



California Crackup: How Reform Broke the Golden State and How We Can Fix It

By Joe Mathews, Mark Paul

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Is California beyond repair? A sizable number of Golden State citizens have concluded that it is. Incessant budget crises plus a government paralyzed by partisan gridlock have led to demands for reform, even a constitutional convention. But what, exactly, is wrong and how can we fix it? In *California Crackup*, Joe Mathews and Mark Paul provide clear and informed answers. Their fast-paced and often humorous narrative deftly exposes the constitutional origins of our current political and economic problems and furnishes a uniquely California fix: innovative solutions that allow Californians to debate their choices, settle on the best ones, hold elected officials accountable for results, and choose anew if something doesn't work.

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California Crackup: How Reform Broke the Golden State and How We Can Fix It By Joe Mathews, Mark Paul **Bibliography**

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Editorial Review

Review

"Neither [Jerry] Brown or [Meg] Whitman, as they attempt to blaze a trail to the governor's mansion, have suggested anything as sweeping as the proposals in *California Crackup*." --Troy Senik in the *Wall Street Journal*

"A terrific book...that offers not only a clear diagnosis, but also a serious prescription... The clarity of their writing and the cogency of their argument put to shame the current campaign for governor."
--Calbuzz

"A compelling book." -- Michael Lewis in *Vanity Fair*.

"One of the most cogent, freshest, and incisive diagnosis of what ails California and also has some really outside-of-the-box ideas [for] how California fixes its political problems." --Matt Miller on Left, Right, and Center.

"Theirs are certainly the best ideas for rebuilding California's government that the state has seen since -- well, probably ever." --Harold Meyerson in *The American Prospect*

"Both [California gubernatorial] candidates may want to read the book's diagnosis of the potentially terminal problems that one of them is certain to inherit."
(Troy Senik *Wall Street Journal* 2010-08-06)

"A timely book with a lot of important things to say."
(*Newsweek* 2010-08-13)

"Lucid analysis is spiked with wit and appealing turns of phrase that lift it above mere wonkery."
(*San Francisco Magazine* 2010-08-01)

"Two of the shrewdest California-ologists now practicing . . . Mathews and Paul provide the best explanation we've yet had of the scope and sources of the state's governmental dysfunctionality."
(Harold Meyerson *American Prospect* 2010-09-02)

"An eminently readable treatise on our state's flailing government."
(Aaron Sankin *SF Appeal* 2010-08-24)

"A compelling book."
(Michael Lewis *Vanity Fair Magazine* 2011-11-01)

"A smart, good read."
(Jerry Roberts *Santa Barbara Independent* 2010-11-04)

"If you are interested in improving government—you should read the book . . . it reflects the spirit of innovation that was once part of the California story. This is what the campaign for governor should have

been about.”

(Bill Boyarsky *Truthdig* 2010-10-18)

“A concise and lucid analysis.”

(Byron Williams *Oakland Tribune* 2010-08-25)

“Objective and at times humorous (if that’s possible) analysis of how California grew dysfunctional and what will make it functional again. This new release is getting solid reviews from critics and readers alike.”

(Jim Wood *Marin Magazine* 2010-09-01)

“The authors do a great job of explaining what has been done to try to control the [budget] beast and how it became a depressing example of the law of unintended consequences.”

(Royal Calkins *Monterey County-Herald* 2010-08-17)

“A terrific book. . . . Nice work, guys. Calbuzz sez: check it out.”

(*Calbuzz* 2010-08-18)

“An important new book.”

(Harold Meyerson *Los Angeles Times* 2010-09-26)

“This is a great book; everyone who wants to fix California needs to read it.”

(Garrett Gruener *California Journal Of Politics And Policy* 2011-01-01)

From the Inside Flap

"*California Crackup* is brilliant. It cuts through the familiar tangle of diagnoses and quick-fix solutions to provide a comprehensive and persuasive analysis of California's dysfunctional governmental system. Paul and Mathews have coolly laid out a complicated story, made it readable, sometimes even comedic. It is the best discussion of the issue I've seen in over three decades."—Peter Schrag, author of *California: America's High-Stakes Experiment*

"I know of no other work that combines so succinctly and enjoyably a historical summary of California's existing problems with such a sweeping and provocative program of reform."—Ethan Rarick, University of California, Berkeley

"Mark Paul and Joe Mathews have produced an indispensable guide to California's crisis of governance—and they have done so with humor, scholarship, fairness and storytelling verve. Every Californian should read this book."—Steve Coll, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Ghost Wars*

"Mark Paul... has a talent for presenting California Big Think stuff in an easily accessible and always readable way...[offering] clear and creative insights on the subject of California's collapse."—*CalBuzz*

"Joe Mathews has done an artful, fascinating, and convincing job of connecting the California of today's Schwarzenegger era to the long history that made his rise possible.—James Fallows,*The Atlantic Monthly* on Mathews' book, *The People's Machine*

About the Author

Joe Mathews is Irvine senior fellow at the New America Foundation as well as a fellow at the Center for Social Cohesion, Arizona State University. He is the author of *The People's Machine: Arnold*

Schwarzenegger and the Rise of Blockbuster Democracy, a columnist for *The Daily Beast*, a freelance journalist, and associate editor of Zócalo Public Square **Mark Paul** is senior scholar and deputy director of the California program at the New America Foundation. He was formerly deputy treasurer of California and deputy editorial page editor of the *Sacramento Bee*. Mathews and Paul are authors of the article "How to Fix a Broken State" in the March 2011 issue of *Boom: A Journal of California*.

Users Review

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Herman Jenkins:

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