
STEALING AMERICA

WHAT MY EXPERIENCE WITH CRIMINAL
GANGS TAUGHT ME ABOUT OBAMA,
HILLARY, AND THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY

DINESH D'SOUZA



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FOR DEBBIE FANCHER,
Immigrant, patriot, and the woman I love

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A NOTE TO THE READER

The language spoken in a confinement center is extremely coarse. Hardly a sentence is uttered that does not contain obscenities. There is no way to convey the sense of place and even the meaning of what convicts are saying without using some of this language. Out of respect for the reader, I've scaled it way back and used asterisks to bowdlerize the most offensive words.

Chapter 1

CRIME AND PUNISHMENT: How They Taught Me a Lesson

If a man wishes to be sure of the road he's traveling on, then he must close his eyes and travel in the dark.¹

—John of the Cross, *Dark Night of the Soul*

The mood in the courtroom was tense and electric as I entered, accompanied by my superstar lawyer Benjamin Brafman and another attorney, Alex Spiro. We were in the Daniel Patrick Moynihan United States Courthouse in lower Manhattan, the offices of Judge Richard Berman. Brafman, with his elegant locks of hair brushed back, looked completely at home in this environment. I, on the other hand, was not.

I tried to look nonchalant, or at least expressionless. Inside, however, my heart was pounding with terror. In a very short time I'd know if I was headed to federal prison. My crime? I had exceeded the campaign finance laws by convincing two of my friends to contribute \$10,000 apiece to a candidate for the U.S. Senate from New York; then