic. Anyone who wants to understand how President G.W. Bush left the country in the legal position it was in, or why President Obama's decision to allow Attorney General Holder to go forth with trying 9/11 terrorists in the Federal court system is so dangerous, needs to read this book.

I was hoping for a completely unbiased presentation in Mr. Sulmasy's book. But there are several glaring examples that need to be pointed out. In his discussion about al-Qaeda detainees at Guantanamo, he fails to see the gray areas (that are prevalent in the law) and seems to see only black and white. His comment that "Through the successful efforts of the NGOs and lawyers representing the detainees, public sympathy began to shift toward the al-Qaeda (and Taliban) detainees." I believe that to be inaccurate. I believe the public sympathy was not for the detainees, but for the rule and letter of the law as well as the standing of the United States as a world leader that could be taken at its word ("We do not torture."). Furthermore, references are made to the media being at fault as well as the "liberalization" of the courts. This smacks more of partisan verbiage rather than the cold presentation of facts that should be the hallmark of a book like this. I will finish this book, as it is a subject that fascinates me, but I will be wary of how points are made.

Great book!

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