



Not So Golden After All: The Rise and Fall of California

Larry N. Gerston

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Quality public education, modern highway systems, and reasonably priced housing—these are just some of the qualities that once made California one of the most desirable places to live. Just a few decades later, the state finds itself with an education system that is failing its citizens, one of the highest unemployment rates in the nation, and a quickly evaporating dream of home ownership.

Illustrating each step of the breakdown that led to its current state of dysfunction, **Not So Golden After All: The Rise and Fall of California** provides insight into a system gone amuck. It addresses complicated topics in an engaging manner to help the public and leaders alike understand how to make policies that balance expectations with outcomes. Key political themes covered include disconnected institutions, perpetually unbalanced budgets, immigration, voter ignorance, interest group influence, and dysfunctional institutions. Investigating the gridlock that has become all too common within the state's legislature, the book:

- Demonstrates the impact of the state's inability to generate sufficient revenue, particularly for public education and an under-trained workforce
- Highlights the problems created by poor land use planning —from suburban sprawl and government waste to inefficient use of agricultural land
- Examines how interest groups have been able to wrest control of the processes that were created to keep them in line
- Identifies the duplication of efforts and other inefficiencies at the state and local levels

Author Larry Gerston leaves no stone unturned in his discussion of California's economy, position on the Pacific Rim, cultural diversity, land and water issues, and its relationship with the federal government. He examines the state's infrastructure, natural resources, immigration issues, education, finance, healthcare, civil rights, planning and development, security, laws, political parties, and power structures to provide civic leaders and policy makers with the understanding required to restore the sheen to this once glistening paradise.

The Contra Costa Times discussed Larry Gerston's recent Commonwealth Club lecture in a May 17, 2012 article.

Read an interview with Larry Gerston in The Mercury News.

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Antoinette Hogg:

Exactly why? Because this Not So Golden After All: The Rise and Fall of California is an unordinary book that the inside of the book waiting for you to snap the item but latter it will jolt you with the secret the idea inside. Reading this book beside it was fantastic author who all write the book in such remarkable way makes the content inside of easier to understand, entertaining way but still convey the meaning thoroughly. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this anymore or you going to regret it. This book will give you a lot of positive aspects than the other book get such as help improving your talent and your critical thinking approach. So , still want to hold up having that book? If I had been you I will go to the guide store hurriedly.

Mohammad Darling:

Reading can called head hangout, why? Because if you find yourself reading a book specially book entitled Not So Golden After All: The Rise and Fall of California your mind will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in each and every aspect that maybe not known for but surely will become your mind friends. Imaging each and every word written in a book then become one web form conclusion and explanation in which maybe you never get prior to. The Not So Golden After All: The Rise and Fall of California giving you one more experience more than blown away your mind but also giving you useful information for your better life with this era. So now let us demonstrate the relaxing pattern this is your body and mind will probably be pleased when you are finished looking at it, like winning a casino game. Do you want to try this extraordinary wasting spare time activity?

Phyllis Smith:

Is it a person who having spare time and then spend it whole day by simply watching television programs or just laying on the bed? Do you need something new? This Not So Golden After All: The Rise and Fall of California can be the respond to, oh how comes? A book you know. You are consequently out of date, spending your time by reading in this new era is common not a nerd activity. So what these publications have than the others?

Wendy Lambert:

In this particular era which is the greater person or who has ability to do something more are more important than other. Do you want to become certainly one of it? It is just simple solution to have that. What you have to do is just spending your time very little but quite enough to enjoy a look at some books. One of several books in the top listing in your reading list is actually Not So Golden After All: The Rise and Fall of California. This book which can be qualified as The Hungry Inclines can get you closer in becoming precious person. By looking way up and review this book you can get many advantages.

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