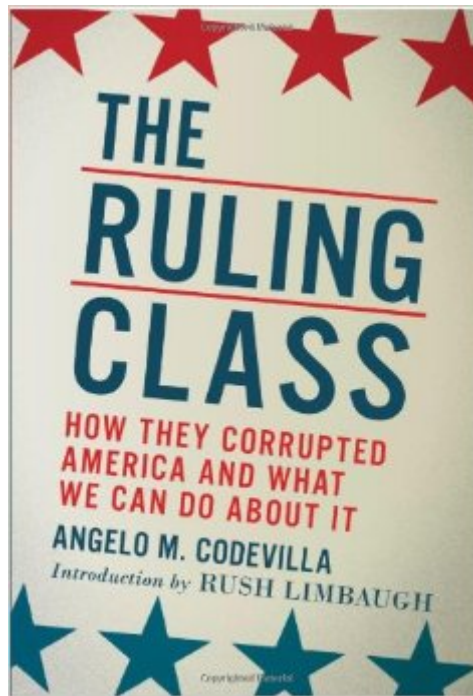


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# The Ruling Class: How They Corrupted America And What We Can Do About It



## Synopsis

In this profound and incisive work, Angelo M. Codevilla introduces readers to the Ruling Class, the group of bipartisan political elites who run America. This Ruling Class, educated at prestigious universities and convinced of its own superiority, has everything to gain by raising taxes and expanding the reach of government. This class maintains that it knows what is best and continually increases its power over every facet of American life, from family and marriage to the environment, guns, and God. It is becoming increasingly apparent that this Ruling Class does not represent the interests of the majority of Americans, who value self-rule and the freedom on whose promise America was founded. Millions of Americans are now reasserting our right to obey the Constitution, not the Ruling Class. This desire transcends all organizations and joins independents, Republicans, and Democrats into The Country Party, whose members embody the ideas and habits that made America great. The majority of Americans feel that the Ruling Class is demeaning us, impoverishing us, demoralizing us, and want to be rid of it.

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Codevilla thesis divides the country into two halves to make his case. These are not the typical talking points that the left drones on about: the haves and the have nots (John Edwards two Americas garbage), rather Codevilla's two classes are those who feed the political elites and the political elites themselves. According to Codevilla remarkable thesis the keys to power and becoming an elite has little to do with wealth. A Texan oilman or a Missouri real estate developer

may be worth tens of millions of dollars, as much if not more than the top tier of Codevilla elites. It's the elites and their functionaries' ability to expropriate the wealth of the non-politically connected that makes them powerful, comfortable and provides them with wealth. The elites through their control of government determines who gets to put his hand in the till and who pays into that till. This explains why the majority of careerists who rely on the tax dollars of others so readily and willingly vote democrat. The keys of power are also bestowed to those who belong to the right circles. The right circles include the nation's elite ivy league universities, think tanks and journalistic outfits. These, as Codevilla illustrates with Clarence Thomas, doesn't guarantee you a seat at the table of the elites but they are most certainly required. As with the example of Lawrence Tribe, all sins can be forgiven if you belong and talk the talk. The original vision of America was and still is one of the crowning achievements in human history but its core principles have been eroded by Codevilla's elites. These United States has been replaced with The United States indicating a shift from federalism to federal authority. Equality of opportunity has been supplanted by equality of outcome.

For thirty years I have been hammering away about the crucial importance of understanding "power elite analysis" or "libertarian class analysis" in order to make sense of how American society operates. Historic events are not random and unconnected but fall within an intelligible political/economic context. This is clearly something our Founding Fathers knew well. They spelled this out for all the world to see and reflect upon in the Declaration of Independence. (See my .com Listmania! "Libertarian Class Analysis" for more book titles on this vital subject.) I have never seen this stated in such a clear and eloquent manner than in Angelo M. Codevilla's new book, *The Ruling Class: How They Corrupted America And What We Can Do About It*. It should be read by everyone concerned with the future of our nation, and shared with friends, family, colleagues, etc. Dr. Codevilla's original article which forms the heart and soul of this volume was published in the July-August edition of *The American Spectator*. It is the most important essay I have ever read. He has expanded upon this initial article in this compact but concise paperback. For the first time I have begun to understand how generations of leftist intellectuals and activists were passionately moved and inspired by the Communist Manifesto of 1848, or how our own American Revolutionaries were motivated in 1776 by Tom Paine's stirring *Common Sense*, clearly elucidating the case for American independence from British tyranny and oppression.

What a refreshing change from the fare we're used to seeing from the academy. The book's title suggested a thesis of Marxist class dichotomy, but Professor Codevilla handles what I call

America's "predator class" in far more thoughtful, nuanced analysis. His discussion of the 'home-schooling' movement is particularly welcome. Ours is a second-generation homeschooling family, and I find this author's characterization of home-based learning (history's preferred venue) a breath of fresh air. I also appreciate the proper framing of urban-vs-rural worldview and folkways: nearly antithetical. The media has long portrayed urban life as normative and rural life as 'flyover country'. Professor Codevilla brings us back to the reality of the ages. Bravo. Where I would disagree with this otherwise superb treatise is in the somewhat false class dichotomy. By James Madison's plan -- which is after all our Supreme Law -- 'We The People' are the sovereigns over every governmental tool of ruse and plunder that the mercantilists may dream up. This is what the author is describing: the predator class, who for 150 years has used Congress to soak the working man. But the very act of calling them a 'ruling class' only exacerbates the problem of citizen abdication of duty. In Chapter 12 of my book *This Bloodless Liberty*, I expose the dizzying array of parasite classes who exist in symbiosis with the predator class and with "America's Illegals", the U.S. Congress. The domestic enemy of the American Dream is far more extensive than the monied class. But in that book, I also explain that America Again!

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