



THE END OF CHAOS:

Quality Laws and the Ascendancy of Democracy

by David G. Schrunk, 2005, published by Quality of Laws Press, 185p, Hard Cover, ISBN # 0-9770660-0-2, \$24.95

We live in an era of the chaos of laws. The ever-increasing size and complexity of the bodies of laws of government have made it impossible for anyone to “know the law.” More ominously, governments must now enforce laws selectively in violation of the rule of law.

In a visionary new approach to lawmaking, the author contends that the chaos of laws can be reversed and that laws can be designed to be far more efficacious in the solution of societal problems. All that is required is to apply well-established quality programs to laws and the lawmaking process.

The benefits include:

- A marked reduction in the size and complexity of the bodies of laws
- Improved effectiveness, cost-efficiency and user-friendliness of laws
- Elimination of pork barrel and special interest laws
- Successful campaign finance reform
- Improved human rights, living standards and quality of life
- Improved public respect for governments and the rule of law

Quality programs will transform the basis of lawmaking from dogma to reliable knowledge and will cause the ascendancy of governments to the status of *true democracy*, in which governments always serve the best interests of the people as a whole and reflect their highest aspirations.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

David G. Schrunk is an aerospace engineer and medical doctor. He directed quality programs in radiology and nuclear medicine during his medical career and served as a volunteer physician in Liberia, St. Lucia, Trinidad-Tobago and India. He has also authored multiple articles and a book related to the exploration of space. Dr. Schrunk resides in Poway, California with his wife and children.

Book Review – by Philip R. Harris, Ph.D., Management/Space Psychologist and Author; Editorial Advisory Board Member, *European Business Review*; 2005 Literati Club Award for Excellence.

For a functioning democracy, the rule of law must prevail. But what if the laws and the manner in which they are instituted are overly complex, defective and archaic? This work maintains that the traditional method of lawmaking is devoid of quality control, such as might be found in the design of other useful products like nuclear reactors, pharmaceuticals, and transport aircraft. As a result, the traditional method of lawmaking is incapable of serving the best interests of the citizenry as required in a democracy. The thesis of this provocative tome is that the purpose of legislation is to solve problems efficaciously, and though legislators have power, they lack the expertise to design laws that adequately meet human needs. Furthermore, the lack of quality design standards allows special interests to be a major source of today's laws, written for their own benefit to the detriment of the general populace. The result is chaos – too many laws are poorly written, confusing, ineffective, and obsolete.

Laws impact commerce worldwide and even in outer space. In fact, a whole body of such rules and regulations of behavior are collated and taught in schools of law under the course titles of “business” or “corporate” law. Therefore, it is essential that management and administrators understand the process by which laws are enacted and enforced. No wonder so many top executives today are themselves trained as lawyers. For example, in the European Union, so many laws and regulations are promulgated that most large corporations have legal departments to cope with the situation. Thus, global leaders should welcome this mind-stretching book, *THE END OF CHAOS*, whose subtitle so clearly indicates its purpose – *Quality Laws and the Ascendancy of Democracy*. Obviously, it is a timely and significant topic today when there is a worldwide trend toward democratic governance.

Some thirty years ago, Frederick Beutal wrote a volume on experimental jurisprudence in which he wisely observed: *A science of law based on rigorous application of the scientific method should be devoted to the study of law making, the effect of law upon society, and the efficiency of law in accomplishing the purpose for which the law came into existence.* It would appear that the author of *THE END OF CHAOS* took this injunction seriously, for he has devoted some nine chapters and twelve appendices to its analysis. David Schrunk was educated in engineering and medicine, so he brings an innovative and unique mindset to the process of lawmaking.

Dr. Schrunk's in-depth research of the lawmaking process, especially as practiced in the United States, concludes that lawmaking now is “undisciplined, unprincipled, unreliable, and irresponsible.” To correct the deficiencies of the traditional method, he recommends the implementation of a quality program for lawmaking that would apply science and engineering methodologies. By this means, he predicts, it will be possible for governments to solve societal problems.

Laws are but one manifestation of human culture. But in the emerging knowledge culture of this 21st century, we would do well by heeding the message of his thoughtful critique. The writer seeks to transform lawmaking from the current confusion and dogma to competent procedures and reliable knowledge. Therefore, this astute visionary offers a rationale and disciplined quality assurance program to improve the design and evaluation of laws.

Furthermore, this cosmopolitan author recommends a strategy for a new investigative and creative science of laws. In fact, Schrunk outlines a higher education curriculum for studies applying the scientific problem solving process to derive knowledge of the mechanics of lawmaking, and a separate engineering curriculum for the design and optimization of laws (Appendix K)! In Appendix H, he describes the Quality of Laws Institute which he founded in 1995 as a non-profit corporation to promote the application of science and engineering disciplines to laws and lawmaking. A detailed glossary at the end of this publication defines the terminology related to his proposal. For instance, it explains *quality as the degree of excellence a given entity possesses.* It then differentiates between quality assurance (QA) standards, *the knowledge-based criteria used to determine the efficacy of products and processes,* in contrast to

quality design (QD) standards, *the knowledge-based criteria that guide their creation*. As applied to making legislation, these concepts are then linked to quality improvement (QI) standards.

Lawmaking has been going on for millennia, and each nation has a distinctive cultural approach to the process which it guards carefully. A recent article in *The Economist* discusses how America previously contributed to creating a framework of international law, but today its presidential administration resists “foreign influences” on its legal thinking (June 11, 2005, pp.25-26). While Dr. Schrunk’s sensible plan would improve the lawmaking process for the benefit of the citizenry in a democracy, its implementation is bound to meet powerful opposition from lobbyists and other vested interests. Interestingly, the foreword of this volume was written by a political scientist, Michael Newborough, Ph.D., so perhaps his colleagues will support this scheme. One would hope that serious proponents of democracy everywhere, however, would see the wisdom of such legal reforms. After all, voters in many American states have become so disillusioned with their ineffective legislators that they have resorted, as in California, to the public ballot initiative to bring about change in the law.

THE END OF CHAOS is a well researched, seminal volume whose content deserves widespread discussion and debate, especially in the professions, academia, and business. Since David Schrunk has also co-authored another visionary book, *THE MOON: Resources, Future Development, and Colonization* (www.univelt.com and www.praxis-publishing.co.uk), perhaps there is an opportunity off-world for the application of his insights, particularly in the future field of astrolaw – laws made in and for the environment of outer space!