

# **Unequal Protection The Rise Of Corporate Dominance And Theft Human Rights Thom Hartmann**

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*Corporations Are People Too Kent Greenfield 2018-01-01 Why we're better off treating corporations as people under the law--and making them behave like citizens Are corporations people? The U.S. Supreme Court launched a heated debate when it ruled in Citizens United that corporations can claim the same free speech rights as humans. Should they be able to claim rights of free speech, religious conscience, and due process? Kent Greenfield provides an answer: Sometimes. With an analysis sure to challenge the assumptions of both progressives and conservatives, Greenfield explores corporations' claims to constitutional rights and the foundational conflicts about their obligations in society and concludes that a blanket opposition to corporate personhood is misguided, since it is consistent with both the purpose of corporations and the Constitution itself that corporations can claim rights at least some of the time. The problem with Citizens United is not that corporations have a right to speak, but for whom they speak. The solution is not to end corporate personhood but to require corporations to act more like citizens.*

*Die Ökonomie der Organisation - die Organisation der Ökonomie Martin Endreß 2009-12-01 Für eine Soziologie, die sich als Form gesamtgesellschaftlicher Analyse versteht, sind Organisationen in zweifacher Hinsicht analytisch zentral: auf der einen Seite als korporative Akteure, als emergente soziale Phänomene ('Gebilde'), auf der anderen Seite als Modus der Strukturierung sozialer Wirklichkeit, als sozialer Prozess. In beiden Hinsichten sind Organisationen sowohl in ihrer Konstruktivität und Historizität wie auch als Akteure und Aspekte der herrschaftlichen Strukturierung und Formbestimmtheit des Sozialen zu untersuchen. Diese Zusammenhänge sind für Fragen nach der Formierung materieller wie symbolischer Lebensprozesse, der im weitesten Sinne ökonomisch-politischen Regulation und wissensanalytischen Konfiguration sozialer Wirklichkeit von zentraler Bedeutung. Der vorliegende Band steckt diesen Problemhorizont in theoretischen wie materialen Beiträgen ab.*

*We the Corporations: How American Businesses Won Their Civil Rights Adam Winkler 2018-02-27 A landmark exposé and "deeply engaging legal history" of one of the most successful, yet least known, civil rights movements in American history (Washington Post). In a revelatory work praised as "excellent and timely" (New York Times Book Review, front page), Adam Winkler, author of Gunfight, once again makes sense of our fraught constitutional history in this incisive portrait of how American businesses seized political power, won "equal rights," and transformed the Constitution to serve big business. Uncovering the deep roots of Citizens United, he repositions that controversial 2010 Supreme Court decision as the capstone of a centuries-old battle for corporate personhood. "Tackling a topic that ought to be at the heart of political debate" (Economist), Winkler surveys more than four hundred years of diverse cases—and the contributions of such legendary legal figures as Daniel Webster, Roger Taney, Lewis Powell, and even Thurgood Marshall—to reveal that "the history of corporate rights is replete with ironies" (Wall Street Journal). We the Corporations is an uncompromising work of history to be read for years to come.*

*Unequal Protection Thom Hartmann 2009-11 Was the Boston Tea Party the first WTO-style protest against transnational corporations? Did Supreme Court sell out America's citizens in the nineteenth century, with consequences lasting to this day? Is there a way for American citizens to recover democracy of, by, and for the people? Thom Hartmann takes on these most difficult questions and tells a startling story that will forever change your understanding of American history. Amongst a deep historical context, Hartmann the describes the history of the Fourteenth Amendment--created at the end of the Civil War to grant basic rights to freed slaves--and how it has been used by lawyers representing corporate interests to extend additional rights to businesses far more frequently than to freed slaves. Prior to 1886, corporations were referred to in U.S. law as "artificial persons." But in 1886, after a series of cases brought by lawyers representing the expanding railroad interests, the Supreme Court ruled that corporations were "persons" and entitled to the same rights granted to people under the Bill of Rights. Since this ruling, America has lost the legal structures that allowed for people to control corporate behavior.*

*Cracking the Code Thom Hartmann 2008-09 According to Air America radio host Hartmann, the apologists of the Right have become masters of the subtle and subconscious aspects of political communication. Conservatives didn't intuit the path to persuasive messaging and, as Hartmann shows, there is no reason why progressives can't learn them too.*

*Infinity's Rainbow Michael P. Byron 2006 Exploring the links between politics, climate, energy, ecology and economics, the author shows the causes and consequences of our actions and values, and informs readers what*

they can do to ensure their well being and the future survival of human civilization. Figures, charts and tables and literary highlights help convey the message.

