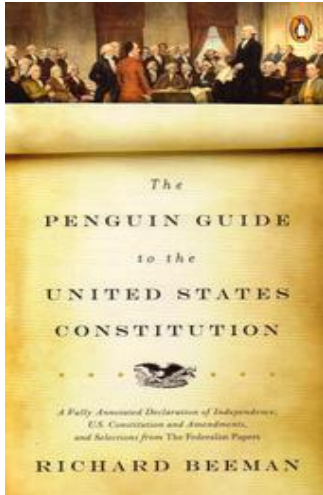


CA Reads Book List



The Penguin Guide to the United States Constitution: A Fully Annotated Declaration of Independence, U.S. Constitution and Amendments, and Selections from The Federalist Papers by Richard Beeman

What do our founding documents really say? What did the Constitution's authors intend, and how should it evolve—or not evolve—as our society changes? Renowned constitutional scholar Richard Beeman sheds light on these questions, explains the meaning of archaic terms, and vividly portrays the behind-the-scenes negotiations that eventually gave birth to our Constitution and our country. The compact guide also includes an annotated Declaration of Independence, three illuminating excerpts from *The Federalist Papers*, and six helpful chapters examining America's revolutionary origins,

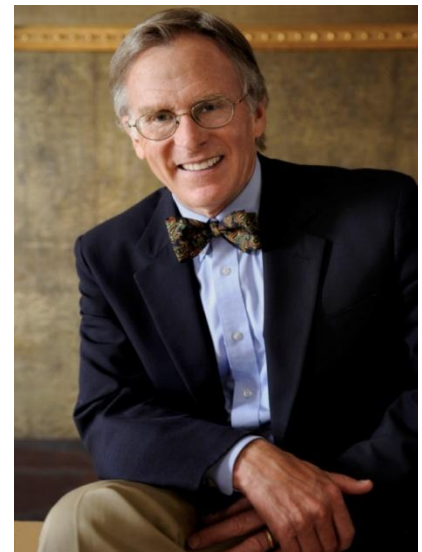
the struggle for ratification, and Supreme Court decisions that have had a profound impact on our constitutional history.

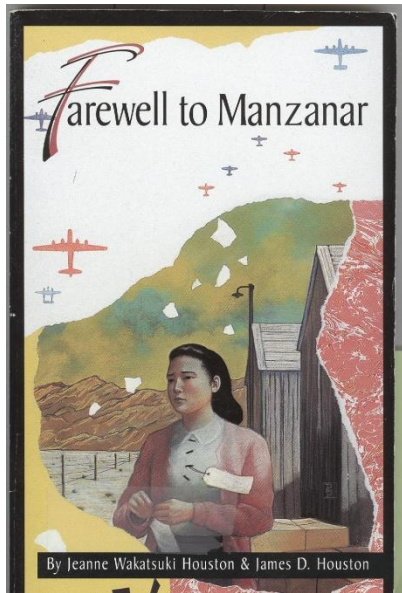
Known across the country for his appearance on *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*, Professor Richard Beeman is one of the nation's foremost experts on the United States Constitution. Currently the John Welsh Centennial Professor of History, he has been a member of the faculty at the University of Pennsylvania for forty-three years. A historian of the American Revolutionary Era, he has written extensively on America's political and constitutional history in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

Excellent...valuable and judicious. – Jill Lepore, *The New Yorker*

Book Information:

- **Paperback:** 224 pages
- **Publisher:** Penguin (Non-Classics) (August 31, 2010)
- **Language:** English
- **ISBN-10:** 9780143118107
- **ISBN-13:** 978-0143118107
- **ASIN:** 0143118102
- **List price:** \$12.00
- **Other formats:** Kindle and Nook e-books

