OMNI US CORPORATIONS NEWSLETTER #9, May 5, 2013. Compiled by Dick Bennett for a Culture of Peace and Justice. (#1 August 7, 2008; #2 Feb. 11, 2010; #3 July 21, 2011; #4 Oct. 9, 2011; #5 Nov. 1, 2011; #6 May 5, 2012; #7 June 11, 2012; #8 Dec. 12, 2012).

My blog: War Department/Peace Department

http://jamesrichardbennett.blogspot.com/

My Newsletters:

http://www.omnicenter.org/newsletter-archive/

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The Fine Print:
How Big Companies Use 'Plain English' to Rob You Blind
David Cay Johnston - Author  2012

Find Books by David Cay Johnston  Learn more about David Cay Johnston

Summary of The Fine Print

A bestselling author’s shocking analysis of the many ways everyday people are systematically victimized by powerful
David Cay Johnston has made a name for himself as the defender of the common man, calling out the rich and powerful for cheating the system at the expense of everyone else. Whether he's exposing unjust loopholes in the tax code that help the rich get richer or pointing out how powerful corporations pocket government subsidies at excessive taxpayer expense, Johnston is an eloquent town crier for justice and equality.

Now this bestselling author has turned his attention to the sneaky stipulations hidden in the fine print of just about every contract and government rule. Johnston has been known to whip out a utility bill-any utility bill-and explain line by line what all that mumbo jumbo actually means (and it doesn't mean anything good, unless you happen to be the utility company). Within all that jargon, disclosed in accordance with all legal requirements to you, the unsuspecting customer, lie the tools many companies use to rob you blind. Even worse is what's missing-all the contractually binding clauses that companies hide elsewhere, yet still enforce.

The Fine Print is essential reading for anyone who wants to wrest power back from devious corporations and end their longstanding consumer abuse.

1. [The Fine Print: How Big Companies Use "Plain English" to Rob You Blind](http://www.amazon.com) on Amazon.com. *FREE* super saver shipping on qualifying...


   Nov 28, 2012 – In fact, quite the opposite. Economics correspondent Paul Solman talks to David Cay Johnston about what's in the fine print on your bills.

3. [David Cay Johnston: "The Fine Print: How Big Companies Use ...](http://www.democracynow.org/.../david_cay_johnston_the_fine_print_ho...)

   Sep 19, 2012 – In part two of our interview with David Cay Johnston, we discuss his new book, "The Fine Print: How Big Companies Use 'Plain English' to Rob ...

4. [David Cay Johnston - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Cay_Johnston)

   David Cay Boyle Johnston (born December 24, 1948) is an American .... The Fine Print: How big companies use "Plain English" to rob you blind was released ...

5. [David Cay Johnston: 17 Phrases Companies Use to Rip You Off ...](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/david-cay-johnston/fine-print-rip-off_b_1...)

Sep 25, 2012 – Buried in the fine print are words that force you to waive Constitutional rights, expose you to damages and can cost you not just a lot of money, ...

Also see rev. in Public Citizen News (Jan-Feb 2013).

Sam Pizzigati, The Rich Don’t Always Win.

1. The Rich Don't Always Win - Seven Stories Press catalog.sevenstories.com › All

The Rich Don't Always Win: The Forgotten Triumph over Plutocracy that Created the American Middle Class, 1900–1970. Sam Pizzigati. Polls now show that ...

2. The Rich Don't Always Win: The Forgotten Triumph over Plutocracy ...
www.amazon.com › ... › Politics & Social Sciences › Sociology › Class

$12.80 - In stock

The Rich Don't Always Win: The Forgotten Triumph over Plutocracy that Created the American Middle Class, 1900-1970 [Sam Pizzigati] on Amazon.com.

