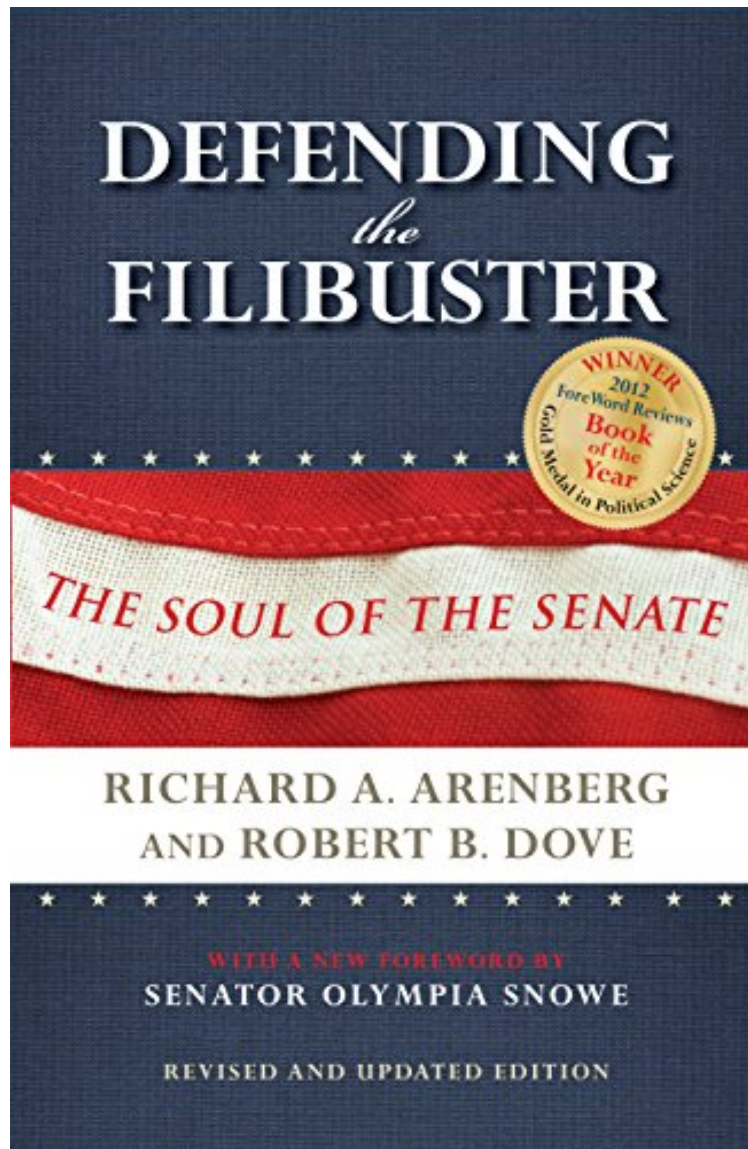


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Defending the Filibuster: The Soul of the Senate

Richard A. Arenberg, Robert B. Dove
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Richard A. Arenberg, Robert B. Dove : Defending the Filibuster: The Soul of the Senate before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Defending the Filibuster: The Soul of the Senate:

14 of 14 people found the following review helpful. Nobody said democracy would be easy By Joanna J. I had concerns about the filibuster prior to reading this book, but they were all neatly laid to rest. To put it simply, democracy requires respect for the minority, and the filibuster is one of a precious few mechanisms making that possible. Can use of the

filibuster be annoying? If it isn't your side using it, then yes, of course. It's like people making out on the subway: disgusting when it's them, but perfect and beautiful when it's you. Nobody said democracy would be easy. Clearly written and amply supported, DEFENDING THE FILIBUSTER is a must-read for all Americans, especially during these highly contentious times. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. a must read! By a reader A fascinating and thoroughly researched book that puts the current issues with the filibuster in important historical context. This book is especially valuable because the insights and the importance of the filibuster rule come directly from the authors' extensive legislative careers. The history of the filibuster intertwined with the workings of U.S. Senate make this a must read for anyone interested in how the Senate really functions. The book is easy to read and, from the first page, grabs your interest and doesn't let go. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The Dangers of Majoritarian Democracy By Nick Koskores I went into Defending the Filibuster as a skeptic, and stayed that way through long patches in the beginning, so much so that I thought the authors may be more in love with the institution than in the institution running well. I had this sense that the authors were adopting that old NRA argument that guns don't kill, people kill. Relative to the filibuster, they seemed to be putting so much stock on the senators today being the problem - the rules aren't bad; it's the senators. I mean, just how does one respond to that? Earlier toilet training for senators-to-be? But by the time I finished the book, the authors won me over with their considered and careful solutions. Yes, I may want to see more of Jimmy Stewart on the floor than the authors do, standing behind his filibuster for all the world to see. We all deserve to know the whos and whys of a filibuster. Why let a pirate off the plank? But in the end the filibuster has its role cooling the passions of the moment so we're not steamrolled. In the end, the tyranny of the majority is a far greater evil than the tyranny of the minority. And that is the principle the authors persistently and effectively drove home to me. Defending the Filibuster turned out to be quite an enjoyable and rewarding read.

Recent legislative battles over healthcare reform, the federal budget, and other prominent issues have given rise to widespread demands for the abolition or reform of the filibuster in the US Senate. Critics argue that members' traditional rights of unlimited debate and amendment have led to paralyzing requirements for supermajorities and destructive parliamentary tactics such as "secret holds." In *Defending the Filibuster*, a veteran Senate aide and a former Senate Parliamentarian maintain that the filibuster is fundamental to the character of the Senate. They contend that the filibuster protects the rights of the minority in American politics, assures stability and deliberation in government, and helps to preserve constitutional principles of checks and balances and separation of powers. Richard A. Arenberg and Robert B. Dove provide an instructive historical overview of the development of Senate rules, define and describe related procedures and tactics, examine cases related to specific pieces of legislation, and consider current proposals to end the filibuster or enact other reforms. Arguing passionately in favor of retaining the filibuster, they offer a stimulating assessment of the issues surrounding current debates on this contentious issue.

