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Do-It-Yourself Constitutional Amendment Kit

Nathaniel Whitten
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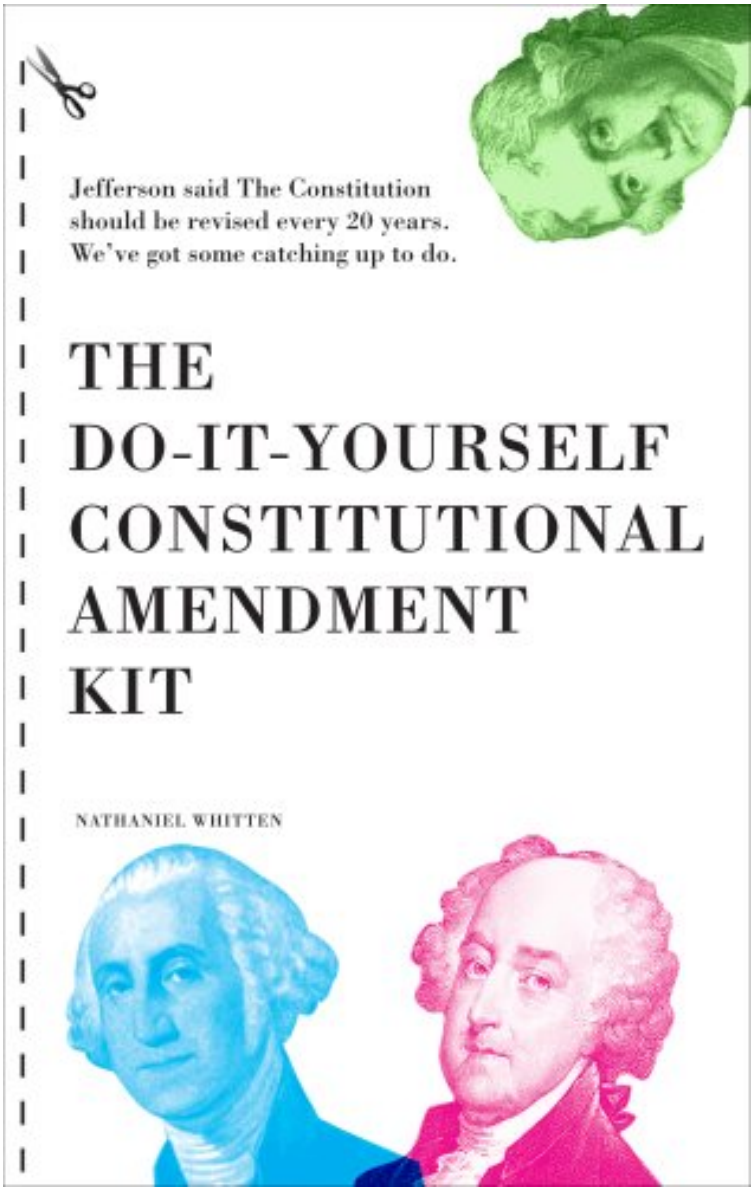

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Nathaniel Whitten : Do-It-Yourself Constitutional Amendment Kit before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Do-It-Yourself Constitutional Amendment Kit:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Absurdity Can Save America!By Walt MortonA funny, poignant, and strangely idiosyncratic work. Author Whitten has tapped into our American pop-culture angst just as the economic and political forces are coming to an unprecedented boil. His basic argument: maybe we need to re-think this whole

