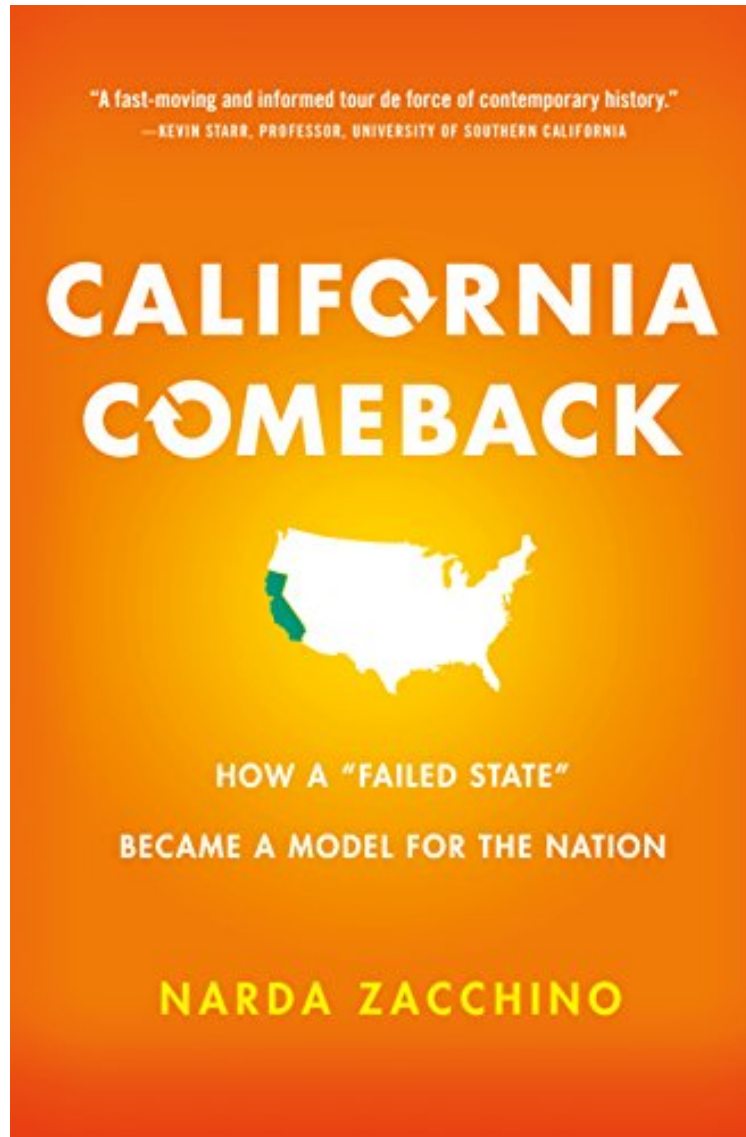


(Download ebook) California Comeback: How A "Failed State" Became a Model for the Nation

California Comeback: How A "Failed State" Became a Model for the Nation

Narda Zacchino

ebooks / Download PDF / *ePub / DOC / audiobook



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#107285 in eBooks 2016-08-16 2016-08-16 File Name: B01BBXEZOG | File size: 71.Mb

Narda Zacchino : California Comeback: How A "Failed State" Became a Model for the Nation before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised California Comeback: How A "Failed State" Became a Model for the Nation:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Kudos on an excellent book, It's about time someone wrote a book ...By Reader 47Kudos on an excellent book, It's about time someone wrote a book about a "Blue" State that is a