Regardless of whether you agree with [the authors'] conclusions, the book will be a must read for anyone who wants to be a part of the debate about how to improve the function of the Senate. (ing a previous edition) (Roll Call) Rich in historical anecdotes about instances when the strange antics to delay Senate decisions actually led to better policy making, this book will become the 'go to' authority on the filibuster. This volume should be valuable to general readers, students, and research faculty. . . . Highly recommended. (ing a previous edition.) (Choice) Rich in historical anecdotes about instances when the strange antics to delay Senate decisions actually led to better policy making, this book will become the 'go to' authority on the filibuster. This volume should be valuable to general readers, students, and research faculty. . . . Highly recommended. (Choice) An impassioned and cogent defense of the Senate's most controversial practice. (Kirkus s) Regardless of whether you agree with [the authors'] conclusions, the book will be a must read for anyone who wants to be a part of the debate about how to improve the function of the Senate. (Roll Call) Arenberg and Dove successfully explain why, despite its flaws, the filibuster is worth preserving or reforming rather than eliminating. (ing a previous edition) (ForeWord s) Legislative battles over healthcare and the federal budget have spurred demands to reform or abolish the filibuster in the US Senate. The authors argue that the filibuster is fundamental to the very character of the Senate, and that it protects the rights of the minority in American politics. (Survival) Clearly written and amply supported, *Defending the Filibuster* is a must-read for all Americans, especially during these highly contentious times. (joannalouisejohnson.com) Arenberg and Dove successfully explain why, despite its flaws, the filibuster is worth preserving or reforming rather than eliminating. (ForeWord s) To anyone who knows and loves the Senate, and to anyone who wants to know more about American politics and history, this book is a joy to read. Two of the most respected people to work in the Senate over the past several decades have teamed up to write a book about the filibuster, but not just a memoir or a rigid defense of the practice. Rich Arenberg and Bob Dove provide fascinating history, much of it new to me, insightful examples from their own service, and reasoned arguments in clear language. Every reformer, including those who want to eliminate the filibuster entirely, and those who want to change it to fit the times, owes it to himself or herself to read this book and ponder the authors' message. If it doesn't make you stop and think through your own assumptions again, the problem lies with you and not in this excellent

book. (Norman Ornstein)An historically grounded and eloquent defense of the Senate's tradition of protecting minority views by allowing extended debate until sixty Senators vote to end it. (Senator Carl Levin)In this excellent volume, two extraordinarily qualified Senate veterans explain and defend, with clarity and impressive research, the Senate filibuster. With their deep understanding of, and respect for, the institution of the Senate, they point to the need to protect minority rights and to build consensus--and they propose evolutionary reforms to reduce filibuster abuse. This book deserves to be read and considered carefully by all who respect, and want to understand better, the worlds greatest deliberative body. (Lee H. Hamilton former US Representative; Director, the Center on Congress at Indiana University)A timely, well-researched, and cogently argued defense of the filibuster by two veterans of the Senate staff who understand the issue and its consequences. (Donald A. Ritchie author of *The U.S. Congress: A Very Short Introduction*)During my years in the Senate, I learned that you should never get involved in a legislative fight without Bob Dove's advice on counsel. Nobody knows more about the rules and history of the Senate than he does. Defending the Filibuster: Soul of the Senate should be required reading for anyone who wants to understand one of the hallmarks of our democracy. (Bob Dole former US Senator)As we would expect from two experts who were part of so many historic Senate debates in the past thirty years, Rich Arenberg and Bob Dove have written an historically grounded and eloquent defense of the Senates tradition of protecting minority views by allowing extended debate until 60 Senators vote to end it. They defend this tradition as the soul of the Senate because it protects minority rights and helps Senators reach a consensus or compromise on controversial legislation. They acknowledge that those who have routinely and repeatedly resorted to the threat of the filibuster in recent years are abusing the rules, but Arenberg and Dove offer some practical reforms to the Senate rules that preserve the principle while removing the abuse, such as limiting or even eliminating debate on the motion to proceed to a bill. But ultimately, as the book effectively demonstrates, the problem of gridlock and obstruction in the Senate is not so much in the Senate rules, but rather, as Senator Harry Reid, the Senate Majority Leader, puts it, It is in the lack of restraint in the exercise of the prerogatives under the rules. (Senator Carl Levin)While I am not a fan of the filibuster, this is probably the most thoughtful treatment of the subject ever written and well worth pondering even for those of us who think it is profoundly undemocratic. A must read for any student of the Congressional process. (Former Democratic presidential candidate Gov. Michael Dukakis)About the AuthorRICHARD A. ARENBERG served in senior congressional staff positions for 34 years as an aide to Majority Leader George Mitchell and Senators Paul Tsongas and Carl Levin. He currently is an Adjunct Lecturer in Political Science and Public Policy at Brown University, Northeastern University, and Suffolk University.ROBERT B. DOVE is Parliamentarian Emeritus of the U.S. Senate, having served as the Senates Parliamentarian and Assistant Parliamentarian from 1966 until 2001. He has provided expert parliamentary advice to legislatures around the world. He currently is an Adjunct Professor at the Georgetown University Law Center, George Washington University, and George Mason University and counsels members of the Patton Boggs law firm on congressional procedure.