**The New Global History Bruce Mazlish 2006-09-27** From a distinguished author in the field, *The New Global History* is a critical inquiry into the historical process of globalization, which is seen as a distinctly twentieth century phenomenon with its roots in the age of expansion of the early modern world. Cutting across disciplinary boundaries, *The New Global History* offers a fresh, overarching view of the process of globalization that is always empirically based and discusses the most important themes, such as policy, trade, cultural imperialism and warfare. Bruce Mazlish argues that globalization is not something that the West has imposed upon the rest of the world, but the result of the interplay of many factors across continents. Students of history, politics and international studies, will all find this a valuable resource in the pursuit of their studies.

**The Equity Premium Puzzle, Intrinsic Growth & Monetary Policy An Unexpected Solution Theory & Strategy for the Coming Jobless Age Robert Shuler 2015-01-17** This book suggests we should adjust money supply to account for productivity if deflation is to be avoided. The central banker is not profit oriented and can create money at will, not be subject to rational investor constraints. Businesses leverage low interest rates enforced by the central bank to grow and increase employment, compensating for the reduced labor necessary for the former level of goods and services. This leveraged difference in returns is the equity premium. Even a one time productivity increase requires a corresponding permanent increase not in the money supply itself, but in the "rate of increase" of the money supply. Given the steady growth in productivity of the last 100 years, the world economy is now grossly under-stimulated and in danger of precipitous deflation. Both academic models and arguments based on historical events are presented, along with analysis of the meaning of money, investor behavior, and practical techniques for obtaining the equity premium in one's portfolio.

**Democracy Under Assault Michele Swenson 2004-01-01** Swenson presents an in-depth examination of the fracture of the church-state divide, challenges to the independent judiciary, resurrected 19th-century science and socioeconomic Darwinism, as well as revisionist history.

**Unequal Protection Thom Hartmann 2010-06-14** Hartmann tells a startling story of the rise of corporate dominance and the theft of human rights as corporations use the Fourteenth Amendment to further their own agendas.

**Taking Back Faith Matthew Tittle 2006** From heretical theologies to progressive social justice and the core of liberal faith, author Matthew Tittle talks about what many preachers can't-or won't-in *Taking Back Faith*. "Matt Tittle's sermons are full of insights and surprises. Whether drawing from children's literature to celebrate the role of friendship in personal salvation, or tapping his Navy experience to explore the nature of personal integrity, Matt approaches significant subjects from fresh and unexpected perspectives. This first collection will leave you wanting more." -Reverend Gail Lindsay Marriner, minister, First Unitarian Universalist Church, Houston, Texas "Matt Tittle is a preacher who has been touched with the ability to provide it all: ideas that allow the purpose of one's life to emerge, stories that stretch one to deeper spirit, and wisdom gained from the insights of his own living. We are fortunate to have this budding new preacher in our midst. He is helping us to grow into our best selves!" -Reverend Dr. Lee Barker, president, Meadville Lombard Theological School, Chicago, Illinois "Matt Tittle preaches out of an honesty that empowers. He delivers not THE Good News, but his good news in a voice that holds and supports his readers. I wish I could have heard him preach each of these sermons. So will you." -Reverend William Sinkford, president, Unitarian Universalist Association, Boston, Massachusetts