success. When Calif. "led" the way with Reagan, many in the media called it a state pointing to the future. Some future. Now, when Calif. is a success and "Red" State Kansas is falling apart under Gov.r Brownback's cut taxes "experiment," no one seems to notice Gov. Jerry Brown's real success. Get the word out on this book!4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Required reading for all voters in Texas and KansasBy James MamerCalifornia Comeback begins with the author's description of how her mother and father, both Marine Corps veterans, settled in California after the Second World War buying a small home in a suburb of San Diego. By 1978, her mother, still in the same house and living on Social Security and veteran's benefits felt as if she might be forced to sell because of skyrocketing property taxes. She was one of many Californians in the same situation. Half-hearted efforts to fix the problem had failed leaving rapidly increasing homes values automatically increasing property taxes. In California such a situation opens the door to a ballot initiative by which citizens (and organizations such as unions and corporations) have the ability to propose laws and constitutional amendments without support from the legislature. By their very nature such initiatives also carry risks of causing as many problems as they solve. In 1978 Proposition 13 proposed to solve the problem of rapidly escalating property taxes with a constitutional amendment. It promised, among other things, to cut property taxes by more than 50% and tie all future tax bills to 1% of the 1975 assessed value. On Election Day, to the surprise of no one, California voters approved it and in doing so fundamentally changed how property in California is taxed plunging many functions of state government, including the entire education system into chaos. The new tax policies tied state finances in knots and, according to California historian Kevin Starr, established "an unfair and dysfunctional two-tiered system of property taxes [that] brought California to the edge." The central narrative in California Comeback traces both how close the state came to economic collapse and how the extraordinary recovery was managed. The game changing Proposition 13 was approved in the middle of Governor Jerry Brown's first two terms. When he left office in 1983 he was followed by four governors both Democratic and Republican who, working with the state legislature in a post-Proposition 13 reality, continued to pass a series of gimmick-laden "balanced" budgets that resulted in a constant need to borrow causing the state to amass cumulative deficits of more than \$100 billion from 2000 to 2010. The path to recovery is instructive. How the debt was eliminated and how the state managed to establish a rainy-day fund carry important lessons for other states now mired in a cycle of budget cuts and debt. This recovery is essentially the story of the second coming of Jerry Brown who returned to the governor's office in 2011. Zacchino presents his political biography in two fascinating chapters "Moonbeam to Laser Beam" and "Jerry Brown 2.0" and, after reading the book, it is hard to imagine California's comeback without him. Less than a month after Brown began his third term, she writes, "he implored the legislature to pass an emergency measure to ask voters to extend temporary fees they had been paying since 2009 to avert \$12 billion in cuts to education and public safety." Unsurprisingly, the legislature did not cooperate and Brown was faced with only one alternative: to ask the voters to increase their own taxes. This did not promise to be easy. Zacchino's account of how Brown led the fight for Proposition 30 includes the last minute appearance of \$11 million in "Dark Money" targeted to defeat the measure. Despite powerful opposition Proposition 30 passed, in 2012, 55.4% to 44.6%. Other issues in the book are equally significant and they offer important lessons in what works and what does not. She examines the perils of scapegoating immigrants in her analysis of Proposition 187. She recounts the evolution of environmental protections in California, which has often led the nation in the fight for clean air. She details the problems that developed in California following massive increases in the state's prison population reporting that by 2005 "the state budget for corrections grew to nearly 8 percent of general fund expenditures, roughly the same as what was spent on public higher education." In "The Enron Assault" she details the dangers inherent in mindless deregulation. In "A Tale of Two States" she contrasts California's recovery with the disintegration of the oil-supported "Texas Miracle." California Comeback is an important book not only because it is a step-by-step description of what a responsible state government looks like, but also as a counterpoint to ongoing efforts to eliminate virtually all regulations and to fetishize lower and lower taxes in states like Wisconsin, Louisiana, Texas and Kansas. Of course California continues to have significant problems, but it has become a model of rationality, realism, and responsibility. For that reason alone California Comeback is recommended reading for American voters everywhere. Buy it, read it, and discuss it every chance you get.2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A Wild RideBy Wellford WilmsZacchino takes the reader on a wild ride through California's history as only a seasoned journalist can. It's not the failed state that so many alarmists claimed California would become, but rather Zacchino shows it to as a beacon - a bellwether - for the country. Things are constantly changing but not in a straight line. Take our governor Jerry Brown for instance. During his first governorship back in the 70s he was derided as "Governor Moonbeam". Now Brown has evolved into the state's masterly guide as the 7th largest economy in the world. Chock full of facts the book is a great read. And it makes me proud to be a Californian (though transplanted from the midwest)!

An in-depth look at California's remarkable 21st century turnaround, focusing on the role played by the state government under Jerry Brown. In the most economically important state in the country—and the 7th largest

economy in the world; a political revolution of historic importance has occurred which has not been sufficiently covered by the media. In the state where the Reagan Revolution was born, there has recently occurred a remarkable progressive revolution under the leadership of another governor, four-term Democrat Jerry Brown. Over the past several decades, as it has evolved from a red state to solid blue, California has boldly reinvigorated the notion that government is not a dirty word but rather an instrument for uniting people and improving their lives. From raising taxes on those with annual incomes over \$250,000, to shifting money toward the schools in low-income communities, from seeking environmental alliances with other countries to limit climate change, to the rejection of militaristic solutions to illegal immigration, California has been a laboratory of innovation. Californians have rejected the "race to the bottom" right-wing philosophy that catapulted conservative politics in recent years. That model of endorsing privatization, deregulation, reductions in government spending, and a tax system that disproportionately favors the wealthy, is exemplified by conservative governors and rejected by the pragmatic liberal Jerry Brown. In California Comeback, award-winning journalist Narda Zacchino, who has covered California politics for over three decades, clearly lays out the history of California's initial experiments with progressivism under Brown, its swing to the right under Reagan, near financial collapse under Schwarzenegger, and recent return to stability; bulwarked but the progressive policies made possible by the second coming of Jerry Brown. This progressive mindset, forged in the crucible of the tumultuous last half century, is California's true contribution not only to the country, but to the world.

About the Author Narda Zacchino is an author and award-winning journalist who served as a top editor at the Los Angeles Times and San Francisco Chronicle. During her 31 years at the Los Angeles Times, she was a reporter, government and politics editor, Sacramento bureau chief, Editor of the Orange County edition, Deputy Managing Editor, Associate Editor, and Vice President. She is the co-author of *Boots on the Ground by Dark*, a book on NFL star/Army Ranger Pat Tillman written with his mother, Mary.