

1975

**Dune, by Frank Herbert**  
Michael Grossberg

*Dune*, voted "the greatest novel ever" in a 1975 science fiction reader's poll, put science fiction on the map. Frank Herbert's richly detailed world of power politics, millennial movements, and eco-crises—a world much like our own—was science fiction's first *New York Times*



FRANK HERBERT

bestseller-list blockbuster.

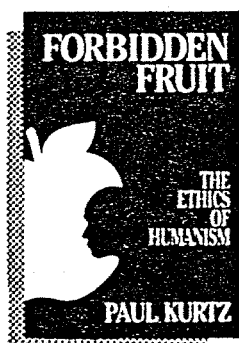
Long before the Star Wars trilogy with its desert planet Tatooine modeled on *Dune*'s Arrakis, Herbert's dense future-historical epic captured the imagination of a generation. Through its conspiracy-filled plot about a battle for control

of a mind-expanding, life-extending drug, *Dune* tells a cautionary tale about the perils of power lust, the excesses of religious fanaticism, and the pitfalls of submission to messianic cults.

In some ways *Dune*'s continuing pop-culture popularity is surprising—and promising. For Herbert's antiauthoritarian, antiegalitarian vision, with its wise emphasis on "the terrifying instability of all things human," makes all too rare distinctions between natural hierarchy and corrupt bureaucracy, between legitimate authority and coercive tyranny, and between freely chosen responsibility and collectivist duty. Viva la difference!

Michael Grossberg, founder of the Libertarian Futurist Society, reviews theater and film for the Columbus Dispatch newspaper.

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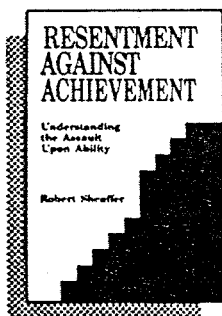
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1985

**Takings, by Richard Epstein**

Alex Kozinski



RICHARD EPSTEIN

When does government regulation amount to a taking of private property for which "just compensation" is due? The answer to this question turns out to be extremely complicated under our case law, with the consequence that few whose property is devalued by governmental regulation are able to recover under the Constitution's takings clause. Richard Epstein presents a fundamental challenge to the current mode of analysis, much of which he views as naive or misguided. Using sophisticated economic and philosophical models, Epstein argues that much government regulation, such as zoning and rent control, does amount to a taking of private property for which compensation is due. It may be quite some time before Epstein's view becomes the law of the land, but his vigorous, articulate, and frequently compelling analysis cannot be ignored. Takings law will never be the same.

Alex Kozinski is a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit. He was featured in a *REASON* Spotlight in the August/September 1986 issue.