**Mindful Economics Joel Magnuson 2011-01-04** Are the huge profits garnered by corporations each year a case of a few bad apples in the business world taking advantage of unmonitored dealings? Is this consolidation of wealth made at the expense of the overall economy and the wellbeing of the average citizen? Will the planet be saved by developing more "green businesses" and "green collar" jobs? Joel Magnuson delivers a powerful response to the current misconceptions about the US economy in his brilliantly accessible *Mindful Economics*. The troubles we face are not the result of a good system gone awry, but rather a system that is built to do exactly what it is doing: corporations are designed to reap profits for its shareholders, at any cost. The greater welfare of society, or of the environment, will never be as important as financial gain. Magnuson shows us the relationship between the current wars abroad; rising oil prices; the recession; ballooning incomes of top CEOs; the mortgage crisis; and the health care, insurance, and auto industries, and he teaches us that the best way to understand the US economy is to think like an economist. With stunning clarity, Magnuson shows the interconnectedness of the local with the global, and offers real alternatives to this capitalist model.

**Criminology Gregg Barak 2009-09-16** Barak provides the first integrated analysis of crime, criminal justice, and criminology through a global lens, revealing the importance of a global perspective for the study of crime and justice in the 21st century. While moving seamlessly from the micro bio-psychological, interactive-social process to the macro cultural-structural forces that shape crime and our responses to it, the author presents the reader with a feast of the latest criminological ideas in this sumptuous tome.

**The Challenge to Power John C. Harrington 2005** This is a no-holds-barred look at our money system, its threat to our survival, and how to use our investments to regain control. Harrington synthesizes thirty years of experience to give investors the strategies to thwart corporate domination of the earth's resources, decentralize our economy, restore democracy, tame corruption, and regain community control of our financial resources.

**Redirecting Human Rights A. Grear 2010-04-09** Against the backdrop of globalization and mounting evidence of the corporate subversion of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights paradigm, Anna Grear interrogates the complex tendencies within law that are implicated in the emergence of 'corporate humanity'. Grear presents a critical account of legal subjectivity, linking it with law's intimate relationship with liberal capitalism in order to suggest law's special receptivity to the corporate form. She argues that in the field of human rights law, particularly within the Universal Declaration of Human Rights paradigm, human embodied vulnerability should be understood as the foundation of human rights and as a key qualifying characteristic of

**the human rights subject. The need to redirect human rights in order to resist their colonization by powerful economic global actors could scarcely be more urgent.**

**Pulse Robert Frenay 2006-04-04 Pulse is not about dance music, not about heart rates—and not about electromagnetic fields. What it does describe is a sea change in human affairs, a vast and fundamental shift that is about to transform every aspect of our lives. Written in lively prose for lay readers, Pulse shows how ideas that have shaped Western science, industry, and culture for centuries are being displaced by the rapid and dramatic rise of a "new biology"—by human systems and machines that work like living things. In Pulse, Robert Frenay details the coming world of • emotional computers • ships that swim like fish • hard, soft, and wet artificial life • money that mimics the energy flows in nature • evolution at warp speed And these are not blue-sky dreams. By using hundreds of vivid and concrete examples of cutting-edge work, Frenay showcases the brilliant innovations and often colorful personalities now giving birth to a radical new future. Along the way, he also offers thoughtful conclusions on the promises—and dangers—of our transformation to the next great phase of "human cultural evolution."**

**Corporate Governance Regulation Nicholas V. Vakkur 2013-02-04 Why U.S. corporate governance regulation has lost its way, and what must be done to improve it Modern history persuasively demonstrates the inexorable link that binds comprehensive regulation to the global economy. This important book, rather than simply recount a litany of corporate governance failures, persuasively explains why, despite policymakers' best intentions, regulation has failed in the modern era. An objective study intended for a diverse readership, Corporate Governance Regulation unveils the underlying, root causes of regulatory failure. The result: A compelling and original analysis, broadly suited for a global audience of all backgrounds. Written by published, subject-area experts, the authors carefully delineate how U.S. corporate governance regulation, beginning with Sarbanes Oxley, lacks an adequate rational basis, as may be attributed to a non-existent policy dialogue The witnessed result: A conspicuous lack of regulatory efficacy, enormous costs, coupled with paltry benefits The focus is upon reigniting a stalled, non-productive policy dialogue, by eschewing stale, overly-polemized arguments, as needed to develop a common ground Drawing from an eclectic, analytic framework, governance experts Nicholas Vakkur and Zulma Herrera offer both the professional and global citizen alike a multi-dimensional understanding of issues critical to global economic health. Nuanced and persuasively argued, Corporate Governance Regulation represents a formidable catalyst in the elusive, ongoing quest for global economic stability.**

