

# Recommended Reading & Viewing

## On Democracy and Corporate Power



ReclaimDemocracy.org

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### BOOKS

#### *General / Corporations*

**When Corporations Rule the World** David Korten. Very thorough, well-reasoned, and readable analysis of the global corporate and financial system from an insider in the financial world. Outstanding.

**The Case Against the Global Economy, and for a Turn Toward the Local** Jerry Mander, ed. Diverse, superb collection of essays from around the world covering many aspects of corporate power.

**Making A Place for Community** (2002) Williamson, Alperovitz and Imbroscio. A far-reaching and extensively researched exploration of politics, economics and strategies for localization that excels at linking economic democracy to political democracy.

**The Divine Right of Capital** Marjorie Kelly deconstructs the supremacy of shareholders overworkers and the public interest.

**Sam Smith's Great American Political Repair Manual** Sam Smith. Self-descriptive and highly recommended book from a combined libertarian/progressive perspective.

**The Open Media Series** from 7 Stories Press. 30 titles offering focused, concise introductions to specific issues, many directly related to the struggle between democracy & corporate power. For a list of titles see: sevenstories.com

**America: What Went Wrong? & America: Who Stole the Dream?** Don Barlett and James Steele expand on their Pulitzer Prize-winning series of articles detailing the capture of government by money and the favoring of wealthy and corporate interests over all others.

#### Education

**Schools Our Children Deserve, Education Inc. & What to Look For in a Classroom** Alfie Kohn. The first title covers the dangers posed by high-stakes testing schemes and

their pushers. The latter two are collections of short essays. Education Inc. compiles many writers and is focused directly on corporate influence. Classroom collects Kohn's essays on numerous educational issues. Kohn's books are consistently excellent.

**Giving Kids the Business** Alex Molnar examines the corporate push to commercialize schools. Scattered, but a good exploration of the topic.

#### Community, Development, Independent Business

**The Hometown Advantage: How to Defend Your Main Street Against Chain Stores... and Why it Matters** Stacy Mitchell. Recommended to anyone concerned about the preservation of Main Streets and independent businesses in America.

**Going Local** Michael Shuman looks at the alternatives to community dependence on outside corporations. Excellent resource section.

**Changing Places** Richard Moe & Carter Wilkie, & Home From Nowhere J.H. Kunstler explore issues related to sprawl, homogenization urban planning and community-centered development.

#### Media and Public Relations

**Rich Media, Poor Democracy** Robert McChesney. Recent trends in media concentration and its effects on democracy.

**Media Monopoly** (6th edition) Ben Bagdikian documents the extent of media concentration, now including telecommunication

**Toxic Sludge Is Good For You & Trust Us, We're Experts** J. Stauber and S. Rampton explore the public relations industry and corporate tactics for manipulating public opinion.

**We the Media** Hazen & Winokur eds. Essays, facts & resources from many journalists on the state of media & ideas for improvement.

This list represents a selection of staff favorites. We welcome your feedback.

*Please purchase from your local independently owned bookstores!*

If you lack an independent bookseller in your area, consider ordering online through our website or [www.100fires.com](http://www.100fires.com)

If your local library lacks these titles, please request them!

Check our website for online resources and updates to this collection. Please contact us for references on topics of special interest.

## History

**Unequal Protection** (2002) Thom Hartmann  
The first book to trace the evolution of “corporate personhood” offers new insights even to those already immersed in corporate issues.

**A People's History of the United States**  
Howard Zinn tells American history from the perspective of average citizens, rather than those in positions of power.

**Taking Care of Business: Citizenship and the Charter of Incorporation** R. Grossman & F. Adams detail the history of U.S. corporations, charters, and their legal devolution in a brief pamphlet. Available from us (\$4 or free to donors).

## Other

**The Corporate Consensus** George Draffan. An essential resource for activists. Details the workings of 30 organizations driving global corporatization. Privately published--order from us - \$12.