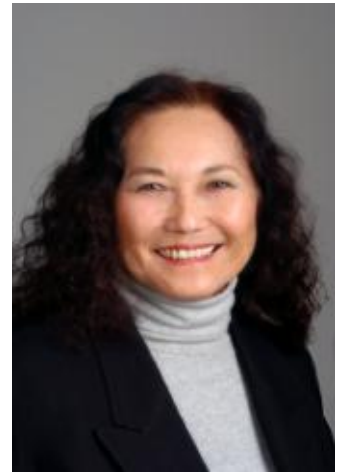




***Farewell to Manzanar* by Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston and co-author James D. Houston**

A touching, funny and tragic memoir about the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II, *A Farewell to Manzanar* reminds us of a shameful chapter in the history of our state and our country. This riveting first-person account of a cataclysmic time for Japanese Americans, who were imprisoned in their own land yet were urged to send their sons to fight overseas, honors the dignity and great resourcefulness of people under even the most oppressive and demeaning circumstances. Updated with a new introduction, Houston's story is a poignant reminder that in moments of national crisis our civil rights can be most at risk.

Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston was born in Inglewood, California. Best known for her autobiographical account of her own experiences in a World War II internment camp, her work explores the ethnic diversity of the United States. She attended Long Beach Polytechnic High School, and graduated from San Jose State University, where she studied sociology and journalism. Co-written with her now-deceased husband, Jim, Jeanne's memoir delivers a powerful first-person account that reveals her search for the meaning of Manzanar.



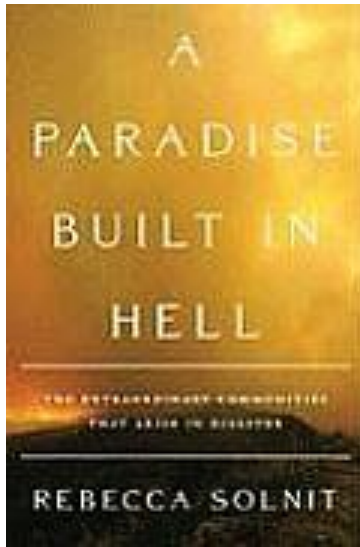
A poignant memoir from a Japanese American...Told without bitterness, her story reflects the triumph of the human spirit during an extraordinary episode in American history.

– Library Journal

Book information:

- **Reading level:** Young Adult
- **Paperback:** 146 pages
- **Publisher:** Bantam Books (March 1, 1983)
- **Language:** English
- **ISBN-10:** 9780553272581
- **List price:** \$6.99
- **Other formats:** NLS audiobook

A Paradise Built in Hell: The Extraordinary Communities that Arise in Disaster
by Rebecca Solnit



When disaster strikes, how do ordinary people react? Rebecca Solnit investigates the aftermath of disasters both natural and man-made, and concludes that most of us have it within ourselves to rise heroically to dire occasions. Interestingly, these situations not only meet our needs for community, purposefulness, and meaningful work, but demonstrate how ordinary people generally do a better job of meeting the needs of their fellow citizens than do the authorities. Solnit argues that preparing for and dealing with disasters is democracy in action. But democracy has an element of trust—how can we determine whom to trust before and after crisis? How do we build the relationships that are vital to making democracy strong?

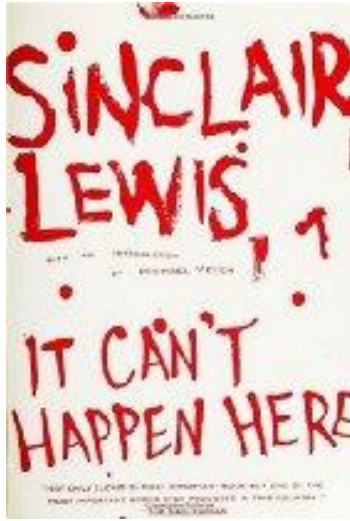
Rebecca Solnit is a San Francisco writer, historian, and activist. She is the author of thirteen books about art, landscape, community, ecology, politics, hope, and memory, including *River of Shadows: Eadweard Muybridge and the Technological Wild West* and *Wanderlust: A History of Walking*. A product of the California public education system from kindergarten to graduate school, she has worked with Native American land rights, antinuclear, human rights, antiwar and other issues as an activist and journalist. In 2003, she received a Lannan Literary Award.