**The Bottom Line Or Public Health William H. Wiist 2010-03-03 In this book, authors from around the world reveal the range of tactics used across the corporate world that ultimately favor the bottom line over the greater good.**

**The Unheavenly Chorus Kay Lehman Schlozman 2013-08-25 Examining the current state of democracy in the United States, 'The Unheavenly Chorus' looks at the political participation of individual citizens - alongside the political advocacy of thousands of organized interests - in order to demonstrate that American democracy is marred by ingrained and persistent class-based inequality.**

**Reading and Writing for Civic Literacy Donald Lazere 2017-07-05 'Lazere's [book] is heaven-sent and will provide a crucial link in the chain of understanding how conflicts are structured and, most importantly, how they can be rationally addressed - a healthy antidote to the scepticism that has become so pervasive in academic life.' Alan Hausman, Hunter College This innovative book addresses the need for college students to develop critical reading, writing, and thinking skills for self-defence in the contentious arena of American civic rhetoric. In a groundbreaking reconception of composition theory, it presents a comprehensive critical perspective on American public discourse and practical methods for its analysis. Exercises following the text sections and readings help students understand the ideological positions and rhetorical patterns that underlie opposing viewpoints in current controversies - such as the growing inequality of wealth in America and its impact on the finances of college students - as expressed in paired sets of readings from the political left and right. Widely debated issues of whether objectivity is possible and whether there is a liberal or conservative bias in news and entertainment media, as well as in education itself, are foregrounded as topics for rhetorical analysis.**

**Corporate Crime Richard D. Hartley 2008 Presents an overview of corporate crime, covering such topics as the definition of corporate wrongdoing, the limits of corporate responsibility, and the relationship between corporate crime and political corruption.**

**The Debate Over Corporate Social Responsibility Steve Kent May 2007 Should business strive to be socially responsible, and if so, how? This book updates and broadens the discussion of these questions by bringing together in one volume a variety of practical and theoretical perspectives on corporate social responsibility.**

**Legal Persons - „Kämpfe“ und die organisationale Form Thomas Matys 2011-09-18 Mit einem Geleitwort von Prof. Dr. Klaus Türk**

**Life Inc Douglas Rushkoff 2011-03-31 Douglas Rushkoff was mugged outside his apartment on Christmas Eve, but when he posted a friendly warning on his community website, the responses castigated him for potentially harming the local real-estate market. When did these corporate values overtake civic responsibilities? Rushkoff examines how corporatism has become an intrinsic part of our everyday lives, choices and opinions. He demonstrates how this system created a world where everything can be commodified, where communities have dissolved into consumer groups, where fiction and reality have become fundamentally blurred. And, with this system on the verge of collapse, Rushkoff shows how the simple pleasures that make us human can also point the way to freedom.**

**Normative Ordnungsstruktur und private Wirkungsmacht Karsten Nowrot 2006-01-01**

**Fictions Inc. Ralph Clare 2014-09-11 Fictions Inc. explores how depictions of the corporation in American literature, film, and popular culture have changed over time. Beginning with perhaps the most famous depiction of a corporation—Frank Norris's *The Octopus*—Ralph Clare traces this figure as it shifts from monster**

to man, from force to "individual," and from American industry to multinational "Other." Clare examines a variety of texts that span the second half of the twentieth century and beyond, including novels by Thomas Pynchon, William Gaddis, Don DeLillo, Richard Powers, and Joshua Ferris; films such as *Network*, *Ghostbusters*, *Gung Ho*, *Office Space*, and *Michael Clayton*; and assorted artifacts of contemporary media such as television's *The Office* and the comic strips *Life Is Hell* and *Dilbert*. Paying particular attention to the rise of neoliberalism, the emergence of biopolitics, and the legal status of "corporate bodies," *Fictions Inc.* shows that representations of corporations have come to serve, whether directly or indirectly, as symbols for larger economic concerns often too vast or complex to comprehend. Whether demonized or lionized, the corporation embodies American anxieties about these current conditions and ongoing fears about the viability of a capitalist system.

