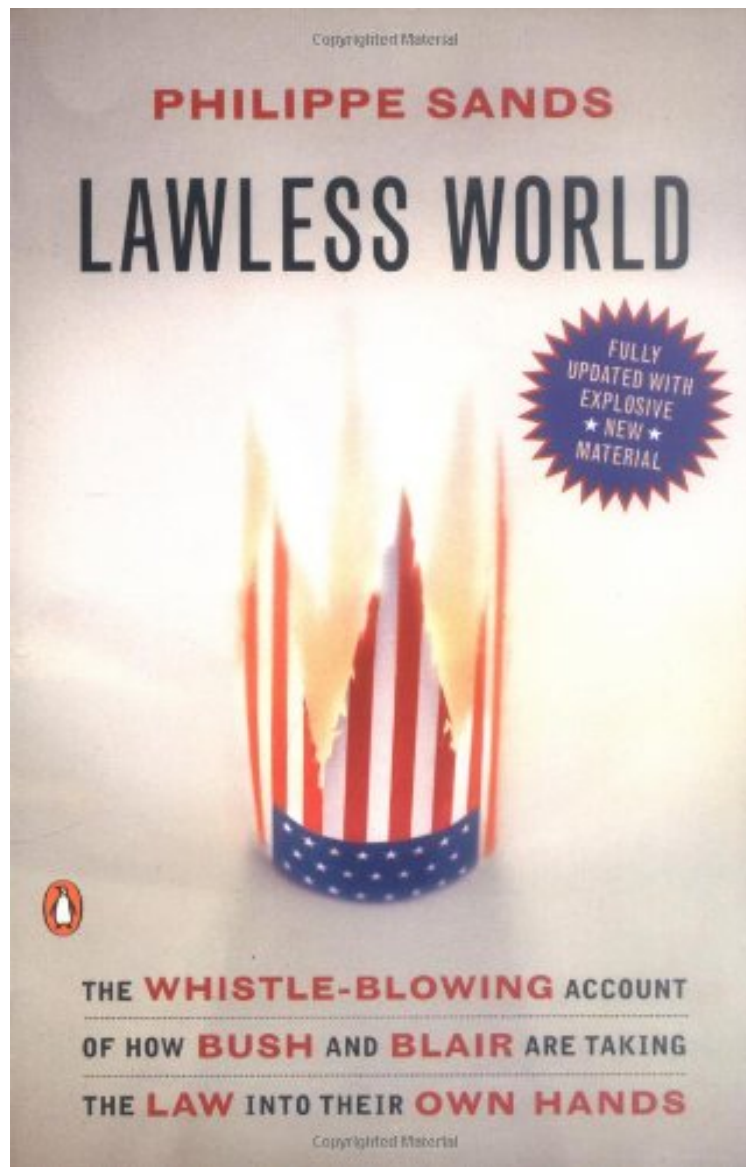


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## Lawless World: The Whistle-Blowing Account of How Bush and Blair Are Taking the Law into Their Own Hands

