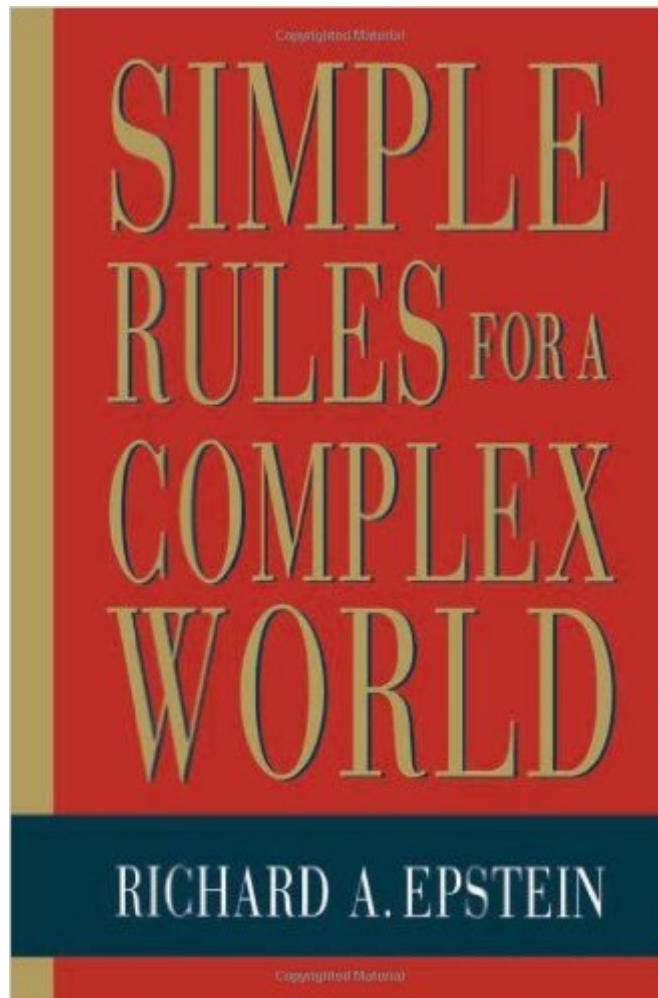


The book was found

# Simple Rules For A Complex World



## Synopsis

Too many laws, too many lawyers--that's the necessary consequence of a complex society, or so conventional wisdom has it. Countless pundits insist that any call for legal simplification smacks of nostalgia, sentimentality, or naiveté. But the conventional view, the noted legal scholar Richard Epstein tells us, has it exactly backward. The richer texture of modern society allows for more individual freedom and choice. And it allows us to organize a comprehensive legal order capable of meeting the technological and social challenges of today on the basis of just six core principles. In this book, Epstein demonstrates how. The first four rules, which regulate human interactions in ordinary social life, concern the autonomy of the individual, property, contract, and tort. Taken together these rules establish and protect consistent entitlements over all resources, both human and natural. These rules are backstopped by two more rules that permit forced exchanges on payment of just compensation when private or public necessity so dictates. Epstein then uses these six building blocks to clarify many intractable problems in the modern legal landscape. His discussion of employment contracts explains the hidden virtues of contracts at will and exposes the crippling weaknesses of laws regarding collective bargaining, unjust dismissal, employer discrimination, and comparable worth. And his analysis shows how laws governing liability for products and professional services, corporate transactions, and environmental protection have generated unnecessary social strife and economic dislocation by violating these basic principles. *Simple Rules for a Complex World* offers a sophisticated agenda for comprehensive social reform that undoes much of the mischief of the modern regulatory state. At a time when most Americans have come to distrust and fear government at all levels, Epstein shows how a consistent application of economic and political theory allows us to steer a middle path between too much and too little.