**Encyclopedia of Contemporary American Social Issues [4 volumes] Michael Shally-Jensen 2010-12-22** This single-source reference will help students and general readers alike understand the most critical issues facing American society today. • Four volumes divided by subject area • 225 entries written by experienced researchers and professionals who are experts in their fields • Charts and graphs • Comprehensive bibliographies at the end of each topic volume • Sidebars containing interesting and useful tangents to the main discussion • Further reading section at end of each entry, including Internet links

**Incorporating Rights Erika George 2021-08-17** Human rights have not been a central concern of corporate law. Corporate actors have not been a central concern of international human rights law. This book examines existing and emerging strategies that could conceivably close a global governance gap that places human rights at risk and puts commercial actors in the position of becoming complicit in human rights abuses or implicated in abuses when conducting business in emerging market economies or other complex environments. Corporate codes of conduct, sustainability reporting, and selected multi-stakeholder initiatives are presented as the building blocks of a system of strengthening "soft law" that could solidify to become binding baseline standards for better business practices. It explains the conditions that have given rise to constructive change as well as those methods and mechanisms with promise for ensuring that business enterprises incorporate human rights considerations into business operations. This book explores how capital and consumer markets could provide an additional or alternative form of enforcement to promote responsible business conduct. It provides comparative accounts of the creation of industry sector specific regulatory instruments and governance institutions arising from allegations of corporate complicity in human rights abuses after conflicts with concerned constituencies and affected communities. It considers market-based strategies to bring business practices into alignment with the responsibility to respect human rights and examines how corporate social responsibility initiatives could close the governance gap and how codes of conduct could come to regulate like real rules. It argues that regulation through information is essential to ensure that corporate conduct will be informed by human rights considerations and that business policies and practices will be implemented consistent with respect for human rights.

**Gangs of America Ted Nace 2005** The activist and founder of Peachpit Press reveals how the corporation has become the dominant institution in modern life, pointing to the dangers this situation holds for the planet and presenting a blueprint for restoring democracy. Reprint.

**Globalization and Human Rights in the Developing World Derrick M. Nault 2011-07-12** Focusing on world regions where human rights abuses are the most serious, extensive and sustained; this book fills a crucial gap in our knowledge of the difficulties and promise of promoting human rights in our global age.

**Human Rights and Business Denise Wallace 2014-11-28** This book addresses the ever more urgent question as to whether individuals, indigenous peoples or other vulnerable groups should be entitled to remedies under international law for violations of their human rights by transnational corporations.

**Bioregionalism and Global Ethics Richard Evanoff 2010-09-13** While a number of schools of environmental thought — including social ecology, ecofeminism, ecological Marxism, ecoanarchism, and bioregionalism — have attempted to link social issues to a concern for the environment, environmental ethics as an academic discipline has tended to focus more narrowly on ethics related either to changes in personal values or behavior, or to the various ways in which nature might be valued. What is lacking is a framework in which individual, social, and environmental concerns can be looked at not in isolation from each other, but rather in terms of their interrelationships. In this book, Evanoff aims to develop just such a philosophical framework — one in which ethical questions related to interactions between self, society, and nature can be discussed across disciplines and from a variety of different perspectives. The central problem his study investigates is the extent to which a dichotomized view of the relationship between nature and culture, perpetuated in ongoing debates over anthropocentric vs. ecocentric approaches to environmental ethics, might be overcome through the adoption of a transactional perspective, which offers a more dynamic and coevolutionary understanding of how humans interact with their natural environments. Unlike anthropocentric approaches to environmental ethics, which often privilege human concerns over ecological preservation, and some ecocentric approaches, which place more emphasis on preserving natural environments than on meeting human needs, a transactional approach attempts to create more symbiotic and less conflictual modes of interaction between human cultures and natural environments, which allow for the flourishing of both.

