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Rogue In Power: Why Stephen Harper Is Remaking Canada By Stealth



Synopsis

Canada has always been known as a good place to live: a tolerant, prosperous, stable country that treats its citizens fairly and protects the weakest in society. Yet during the past seven years, it has started to change into a harder, more mean-spirited place. What is going on? According to political scientist Christian Nadeau, this transformation is being engineered by Stephen Harper and the neo-con ideologues around him. The Conservatives have a clear agenda that they are implementing step by step. It is a well-planned and organized attack on justice and democracy as we have understood them to date. Nadeau looks at how Harper and the Tories are systematically dismantling political, social, and cultural institutions--and with them, traditions and values--that many Canadians hold dear. He analyzes the wide range of actions and decisions that reflect this program: proroguing Parliament, appointing right-leaning judges, promoting a law-and-order agenda, trying to gut the gun registry, preventing the collection of impartial data through the Census, and shutting down social programs. *Rogue in Power* is a compelling exploration of how Canada is being refashioned in broad daylight.

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Customer Reviews

this review is from: *Rogue in Power: Why Stephen Harper is Remaking Canada by Stealth* (Paperback) I have now read a number of academic books on Stephen Harper and his followers, and Christian Nadeau's "Contre Harper" (I read the French version) has been perhaps the most important. This is not because it was the best book, far from it, but rather that it offered a broader

perspective, which exposed the profound contradictions of the neo-conservatives. Harper and his gang are libertarians who wish to dismantle the liberal state in Canada, which has emphasized social equality and justice for all Canadians, especially disadvantaged minority groups, such as native Canadians, women, gays, etc. For the neo-conservatives it is individual freedom and responsibility that count and not progressive policies that aim to better the society itself. Rather, the sacred god of the neo-cons is the market, and policies of tax cuts, deregulation, and government cut backs are all basic procedure. This we all know. "Live free or die!" However, Nadeau points out that there is just one catch. While the state withdraws on the economic and social side, the neo-cons step in with bigger state intervention on issues of moral order. For these folks there is no relativity in moral values, and to enforce their perception of what those values should be; traditional family values, law and order, hyper patriotism, and communications control, they are ready to open the purse strings and expand government spending dramatically. This is the basic contradiction that I found so revealing. As per our republican friends to the south, they spend money like drunken sailors to support their ideas and values, while underfunding those that emphasize humanistic and progressive values.

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