



Resistance To Civil Government: On Civil Disobedience and other Essays Annotated

By Henry David Thoreau



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"At the time of the abolition of slavery movement, [Thoreau] wrote his famous essay "On the Duty of Civil Disobedience". He went to [prison] for the sake of his principles and suffering humanity. His essay has, therefore, been sanctified by suffering. Moreover, it is written for all time. Its incisive logic is unanswerable." - [Mahatma] Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi "I became convinced that noncooperation with evil is as much a moral obligation as is cooperation with good. No other person has been more eloquent and passionate in getting this idea across than Henry David Thoreau. As a result of his writings and personal witness, we are the heirs of a legacy of creative protest. The teachings of Thoreau came alive in our civil rights movement; indeed, they are more alive than ever before. Whether expressed in a sit-in at lunch counters, a freedom ride into Mississippi, a peaceful protest in Albany, Georgia, a bus boycott in Montgomery, Alabama, these are outgrowths of Thoreau's insistence that evil must be resisted and that no moral man can patiently adjust to injustice." - Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Resistance to Civil Government is an annotated reference to Thoreau's three core literary works regarding civil disobedience; ON THE DUTY OF CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE, SLAVERY IN MASSACHUSETTS, and A PLEA FOR CAPTAIN JOHN BROWN. Both America and Thoreau were born into civil disobedience; it is in our blood as a free people. In over one hundred and fifty years since its first printing, Resistance to Civil Government continues to offer fresh insight to historians and activists alike. Few themes offer greater resonance to the human outcry against the vagaries of injustice, human bondage, and oppressive taxation. Thoreau provides eloquent testimony and cognitive dissonance in all three accounts..

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Resistance To Civil Government: On Civil Disobedience and other Essays Annotated By Henry David Thoreau Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #3851827 in Books
- Published on: 2010-03-04
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.50" h x .27" w x 5.50" l, .32 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 116 pages

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Henry David Thoreau, (July 12, 1817 - May 6, 1862), a surveyor by trade and a naturalist by heart, Thoreau became one of the principal American authors of the 19th century abolitionist movement. His two best known works are *Resistance to Civil Government* (a.k.a. *On Civil Disobedience*) and *Walden* (an introspection on the merits of simple living). He graduated from Harvard in 1837 and shortly thereafter he met his life-long friend and mentor Ralph Waldo Emerson. He spent many years working in the family business of pencil-making, rediscovered and later implemented a forgotten process of combining clay and graphite to successfully produce low-cost pencils. Ironically, in 1844 he accidentally set fire to Walden Woods and nearly burned to the ground the area near Walden Pond where over the course of the next few years he would write his most famous philosophical work on nature and austerity. In 1846 he was arrested for tax evasion and chose to accept a jail sentence rather than pay the tax; this incident led to his famous lyceum lectures on the relation of an individual's duty to resist civil government when government is unjust. Charly Gullett (editor) was trained as a photo-journalist in the U.S. Army Defense Information School during the Viet Nam era in 1971. He spent most of his adult life as a self-taught applications engineer specializing in Robotics, Digital Instrumentation and Analog Computer Design. Retiring in 1996 from Intel Corp. as a senior technical author, Gullett was awarded their highest individual achievement award for his ground-breaking work in Artificial Intelligence. Additionally, Gullett's career has included work as a professional photographer, cabinet maker, college teacher, a firearms dealer, and a professional artist who has illustrated over thirty books. He has authored the the Warfield Activist Series on law, history, political activism and American exceptionalism.

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