

The Long Road Back

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Decades of wrongheaded policies have eroded San Francisco's once much-vaunted charm.

These policies include onerous burdens on building construction; lax attitudes toward homeless folks' tent cities and public excretory practices; and a green light for sundry criminal activities, including broad-daylight theft.

The green light flashed statewide in 2014, when Californians passed Proposition 47, giving looters much less to worry about if caught stealing less than \$950.

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Remove a *disincentive* and you wind up with a huge *incentive*: thugs were emboldened; folks on the margin between criminality and civilized peace went the wrong direction.

In San Francisco, they were further emboldened when voters installed Democrat Chesa Boudin as district attorney in 2019. At least the election was close.



A recent recall election wasn't so close, with some 61% voting to oust him.

In the cause of abetting criminals, DA Boudin did everything but serve as getaway-car driver.

Right away, he fired several prosecutors, and *The Epoch Times* reports that soon “more than 50 prosecutors, support, and victim services staff had either been fired or had quit their jobs over Boudin’s progressive agenda.”

The agenda included ending cash bail, slashing incarceration rates, routinely releasing repeat offenders.

Although it has lost a lot, San Francisco still has piers and fog and that famously twisty road, Lombard Street. Residents have a ways to go to emerge from their ideological fog and perhaps must travel an even twistier road to reclaim their city.

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This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.