*Philippe Sands*

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**Philippe Sands : Lawless World: The Whistle-Blowing Account of How Bush and Blair Are Taking the Law into Their Own Hands** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Lawless World: The Whistle-Blowing Account of How Bush and Blair Are Taking the Law into Their Own Hands:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Deeply disturbing  
By Pearl Crescent  
Phillippe Sands "Lawless World" is a deeply disturbing book for anyone who shares my belief that America lives by the rules. It is indeed a "whistle-blowing" account of just how many rules of international law the Bush administration, with the complicity of Tony Blair of Great Britain, flouted in the run-up to and execution of the Iraq war. For someone like me who previously knew next to nothing about the body of international law that exists, it is incredibly eye-opening. From the Geneva Convention and its protocols, to the Convention against Torture (1984), and the Charter of the United Nations, Sands reveals in plain and readily understandable language just what this body of law contains, how it got there, and how and why the Iraq war violated so much of it. I have been accused of being an idealist and a liberal. (Which makes me doubly tainted). If I am an idealist, it is because I grew up in a time and in a place where I cut my teeth on the Declaration of Independence, The Constitution of the United States, and the Bill of Rights. I grew up believing the U.S. was a country of ideals, rules, a code of ethics and fundamental decency, that we had a system of checks and balances that prevented any one arm of the government from becoming too powerful, and that this government governed with the consent of the governed. When laws, whether domestic or international, are flouted without demur, as they have been by this administration, we are all of us, each and every one of us, at risk. To quote Sands, "what you take away from others you take away also from yourself." I would recommend the book to anyone with even a remote interest in what went on both before and during the Iraq war regarding the body of law that existed internationally from the end of W.W.II. International law is the only thing now standing between the civilized world and barbarism. Greater adherence to it by all the nations and peoples of the world could make obsolete Wordsworth's words, "Have I not reason to lament what man has made of man" 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Phillip Sand's Lawless World  
By Rosalie G. Sundin  
Sands is a great lecturer on the Bush administration's violations of constitutional law. The book can be a bit heavy, but worth reading if you are researching what all happened behind the scenes and without mention by the news media. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. International law, a la carte!  
By T. Washington  
Now that we have the benefit of hindsight (ie since the Bush Administration has begun to fade into history) but even before it, we can see that to quote Phillippe Sands's observation that international laws (or at least those dealing with the rights of prisoners under the Geneva Convention) amongst others may have been damaged but certainly were not destroyed (despite the best attempts of Bush, Cheney, Rumsfeld and Yoo)- they are simply TOO robust to be destroyed, even by a single Administration. What is so sad is the sheer short sightedness-if not self centeredness of Team Bush's outlook. Vis a vis when discussing ways to eviscerate Geneva Convention protections against the ill treatment or torture of POWs, nobody seems to have asked- "hang on, how would we respond if a foreign government treated Americans- whether military personnel or civilians-in such an inhumane fashion?" "Is this even right for common criminals in our own nation's prisons!" The answer I believe would be NO! To quote the late (conservative) US Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter- "there are things that you cannot do to a dog!" In fairness, Sands makes the point that this attempt to "remake" international law and custom to suit the "neo-con" agenda came not from the professional lawyers of State, Justice or Defence but a bunch of political appointees such as Yoo, Gonzalez, Bolton- few if any who have ever seen combat or military service. (As wags put it, they were more familiar with the air conditioned inside of a think tank as opposed to an Abrams tank)! All in all, a chilling attempt of one administration's (thankfully failed) attempt to foist a new "legal paradigm" on not just the US but the world!

Sixty years ago, the United States and Great Britain spearheaded efforts to create a new world order based on international rules. Today these same two nations are leading the charge to abandon many of the global safeguards they once fought to establish. Crisp, impassioned, and hard-hitting, Lawless World is an exposé and an indictment of a catastrophic realignment of the laws that govern international affairs, the book that broke the stories on the "Downing Street memo" and the "White House meeting memo." It is also a vivid and human account of the reckless way America has reneged on its very founding documents-and a call for us to recognize the role we should be playing to reassert the rule of law, and with it a stable, secure world. **BACKCOVER:** "In this expert and judicious study, Philippe Sands portrays a frightening image of 'America unbound,' self-exempted from the delicate fabric of international law on which human survival rests." -Noam Chomsky "A penetrating and detailed account of the extent to which those who claim to be spreading global values have ridden roughshod over them." -The Observer (London) "Lawless World goes to the very heart of the nature of the international order and its future." -The Guardian (London)

In this expert and judicious study, Philippe Sands portrays a frightening image of America unbound, self-exempted from the delicate fabric of international law on which human survival rests. Noam Chomsky A penetrating and detailed account of the extent to which those who claim to be spreading global values have ridden roughshod over them. The Observer (London) Lawless World goes to the very heart of the nature of the international order and its future. The Guardian (London) From the Back Cover "In this expert and judicious study, Philippe Sands portrays a frightening image of America unbound, self-exempted from the delicate fabric of international law on which human survival rests." Noam Chomsky "A penetrating and detailed account of the extent to which those who claim to be spreading global values have ridden roughshod over them." The Observer (London) "Lawless World goes to the very heart of the

nature of the international order and its future." The Guardian (London)About the AuthorPhilippe Sands is an international lawyer, professor at University College London, and a practicing barrister. Sands has been involved in many of the recent high profile cases in the World Court and elsewhere, including representing the interests of the British detainees at Guantanamo and the efforts to extradite Augusto Pinochet to Spain. He has written for the Los Angeles Times and The Washington Post, taught at NYU and Boston College, and appears regularly on CNN and the BBC.