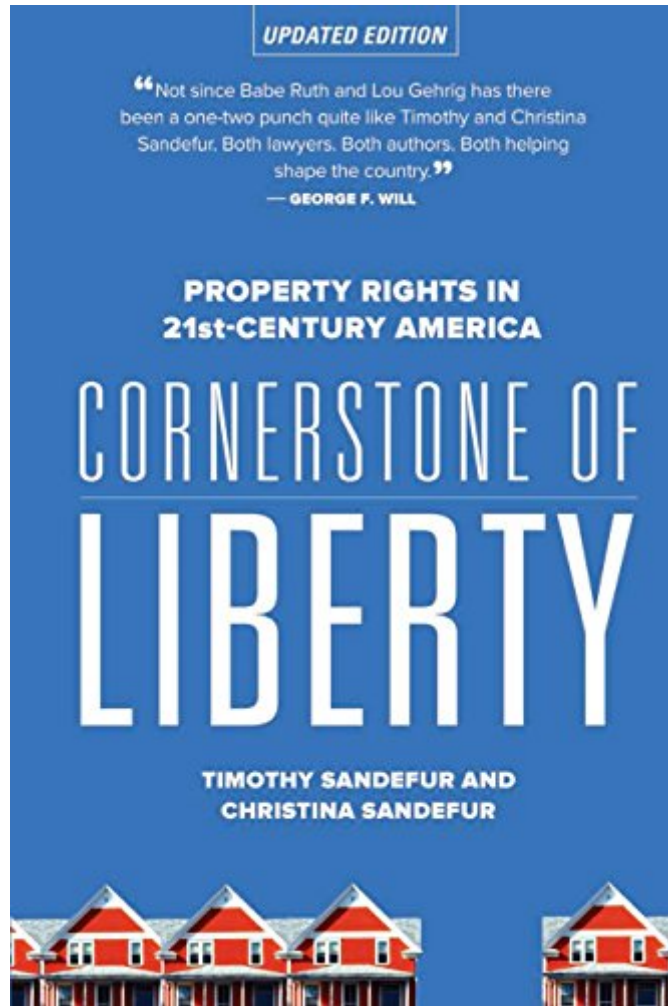


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# Cornerstone Of Liberty: Property Rights In 21st Century America



## Synopsis

Published in the wake of the Supreme Court's landmark decision in *Kelo v. New London*, *Cornerstone of Liberty: Property Rights in 21st Century America* made a powerful contribution to the firestorm of interest in protecting property rights. Now in its second edition, *Cornerstone of Liberty* has been fully updated by authors Timothy and Christina Sandefur, and examines how dozens of new developments in courtrooms and legislatures across the country have shifted the landscape of private property rights since 2005. Through a combination of real-life stories and solid legal analysis, the authors explain how key issues like eminent domain, civil asset forfeiture, and environmental protection regulations have evolved and how they should be reformed. Brand new topics, such as the sharing economy and the Koontz case, are popular, timely, and addressed by the authors in this revised edition. This book shows why the right to ownership is one of the most essential of human rights, how that right is protected in the U.S. Constitution, and how ordinary property owners can help rein in government violations of private property rights.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This updated edition of the *Cornerstone of Liberty* is the one of the best, if not the best, end-to-end

articulations and defenses of property rights I have read. This concise and well-written volume covers the importance of property rights morally and practically while offering steps we can take to end the erosion of property rights that has been occurring in the United States over the last century. The book has 4 chapters (covering 160 pages), all of which are excellent, but I want to draw attention to the first and last chapters as they are truly outstanding. The first chapter covers "Why property rights are important" and stresses the moral and practical benefits of property rights as well as true horrors of life without property. The discussion of sentimental value (wedding rings, family heirlooms, personal mementos, etc.) has this wonderful quote on the tie between property and our values: "We often literally love these things, not for their material value, but because they represent " physically embody " our values." The entire chapter explains important theoretical concepts and ideas (property as natural, the "right to huddle", "expressive association", "the tragedy of the commons", etc.) with vivid, real life examples and quotes. The passages from Frederick Douglass on ownership and slavery were especially meaningful to me as Douglass has been a hero of mine since childhood. The horrors of life without property are also demonstrated in a dramatic fashion to show what the absence of property rights means in practice. After covering "The Place of Property Rights in the American Constitution" and "State of Property Rights Today", the Sandefur's discuss "A Path to Reform" in the final chapter.

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