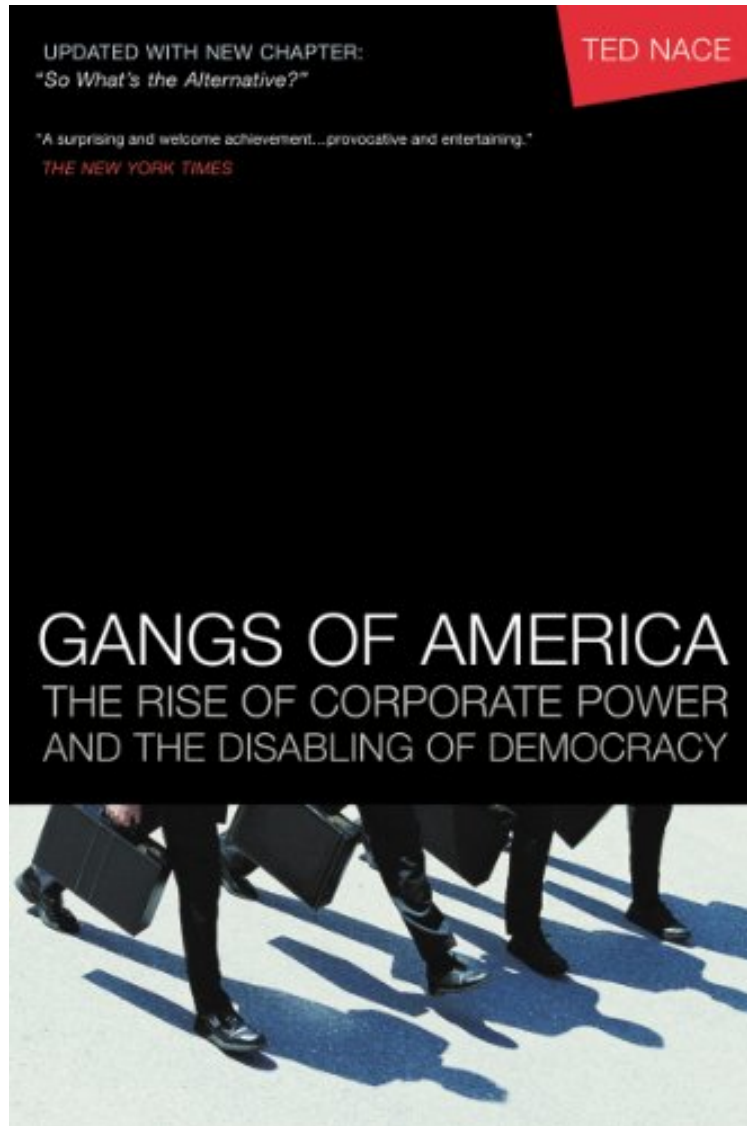


[Download free ebook] Gangs of America: The Rise of Corporate Power and the Disabling of Democracy

Gangs of America: The Rise of Corporate Power and the Disabling of Democracy

Ted Nace

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Ted Nace : Gangs of America: The Rise of Corporate Power and the Disabling of Democracy before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Gangs of America: The Rise of Corporate Power and the Disabling of Democracy:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Kelley E. BellNice product1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Open Your Eyes to the CorporationBy James IgoeAmazing insights into the founding and growth of, as well as the history of public opinion regarding, corporations. I repeatedly found myself astonished at the

book's insights, those related to the creation and atrocities committed by the first corporations, the founding of the US and the impetus for the tea party, as well as the implications for the future. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By G. Perez Jr. Great book ,

The corporation has become the core institution of the modern world. Designed to seek profit and power, it has pursued both with endless tenacity, steadily bending the framework of law and even challenging the sovereign status of the state. Where did the corporation come from? How did it get so much power? What is its ultimate trajectory? After he sold his successful computer book publishing business to a large corporation, Ted Nace felt increasingly driven to find answers to these questions. In *Gangs of America* he details the rise of corporate power in America through a series of fascinating stories, each organized around a different facet of the central question: "How did corporations get more rights than people?" Beginning with the origin of the corporation in medieval Great Britain, Nace traces both the events that shaped the evolution of corporate power and the colorful personalities who played major roles. *Gangs of America* is a uniquely accessible synthesis of the latest scholarly research, a compelling historical narrative, and a distinctive personal voice.

From Publishers Weekly Nace nurtured Peachpit Press from a home-based operation, writing and publishing computer guides, to a business worthy of acquisition by the Pearson conglomerate. The experience inspired him to study the nature of corporate power. He offers a breezy summary of the legal history surrounding the formation of corporations and the parameters of their power, putting an anti-corporate spin on the American Revolution and discussing how the early republic limited corporate power by enabling state governments to issue restrictive charters. But the tight controls didn't remain in place: after the Supreme Court's decision in an 1886 case involving the Santa Clara Railroad, corporations were assumed to be the legal equivalent of people entitled to equal protection under the law and, in subsequent cases, were guaranteed a growing range of constitutional rights. One of Nace's central arguments is that Santa Clara doesn't mean what everybody thinks it means: the original decision doesn't take any stand on whether corporations have constitutional rights; the question comes up in a subsequent version of the decision, but the Chief Justice acts as if it had been resolved in earlier decisions. Although Nace blames the Court's reporter for the shift in emphasis, he illustrates how another justice, Stephen Field, was already buttressing politicians' and financial titans' efforts to eliminate all restraints on corporate power, making their legal supremacy inevitable. Later chapters examine how corporations continue to wield their influence to prevent the government from regulating them too closely, but while the book offers plenty of details about the problem's existence and deftly introduces it, it offers little more than generalities about where to go from there. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. "... a joy to read ... clear, straight-forward, and very accessible ... one of those books that can awaken people's consciousness..." -- *Corporate Reform Weekly*, September 8, 2003 "... an engaging history ... provocative and entertaining ... a surprising and welcome achievement ... lively insights and refreshing research." -- *New York Times*, September 14, 2003 "... entertaining and sometimes arresting ... the book is a lively read and Nace is an interesting companion." -- *New Leader*, July/August 2003 "... a wonderfully informative story ... I can't tell you how important and timely this book is." -- *Business Journal*, September 26, 2003 About the Author Ted Nace is an author, entrepreneur, and activist. He served as staff director of the Dakota Resource Council assisting farmers and ranchers organize grassroots organizations to deal with the impact of coal strip mines and power plants on rural communities.