## Book Information

Paperback: 361 pages

Publisher: Harvard University Press; Revised edition (March 25, 1995)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0674808215

ISBN-13: 978-0674808218

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 0.9 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars See all reviews (6 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #903,668 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #44 in Books > Law > Rules & Procedures > Remedies #342 in Books > Law > Philosophy #1444 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Specific Topics > Law Enforcement

## Customer Reviews

Prof. Richard Epstein has written a brilliant book here. His thesis, at heart, is that the world operates more efficiently and productively when legal rules are "simple" than when they are complex. In order to elaborate this thesis, he spells out just what he means by "simple," proposes a handful of simple rules himself in various areas of law (property, contracts, torts), and shows how they play out in action (in, e.g., labor contracting, employment discrimination, and products liability). In each case he argues, with much success, that it just wouldn't be efficient to try to improve on the results provided by the "simple" rules. I especially recommend this book, and Epstein's work generally, to law students. Epstein's knowledge of the law is thorough and deep; One-Ls will find it useful to keep it handy for the whole year. So why only four stars? Partly because I think cost-benefit analysis is neither an adequate defense of liberty against the regulatory State nor an adequate foundation for law; and partly because Epstein's reliance on such analysis leads him toward (though he stops short of actually arriving at) positions I regard as non- or anti-libertarian. This review isn't the place to critique consequentialism; for a more or less standard and (I think) decisive critique, the reader is referred to W.D. Ross's *Foundations of Ethics*, which, after sixty-odd years, is still one of the most judicious works on ethics ever written. Suffice it to say that I think we can increase efficiency by pursuing justice, but not vice versa; consequentialism and its subspecies utilitarianism seem to me to be not so much ways of answering moral questions as of never raising them.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

7 More Psychological Complexes That You Didn't Know Existed: Cinderella Complex, Superman Complex, Napoleon Complex, Messiah Complex, Phaedra Complex, ... Complex (Transcend Mediocrity Book 125) Simple Rules for a Complex World California Rules of Court - State, 2015 ed. (Vol. I, California Court Rules) (California Rules of Court. State and Federal) THE GRONNEDAL-IKA ALKALINE COMPLEX, SOUTH GREENLAND: THE STRUCTURE AND GEOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THE COMPLEX. A First Course in Complex Analysis with Applications (Jones and Bartlett Publishers Series in Mathematics: Complex) How Goats Can Fight Poverty: Complex problems do not always need complex solutions Windows 8 Tips for Beginners 2nd Edition: A Simple, Easy, and Efficient Guide to a Complex System of Windows 8! (Windows 8, Operating Systems, Windows ... Networking, Computers, Technology) Human Factors in Simple

and Complex Systems, Second Edition Transgender 101: A Simple Guide to a Complex Issue 42  
Rules for Applying Google Analytics: 42 Rules for Applying Google Analytics CAT TRAINING FOR  
HUMANS: OBEY THE CAT RULES OR THERE WILL BE TROUBLE: CAT CARE CAT FOOD CAT  
BEHAVIOUR CAT RULES CAT TRAINING EXPLAINED FOR HUMANS (IT IS ... FOOD CAT  
LOVER CAT TRAINING SERIES Book 1) \* Social Rules for Kids-The Top 100 Social Rules Kids  
Need to Succeed Interior Designer's Portable Handbook: First-Step Rules of Thumb for the Design  
of Interiors: First-Step Rules of Thumb for the Design of Interiors (McGraw-Hill Portable Handbook)  
The Law Governing Lawyers: Model Rules, Standards, Statutes, and State Lawyer Rules of  
Professional Conduct FCC Rules and Regulations (Fcc Rules and Regulations for the Amateur  
Radio Service) Federal Rules of Civil Procedure with Selected Rules and Statutes Colorado Rules  
of Civil Procedure ("Just the Rules" Series) West's Illinois Family Laws and Court Rules, 2009 ed.  
(West's Illinois Family Law and Court Rules) Concise Rules of APA Style (Concise Rules of the  
American Psychological Association (APA) Style) Not Your Mother's Rules: The New Secrets for  
Dating (The Rules)

[Dmca](#)