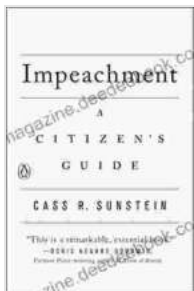


Citizen's Guide to Impeachment: A Comprehensive Overview by Cass Sunstein

Impeachment is a constitutional process that can lead to the removal of a president, vice president, or other federal officer from office. It is a serious matter that has only been used a handful of times in American history.



Impeachment: A Citizen's Guide by Cass R. Sunstein

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

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In this article, we will provide a comprehensive overview of impeachment, including its history, grounds, process, and consequences. We will draw heavily on the work of Cass Sunstein, a renowned scholar on constitutional law and public policy.

History of Impeachment

The power of impeachment is derived from the U.S. Constitution, which states that the House of Representatives has the sole power to impeach

the president, vice president, and other federal officers for "treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors." The Senate then has the sole power to try all impeachments, and a two-thirds majority vote is required to convict and remove the official from office.

The first impeachment trial in American history took place in 1797, when the House of Representatives impeached Senator William Blount of Tennessee for conspiring to incite a war against Spain. Blount was acquitted by the Senate.

Since then, there have been four presidents who have been impeached: Andrew Johnson, Bill Clinton, Donald Trump, and Joe Biden. Of these, only Johnson and Trump were acquitted by the Senate.

Grounds for Impeachment

The Constitution does not explicitly define what constitutes an impeachable offense. However, it is generally understood that an impeachable offense is a serious offense that rises to the level of a "high crime or misdemeanor." This could include such things as treason, bribery, or abuse of power.

In his book *Impeachment: A Citizen's Guide*, Cass Sunstein argues that the grounds for impeachment should be limited to "serious offenses that fundamentally undermine the integrity of the office." He suggests that these offenses could include:

- Treason
- Bribery
- Extortion

- Abuse of power
- Obstruction of justice

Sunstein also argues that the grounds for impeachment should not be limited to criminal offenses. He believes that an official could be impeached for conduct that is not criminal, but that nevertheless undermines the integrity of the office.

Process of Impeachment

The impeachment process is divided into two stages: the investigation and prosecution of the charges by the House of Representatives, and the trial of the charges by the Senate.

Investigation and Prosecution by the House of Representatives

The impeachment process begins with an investigation by the House of Representatives. The House Judiciary Committee is typically responsible for conducting the investigation, and it can subpoena witnesses and documents to build its case.

If the Judiciary Committee finds evidence of impeachable offenses, it will vote to recommend that the full House of Representatives impeach the official. The full House then votes on whether to impeach the official. A simple majority vote is required to impeach an official.

Trial by the Senate

If the House of Representatives impeaches an official, the Senate is then responsible for trying the charges. The Senate trial is presided over by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

The Senate has the power to subpoena witnesses and documents, and it can hear testimony from both the prosecution and the defense. The Senate also votes on whether to convict the official. A two-thirds majority vote is required to convict and remove an official from office.

Consequences of Impeachment

If an official is convicted by the Senate, they are removed from office immediately. They are also disqualified from holding any future federal office.

In addition to the constitutional consequences, impeachment can also have a significant impact on an official's reputation and legacy. An official who is impeached will likely be remembered for their impeachment, even if they are not convicted by the Senate.

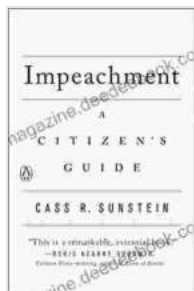
Impeachment is a serious constitutional process that can lead to the removal of a president, vice president, or other federal officer from office. It is a complex process that involves both the House of Representatives and the Senate.

The grounds for impeachment are not explicitly defined in the Constitution, but they are generally understood to include serious offenses that rise to the level of a "high crime or misdemeanor." The impeachment process is divided into two stages: the investigation and prosecution of the charges by the House of Representatives, and the trial of the charges by the Senate.

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