

The Fifth Risk

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Summary:

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What are the consequences if the people given control over our government have no idea how it works?

"The election happened," remembers Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall, then deputy secretary of the Department of Energy. "And then there was radio silence." Across all departments, similar stories were playing out: Trump appointees were few and far between; those that did show up were shockingly uninformed about the functions of their new workplace. Some even threw away the briefing books that had been prepared for them.

Michael Lewis's brilliant narrative takes us into the engine rooms of a government under attack by its own leaders. In Agriculture the funding of vital programs like food stamps and school lunches is being slashed. The Commerce Department may not have enough staff to conduct the 2020 Census properly. Over at Energy, where international nuclear risk is managed, it's not clear there will be enough inspectors to track and locate black market uranium before terrorists do.

Willful ignorance plays a role in these looming disasters. If your ambition is to maximize short-term gains without regard to the long-term cost, you are better off not knowing those costs. If you want to preserve your personal immunity to the hard problems, it's better never to really understand those problems. There is upside to ignorance, and downside to knowledge. Knowledge makes life messier. It makes it a bit more difficult for a person who wishes to shrink the world to a worldview. If there are dangerous fools in this book, there are also heroes, unsung, of course. They are the linchpins of the system—those public servants whose knowledge, dedication, and proactivity keep the machinery running. Michael Lewis finds them, and he asks them what keeps them up at night.

Amazon.com: The Fifth Risk (9781324002642): Michael Lewis ... Of the three, I suspect "The Fifth Risk" will enjoy the shortest time on the bestseller list. Arguably, though, it is the least partisan, sharpest insight into lessons that should be learned by observing the disarray and dysfunction inside the havoc that is the Trump White House. 'The Fifth Risk' Paints A Portrait Of A Government Led By ... The Fifth Risk meanders a bit, with a few profiles of earnest government workers that are interesting, but then lead us to another earnest government worker. Still this is a slight criticism. The Fifth Risk by Michael Lewis - goodreads.com Probably no one will make a film of The Fifth Risk but, while Moneyball was a fascinating look into baseball, this is a far more important book and Lewis has done his country a service by writing it. In January 2017 the various agencies of the Federal Government were ready for an orderly transition of power.

The Fifth Risk - politicalwire.com Just published: The Fifth Risk by Michael Lewis. The Guardian has an excerpt: Not long after the people on TV announced that Trump had won Pennsylvania, Jared Kushner grabbed Christie anxiously and said: "We have to have a transition meeting tomorrow morning!" The Fifth Risk | W. W. Norton & Company The Commerce Department may not have enough staff to conduct the 2020 Census properly. Over at Energy, where international nuclear risk is managed, it's not clear there will be enough inspectors to track and locate black market uranium before terrorists do. Willful ignorance plays a role in these looming disasters. The Fifth Risk by Michael Lewis on Apple Books The Fifth Risk, the new book by Michael Lewis (Liar's Poker, Moneyball, The Big Short), is a tour de force. His main message is that our federal government does a lot of good things that we don't understand or properly appreciate; and that we have a lot of smart, decent, mission driven people working in it. That's 90% of his message.

Review: 'The Fifth Risk,' by Michael Lewis | Datebook The "fifth risk" was the bland-sounding category of "program management" that could be defined as the tendency to respond to long-term risks with short-term solutions. The book shows the many ways that risk has intensified on Trump's watch. "The Fifth Risk" Review: Managing the Unmanageable - WSJ The greater worry is the size of the federal bureaucracy itself. George Melloan reviews "The Fifth Risk" by Michael Lewis. "The Fifth Risk": Michael Lewis examines why Trump ... In his new book, "The Fifth Risk," he focuses on three Cabinet departments: Agriculture, Energy and Commerce. Lewis said the day after the election, many of the planned briefings never happened.

New Michael Lewis book "The Fifth Risk" praises big ... The Fifth Risk, at a slim 220 pages, is a fast and riveting read, peppered occasionally with footnotes that throw unsubtle shade at Trump. Its characters seem ready for the big screen (and guys).

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