**One World, Ready or Not** William Greider's thorough analysis of global capitalism

**The Divine Right of Capital** Marjorie Kelly deconstructs the absurdity of shareholder supremacy and society-wide discrimination in favor of wealth.

**Panic Rules** Robin Hahnel. A brief introduction to the global economy and its institutions, including; the WTO, IMF & World Bank.

**The Real War on Crime** Steven Donziger, ed. How the fear of crime, rather than crime itself, shapes criminal justice policy. Also covers prison-industrial complex.

**Burning All Illusions; a Guide to Personal and Political Freedom** David Edwards. An analysis of the influence of global corporatization on individual human beings.

**No Logo** Naomi Klein examines the rise of branding and corporate impact on our culture.

## PERIODICALS

**Rachel's Environment and Health News** stands out among environmental journals for regularly making the connection to problems' roots in illegitimate corporate power and provokes readers to focus there. Also available by e-mail. See Rachel.org

**Dollars and Sense** magazine critiques and offers alternatives to the corporate economic paradigm and has produced several thematic

compilations, including Real World Macro and Real World Microeconomics.

**PR Watch** reports on the public relations industry and news manipulation (prwatch.org).

**The CATO Journal** published by the free-market CATO institute. While endorsing much of the corporate agenda, CATO is an institution with the ideological consistency to oppose corporate subsidies and favoritism. See [cato.org](http://cato.org)

**Extra** critiques corporate media reporting from a progressive perspective and corrects misrepresentations in major news outlets. See [fair.org](http://fair.org) (unfortunately, we have not found media critique from the right of comparable quality.)

**Multinational Monitor** watchdogs transnational corporations worldwide ([essential.org](http://essential.org)).

**New Rules** offers news on family farms, independent business, community control issues and more. See: [newrules.org](http://newrules.org)

**Rethinking Schools** tracks privatization and commercialism, among other current educational issues. ([rethinkingschools.org](http://rethinkingschools.org)). R.T. publishes the recommended **Rethinking Globalization** a book designed for teachers--includes exercises and resources as well as articles.

**Business Week** In addition to solid reporting, BW provides serious critiques of the corporate world ([businessweek.com](http://businessweek.com)). **The Economist** and **Wall St. Journal** are good sources for getting unabashedly corporate perspectives.

## DOCUMENTARY FILMS

(producers noted)

**Fear and Favor in the Newsroom** Beth Sanders offers a thorough and convincing account of how corporate media constricts the free flow of ideas and information on which democracy depends. Many first-hand accounts. Outstanding. 1 hr.

**Taken for a Ride** Jim Klein & Martha Olson reveal the story of auto, rubber and oil corporations' dismantling of U.S. streetcar lines in the 1930s. 1 hr.

**The War on Drugs** Frank Wiering & Cristina Berio. Who benefits from this war? Follow the money. 1 hr.

**Roger and Me** Michael Moore's comedic barb on human impacts of corporations. 90 min.

**Global Village or Global Pillage?** Jeremy Brecher shows constructive ways that ordinary people are addressing the impacts of global corporatization. 27 min.



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## Resources

**Annotations: a Guide to the Independent Critical Press** Marie Jones, ed. Provides detailed information on over 300 independent periodicals.

## Independent News on the Web

**CommonDreams.org** is an online collection of progressive opinion pieces, news and links. Updated daily, ad-free. Fully archived.

**WorldNetDaily.com** offers conservative views on current news. Nearly everything changes daily.

**BlackElectorate.com** offers a sampling of news from a wide range of corporate and independent media across the spectrum--great source on racial, ethnic and international issues.

**IndyMedia.org** is a unique network of more than 70 news sites covering more than 28 countries. People post their own news, opinions, audio, video, etc.

**ReclaimDemocracy.org** is a non-profit (501c3) organization working to raise awareness of illegitimate corporate power and promote grassroots democracy. A sample of our acclaimed newsletter is available free on request.

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