"constitution" thing and get some new rules (and rulers) in Washington. This is not a "dummies guide" to politics but a book for smart people who enjoy thought-provoking odd-ball notions about politics and the absurdity of our current 200+-year old system of "democracy." Whitten pokes fun at re-working the amendments with a variety of brief vignettes on subjects ranging from "limiting all political speeches to 14 minutes" to a "reading list" for public officials that includes Salinger Bukowski. I give this book four-star kudos on concept, but can't give it five stars because I wish there were more of Whitten's funny original material, and less of the actual constitution (which is reprinted here as an appendix) though to be fair to the author, I can see why he re-printed "the original" in this book so people could see what he was talking about -- and truth be told I have not actually read the constitution since 1976. Given how important this document is to Americans, we should all read the constitution again as adults and voters; Whitten provides a "fun" revisionist motive for readers to examine the original document.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. opinionBy truthWaste of time and money. Rip off. I already had a copy of the U.S. Constitution and amendments. I was looking for a framework for writing any type of amendment to an local, state, or national document! Not this quirky nonsense.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Ingenious, Iconoclastic and, at times, Brilliantly InspiredBy William H. SchabergWritten by the ingenious, iconoclastic and, at times, brilliantly inspired Nat Whitten, this is a great chapbook - with a bunch of solid laughs (and some interesting ideas) provided along the way. Here Whitten encourages every American to exercise their God-given (or, at least, Founding-Father-granted) right to petition the government for change - via the Constitutionally provided mechanism for proposing new amendments for that document.And, just in case you might feel daunted by this awesome and legalistic-sounding task, the author provides the reader with a number (actually 26) of his own suggestions for amending this sacred, but too-little-changed, text. Some of these are pure tomfoolery (for instance, "Proposed Amendment XXXVI: Ensuring Strom Thurmond Doesn't Run Again - Even Though He's Dead"), but others caused me to take a serious pause and think about the advisability of the suggestion at hand. For instance, there was "Proposed Amendment XXXVIII: No Voter? No Motor." - which ensure greater participation in our democratic process by denying the renewal of your motor vehicle license unless you are certified as having voted in the last election. And a true favorite for was "Proposed Amendment XXXII: Right to Bear Arms, So Long as They're Muskets." Talk about reframing the discussion based on `the Founder's original intentions"!Finally, to put the cap of seriousness on this whole enterprise, the book includes a copy of the original Constitution as passed by Congress in 1787 (isn't it interesting to read the painful circumlocutions used so that the word - but the facts of - slavery never appear in the document or the use of the word `militia' here - which can be so critical to certain readings of the 2nd Amendment) which is followed by each of the 27 amendments that have so far been passed and accepted for that document. I found this part of the reading sobering and impressive - leading me to wonder if Proposed Amendment LII (Requirement of All Citizens to Read the Constitution) might not have more merit than just trying to elicit a laugh out of me.How could anyone with any kind of political sensitivity (and funny bone) NOT enjoy and be moved by this charming and witty book?

Think your rights as an American are being violated by the big shots of the Beltway? Feeling powerless as our elected officials cook the books, intimidate the populace, and sell us out to the next sovereign wealth fund? The Do-It-Yourself Constitutional Amendment Kit offers a simple, straightforward way to participate in our democracy, refresh your knowledge about the laws that govern the land, and be provoked by sample amendments designed to inspire and inform. None other than Thomas Jefferson stated that we should revise our Constitution every 20 years in order to reflect the growth of our country and our evolution as a species. Based on where the U.S. stands today, we ve got some catching up to do. We the Actual People are just the ones to do it.

From Publishers WeeklyLike an episode of The Daily Show crossed with an issue of Mother Jones, this charming little book from Whitten (co-author of Vitally Important's similarly-pitched Secrets of the SuperOptimist) is a winning mix of humor and good citizenship. Based on Thomas Jefferson's assertion that "the Constitution should be revised every 20 years," Whitten proposes a double-handful of amendments "intended to instigate discussion... and inspire your own suggestions," including: "All candidates for public office... will be required to read at least 20 books determined by a quorum of scholars"; "No more appearances on comedy shows by those running for office"; and a last-word "Fifth Estate" made up of "two people from each of the 50 states chosen at random to serve a four-year term." While some ideas will strike readers as reasonable ("No driver's license shall be issued or renewed unless the person in question has voted in that year's election"), others are sure to rankle ("Fair Tax to be rendered immediately"; "Ralph Nader given consolation prize in exchange for never running again"). Appended copies of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights will help readers get a knack for the assignment, while Whitten's edgy, laugh-out-loud text keeps things in perspective. Illustrations. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. Nathaniel Whitten. Vitally Important (Atlas, dist.), $8.95 paper (96p) ISBN 9780977480722 Like an episode of The Daily Show crossed with an issue of Mother Jones, this charming little book from Whitten (co-author of Vitally Important's similarly-pitched Secrets of the SuperOptimist) is a winning mix of humor and good citizenship. Based on Thomas Jefferson's assertion that "the Constitution should be revised every 20 years," Whitten proposes a double-

handful of amendments "intended to instigate discussion... [and] inspire your own suggestions," including: "All candidates for public office... will be required to read at least 20 books determined by a quorum of scholars"; "No more appearances on comedy shows by those running for office"; and a last-word "Fifth Estate" made up of "two people from each of the 50 states chosen at random to serve a four-year term." While some ideas will strike readers as reasonable ("No driver's license shall be issued or renewed unless the person in question has voted in that year's election"), others are sure to rankle ("Fair Tax to be rendered immediately"; "Ralph Nader given consolation prize in exchange for never running again"). Appended copies of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights will help readers get a knack for the assignment, while Whitten's edgy, laugh-out-loud text keeps things in perspective. Illustrations. (Oct.) --Publisher's WeeklyAbout the AuthorNathaniel Whitten is the co-author of Secrets of the SuperOptimist (Vitally Important Books) which Publisher's Weekly called Quirky and unique...the self help book of choice for people who don't read self help. Rolling Stone labeled it Hysterical while the Huffington Post added: Highly amusing...secrets we can actually use. He's also the author of the underground sensation Easy Air Guitar, Volume One ...the definitive air guitar guide, according to the Wall Street Journal.