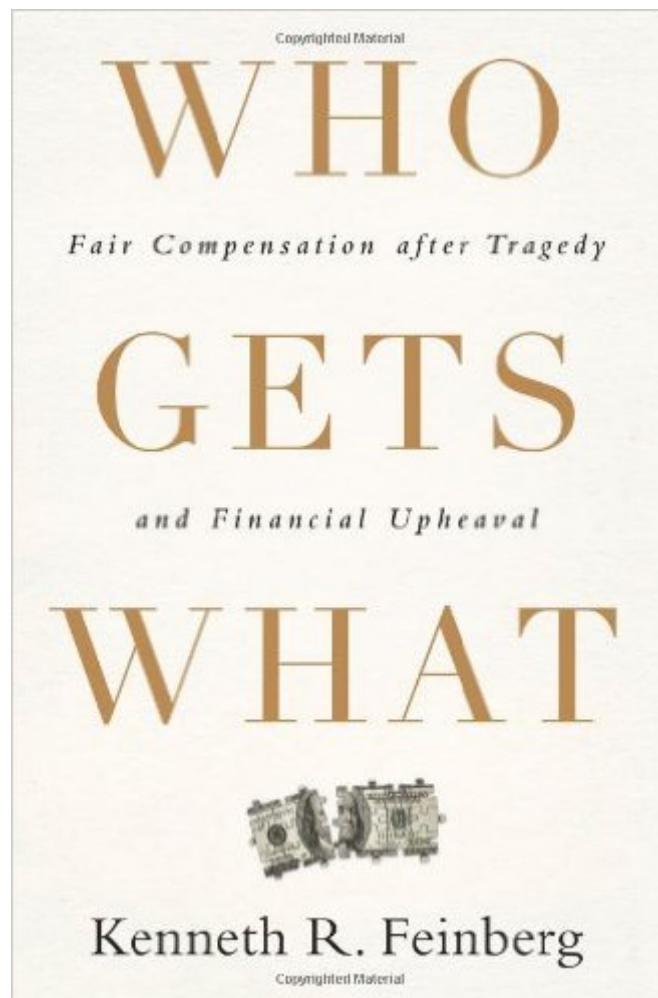


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# Who Gets What: Fair Compensation After Tragedy And Financial Upheaval



## **Synopsis**

Agent Orange, the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund, the Virginia Tech massacre, the 2008 financial crisis, and the Deep Horizon gulf oil spill: each was a disaster in its own right. What they had in common was their aftermathâ "each required compensation for lives lost, bodies maimed, livelihoods wrecked, economies and ecosystems upended. In each instance, an objective third party had to step up and dole out allocated funds: in each instance, Presidents, Attorneys General, and other public officials have asked Kenneth R. Feinberg to get the job done. In *Who Gets What?*, Feinberg reveals the deep thought that must go into each decision, not to mention the most important question that arises after a tragedy: why compensate at all? The result is a remarkably accessible discussion of the practical and philosophical problems of using money as a way to address wrongs and reflect individual worth. Â Â

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Superb read. Brilliant guy. Will provide fascinating insights into compensation sick individuals after the worst homeland disaster in recent American History. It was especially important information for me as I'm a former 9-11 responder.

A superb analysis of a current issue that is increasingly imposed on democratic populations. What is the responsibility of a government for the protection of its citizens and if it fails what constitutes fair reimbursement ? Fineberg does the best to lay bare the profound and difficult problem of

establishing ground rules and their application. A range of problem situations are presented of which he has unique experience as the Master in charge of disbursement. One of a kind in new literature in public policy. Recommend reading for any serious student of social problems that looms ahead.

Maurice James

Monetary Settlement This a smart read on the monetary settlement, for victims, of five major horrific events in American history. Kenneth Feinberg walks us through his thought process to come to logical, legal and moral framework on financial settlement victims of these tragedies receive. I do have a disagreement with the amount of settlement difference between Agent Orange, 9-11 and Hiroshima resolutions. We don't get any clarity about how we should handle the next big disaster. It seems that we should have this dialogue before and not after there is a national tragedy that needs us to attend to our fallen heroes. Money is very important to get the families back on track, but it will not replace the loved one. Nothing is said about the programs that could be put in place to deal with the loss of loved ones. I see that as a flaw in what we are trying to accomplish. We give a check and go away and think that all is well. It is only the beginning as these brave families try to rebuild their lives. I was in NYC, shortly after 9-11, walking near the Trade Center and was literally brought to my knees with the memorial boards that were put up for loved ones lost in the towers. 9-11 was a monumental event that changed the world as we knew it and it is just and fitting that we stepped up for the fallen heroes. Personal responsibility is touched on this book, but only in passing. The question I have is why don't more individuals have life insurance? The idea is income protection for one's family and loved ones. As a nation we are ok with a five hundred a month car payment, but don't have any family wealth protection. We are fortunate to have someone like Kenneth Feinberg serving us during these national disasters. If you are a tax payer, I recommend you read this book.

Interesting regarding the criteria he used to decide how people should be compensated after tragedies occur. One also learns about the importance of other named individuals, including judges and members of the government.

I thought the book was a bit light. I expected more in depth about each crisis that Feinberg handled. Interesting and a good read overall. Still, I felt slightly cheated. B/B+

This is written by Kenneth Feinberg who was charged with the difficult task of managing the Victim Compensation Funds for 9/11 Victims as well as other disasters, including shooting episodes. He

puts forward a short biography so the reader can understand where he comes from in terms of background, education and values. I found it very interesting and feel that he did a fine job in all cases. Obviously, it is impossible for him to please all involved. He lays everything out in clear, logical language and I found it very helpful in understanding where the monies come from, how, why, and what are the factors to be considered when working out who gets what. I think it is an important record of those funds and how they work. There are many emotional factors and he works with those in mind at all times but must remember his goal of fair distribution. He has given generously of his time and talents and is, in my opinion, to be thanked and congratulated. His has been a valuable public service.

Ken Feinberg waded deep into America's spent battlefields and industrial wastelands to help America pick up the pieces. He should receive the Congressional Gold Medal for his selfless acts. At first, I was reluctant to purchase Feinberg's two books; I was afraid that it would be full of lawyer speak that I wouldn't be able to understand. Boy was I wrong. Not only does he tell the story in a clear, succinct way but makes the entire story very interesting and readable. In a Graduate Business Ethics class, that I once attended, we discussed various scenarios within the context of Duty Ethics and Utilitarian Ethics. Ken's two books would be a good choice for inclusion in these types of classes (Business Ethics, or a Philosophy Ethics Classes). But mainly it's just a darn good read, personal, and very informative. Ken Bingham

I ordered this after seeing Feinberg speak at my law school - it's an excellent book and a great glimpse into a unique legal career. It's also a quick read, which I always enjoy.

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