**How Corporations Hurt Us All Dan Butts 2003** The recent accounting and corporate scandals of Enron, WorldCom, Tyco, K-Mart and McWane (producer of cast iron water and sewer pipes), which has killed 9 workers and injured 4600 more with impunity since 1995- and other greedy and lawless billion dollar behemoths- are just the tip of the iceberg relative to the serious and pervasive harm that corporations and greed are doing to people, communities, the earth and to our children's and grandchildren's future. *How Corporations Hurt Us All* examines many crises including how Big Oil, billion dollar weapons contractors, and unaccountable private firms like DynCorps are continuing dangerous and immoral Cold War policies by driving multiple wars and military operations; our collapsing corporate health care system that restricts free speech,

stifles public debate, and manipulates public opinion to serve narrow corporate and political goals. Some of the world's largest multinational corporations—ExxonMobil (#1 oil company), Wal-Mart (#1 retailer), HCA (#1 hospital conglomerate), Citigroup (the world's #1 financial institution)—and other rogue operations are profiled in the book. The good news is that there are effective approaches to all of these interrelated, greed-driven crises. Even more hopeful are the corporate reform and global economic democracy movements representing thousands of dedicated citizens' groups and millions of individuals throughout the world. Yet, what is ultimately necessary to reverse global economic, social, and environmental deterioration and eventual collapse, insure world peace and security, strength our weakened civil liberties, and fulfill our human potential, as the book explains, is forging a broad consensus on a new bottom line, or organizing principle, for business and society.

**Transnational Feminist Rhetorics and Gendered Leadership in Global Politics** Rebecca S. Richards 2014-10-28 This project analyzes how political women rhetorically perform—discursively, visually, and physically—their positions of power and how these performances are read, time again, against and with other women who have held similar positions in different geopolitical locations.

**The Corporate Transformation of Health Care** John P. Geyman, MD 2004-09-14 The author explores how the corporate transformation of hospitals, HMOs, and the insurance and pharmaceutical industries has resulted in reduction in services, dangerous cost cutting, poor regulation, and corrupt research. He sheds light on the political lobbying and media manipulation that keeps the present system in place. Exposing the shortcomings of reform proposals that do little to alter the status quo, he makes a case for a workable single-payer system. This is an essential read for today's practitioners, policy makers, healthcare analysts and providers, and all those concerned with the precarious state of America's under- and uninsured.

**The Oldest Trick in the Book** Ben M. Debney 2020-07-03 This book investigates the normalisation of blame-shifting within ideological discourse as a broad feature of history, working from Churchill's truism that history is written by the victors. To that end, it explores historical episodes of political persecution carried out under cover of moral panic, highlighting the process of 'Othering' common to each and theorising a historical model of panic-driven scapegoating from the results. Building this model from case studies in witch panic, communist panic and terrorist panic respectively, *The Oldest Trick in the Book* builds an argument that features common to each case study reflect broader historical patterning consistent with Churchill's maxim. On this basis it argues that the periodic construction of bogeymen or 'folk demons' is a useful device for enabling the kind of victim-playing and victim-blaming critical to protecting elite privilege during periods of crisis and that in being a recurring theme historically, panic-driven scapegoating retains great ongoing value to the privileged and powerful, and thus conspicuously remains an ongoing feature of world politics.

**Corporate Crime** Peter Yeager 2017-07-05 *Corporate Crime*, originally published in 1980, is the first and still the only comprehensive study of corporate law violations by our largest corporations. The book laid the groundwork for analyses of important aspects of corporate behavior. It defined corporate crime and found ways of locating corporate violations from various sources. It even drew up measures of the seriousness of crimes. Much of this book still applies today to the corporate world and its illegal behavior. A new introduction, "Corporate Crime: Yesterday and Today—A Comparison," prepared for this edition by coauthor Marshall B. Clinard, discusses the development of a criminological interest in corporate crime, explains the nature of corporate crime, and analyzes a number of issues involved in its study. Among the issues tackled are whether today's corporate crime is greater, more serious, and more complex; accounting fraud and its crucial role in hiding corporate crime; the pharmaceuticals, the industry with the most corporate violations; explanations of corporate crime in terms of economic factors, corporate culture, and the role of top executives; and new laws to control corporate crime and alternative approaches.