The freshest, deepest, most optimistic account of human nature I've come across in years. — Bill McKibben

Book Information:

- **Paperback:** 368 pages
- **Publisher:** Penguin (Non-Classics); Reprint edition (August 31, 2010)
- **Languages:** English
- **ISBN-10:** 9780143118077
- **List price:** \$16.00
- **Other formats:** NLS audiobook; Kindle and Nook e-books



***It Can't Happen Here* by Sinclair Lewis**

Sinclair Lewis found wide success in the 1920s by satirizing the bankers and businessmen of small-town America. But in the early 1930s, with European strong men and American demagogues gaining power, Lewis turned his pen to a cautionary tale of how a panicked and gullible country could elect a tyrant and how America could become a fascist state. Published in 1935, *It Can't Happen Here* portrays the forces that arise in times of turmoil and explores how good people may be convinced to do exactly the wrong thing for their country. This prescient but often overlooked classic American novel invites us to consider the question: could “it” indeed, happen here?

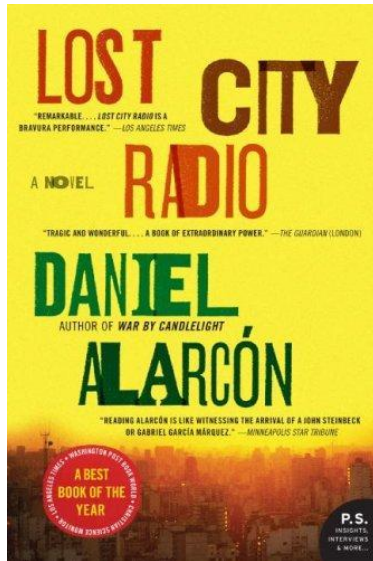
Harry Sinclair Lewis (February 7, 1885-January 10, 1951) was an American novelist, short-story writer, and playwright. In 1930, he became the first writer from the United States to be awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature, “for his vigorous and graphic art of description and his ability to create, with wit and humor, new types of characters.” His works are known for their insightful and critical views of American society and capitalist values, as well as for their strong characterizations of modern working women.



Not only Lewis's most important book but one of the most important books ever produced in this country. – The New Yorker

Book Information:

- **Paperback:** 400 pages
- **Publisher:** NAL Trade (October 4, 2005)
- **Languages:** English
- **ISBN-10:** 045121658X
- **ISBN-13:** 978-0451216588
- **List price:** \$15.00
- **Other formats:** Overdrive and CD audiobooks, Braille edition



Lost City Radio by Daniel Alarcón

Like many nations, the United States has endured civil war. Daniel Alarcón takes us to a fictional Latin American country much like his native Peru: ten years after a brutal “dirty” war, its insurgents dead or in hiding, the government, firmly solidified in power, is rewriting history by the enforcement of silence and forgetting. Through the stories of three characters whose lives have been turned upside down by civil strife, the novel invites us to question how we remember or do not remember history. If we are not allowed to remember the past—or choose not to—what happens to us? What is our responsibility as citizens if our government turns against us or our neighbors? What happens to the principles of a nation in the face of violence and the lingering effects of war?

Daniel Alarcón was born in Lima, Peru and grew up in Birmingham, Alabama. A graduate of Columbia University and the Iowa Writers Workshop, he now lives in Oakland, California, where he is the Distinguished Visiting Writer at Mills College and Visiting Writer at California College of the Arts. Alarcón’s work has been published in *The New Yorker*, *Harper's*, *Granta*, *Virginia Quarterly Review* and elsewhere, and anthologized in *Best American Non-Required Reading 2004 and 2005*. His non-fiction has appeared in *Salon.com* and *Eyeshot*, and he is Associate Editor of the Peruvian magazine *Etiqueta Negra*. He is a former Fulbright Scholar to Peru.



We have a parable that is weirdly specific, both shadowy and tactile: Joan Didion in Graham Greenland or J.M. Coetzee meets Amos Oz, as if politics devoured privacy on its way to abstractions as shiny as guillotine. – Harper’s

Book Information:

- **Paperback:** 288 pages
- **Publisher:** Harper Perennial (February 5, 2008)
- **Languages:** English and Spanish
- **ISBN-10:** 0060594810
- **ASIN:** B002WTCARI
- **List price:** \$13.95
- **Other formats:** Kindle and Nook e-books; Spanish language edition