**The SAGE Encyclopedia of Business Ethics and Society** Robert W. Kolb 2018-03-27 Thoroughly revised, updated, and expanded, *The SAGE Encyclopedia of Business Ethics and Society, Second Edition* explores current topics, such as mass social media, cookies, and cyber-attacks, as well as traditional issues including accounting, discrimination, environmental concerns, and management. The new edition also includes an in-depth examination of current and recent ethical affairs, such as the dangerous work environments of off-shore factories for Western retailers, the negligence resulting in the 2010 BP oil spill, Apple's exploitation of outdated tax code, the gender wage gap, the minimum wage debate and increasing income disparity and the unparalleled level of debt in the U.S. and other countries with the challenges it presents to many societies and the considerable impact on the ethics of intergenerational wealth transfers. Key features include: seven volumes, with more than 1,200 signed entries by significant figures in the field cross-references and suggestions for further readings to guide students to in-depth resources Thematic Reader's Guide groups related entries by general topics Index allows for thorough browse-and-search capabilities in the electronic edition.

**Screwed** Thom Hartmann 2007-04-28 By the bestselling author and XM and Sirius Satellite radio host heard on more than eighty radio stations coast to coast seven days a week Reveals how the middle class, nurtured as the backbone of democracy by our Founding Fathers, is being undermined by so-called conservatives Shows how we can reverse the erosion of the middle class and restore the egalitarian vision of the Founders Expanded edition with a new chapter on immigration and a new afterword by Greg Palast The American middle class is on its deathbed. Ordinary folks who put in a solid day's work can no longer afford to buy a house, send their kids to college, or even get sick. If you're not a CEO, you're probably screwed. America wasn't meant to be like this. Air America Radio host Thom Hartmann shows that our Founding Fathers worked hard to ensure that a small group of wealthy people would never dominate this country—they'd had enough of aristocracy. They put policies in place to ensure a thriving middle class. When the middle class took a hit, beginning in the post-Civil War Gilded Age and culminating in the Great Depression, democracy-loving leaders like Theodore and Franklin Roosevelt, Harry Truman, and Dwight Eisenhower revitalized it through initiatives like antitrust regulations,

*fair labor laws, the minimum wage, Social Security, and Medicare. So what happened? In the last twenty-five years, we've witnessed an undeclared war against the middle class. The so-called conservatives waging this war are only interested in conserving--and steadily increasing--their own wealth and power. Hartmann shows how, under the guise of "freeing" the market, they've systematically dismantled the programs set up by Republicans and Democrats to protect the middle class and have installed policies that favor the superrich and corporations. But it's not too late to return to the America our Founders envisioned. Hartmann outlines a series of commonsense proposals that will ensure that our public institutions are not turned into private fiefdoms and that people's basic needs--education, health care, a living wage--are met in a way that allows the middle class to expand, not shrink. America will be stronger with a growing, prospering middle class--rule by the rich will only make it weaker. Democracy requires a fair playing field, and it will survive only if We the People stand up, speak out, and reclaim our democratic birthright.*

*Your Call Is Important To Us Laura Penny 2009-03-13 Ever been left spluttering over some fatuous fib trying to pass itself off as information, even as fact? Of course you have. We all have. It's bullshit, and as Laura Penny sees it, we're drowning in the stuff. Your Call Is Important to Us is Penny's brilliant take on the "all-you-can-eat buffet of phoniness" that is our lives today. "We live in an era of unprecedented bullshit production," Penny says. While bullshit is not new, more money, more media, and more people at mics have led to a bullshit pandemic. Today, we are so used to exaggeration and obfuscation we rarely notice them any more. Thank goodness we have Penny as our witty, smart-aleck guide through the phoniness of advertising and public relations, the claptrap of big pharma, the gobbledygook of the media, and the poppycock of the service industry. Along the way, Penny takes direct aim at the major culprits and the insidious ways they distort reality. As scathing as Michael Moore, as incisive as Naomi Klein, and as funny as Al Franken, Penny's take on the bullshit factor in modern life is a page-turner. Penny has a cheeky riff on that revealing question: "If my call is so important," she asks, "why doesn't anyone answer the damn phone?"*