3. Audio: "The Rich Don't Always Win" with Sam Pizzigati | Indypendent ...
indyreader.org/content/audio-rich-dont-always-win-sam-pizzigati

Feb 4, 2013 – Audio: "The Rich Don't Always Win" with Sam Pizzigati. Sam Pizzigati presents "The Rich Don't Always Win" at Red Emma's Bookstore ...

4. Sam Pizzigati | The Nation www.thenation.com/authors/sam-pizzigati

Sam Pizzigati, an Institute for Policy Studies associate fellow, is the author of the just-published The Rich Don't Always Win: The Forgotten Triumph Over ...

5. Sam Pizzigati
inequality.org/author/sam-pizzigati/

Sam Pizzigati: A Billionaire Obsesses, Our Politics Regresses. Posted on ... policy proposals, explains the newly published book, The Rich Don't Always Win.

[Also see rev. by Barbara Holzer in Public Citizen News (Jan.-Feb. 2013). –Dick]
WE protect human rights, public health and the environment from corporate greed and abuse around the world. LEARN MORE

CORPORATE HALL OF SHAME

READ MORE

SUCCESSES

• LEGACY
NESTLÉ: GROUNDBREAKING BOYCOTT SAVES MILLIONS OF INFANT LIVES
In 1984, we compelled Nestlé to agree to sweeping reforms in its marketing of infant formula, helping curb its deadly human toll.
  Human Rights, Public Health

• CORPORATE HALL OF SHAME
COLUMBIA/HCA SHAMED TO CHANGE
Corporate Accountability International supporters and allies forced hospital giant Columbia/HCA to alter policies and practices that put profits ahead of patient care.

Human Rights, Public Health

**TOBACCO**

**HALTING TOBACCO INDUSTRY INTERFERENCE**

With our allies, we helped secure precedent-setting global tobacco treaty guidelines to prevent the industry from interfering in health policy. The guidelines have helped countries across the globe.

Public Health

**TOBACCO**

**PHILIP MORRIS FORCED TO CHANGE NAME**

We succeeded so well in connecting Philip Morris' brand image to its deadly abuses that even, after spending hundreds of millions of dollars to improve its brand, it was forced to change its name in 2003.

Public Health

**WATER**

**HUMAN RIGHT TO WATER UPHELD**

Compelled by global water advocates and government champions, the U.N. General Assembly upheld the fundamental human right to water.

Human Rights, Environment, Public Health

**WATER**

**MAYORS BUCK THE BOTTLE**

In 2008, the U.S. Conference of Mayors resolved to phase out city spending on bottled water. Cities have since saved millions of taxpayer dollars, instead promoting public water systems.

Environment, Public Health

**TOBACCO**

**BOYCOTT BREAKS-UP RJR NABISCO**

The organization exposed the truth behind RJR Nabisco’s family-friendly image, contributing to the breakup of the third-largest tobacco corporation in the world.

Public Health

**LEGACY**
BOYCOTT STOPS GE'S NUCLEAR WEAPONS BUSINESS
In 1986, we launched the GE Boycott, ultimately compelling the corporation to stop manufacturing nuclear weapons.

Human Rights, Public Health

• WATER
PEOPLE GO BACK TO THE TAP
Major changes have flowed from our campaign to Think Outside the Bottle. Since its launch in 2006, 40 percent of people in the U.S. have switched from bottled water to the tap.

Environment, Public Health

• FOOD
MCDONALD’S SHAREHOLDERS VOTE FOR HEALTH
At McDonald's shareholders meeting we worked with allies to advance a first-of-its-kind resolution calling on the burger giant to document the impact its business is having on public health.

Public Health

• TOBACCO
RJR RETIRES JOE CAMEL
Just three years after we set out to "Send Joe Camel Packing," RJR Nabisco pulled its ads featuring the iconic cartoon camel.

Public Health

• TOBACCO
COLOMBIA PASSES NATIONAL TOBACCO CONTROL LAW
After years of grassroots organizing by a powerful coalition coordinated by Corporate Accountability International, Colombia –once a safe haven for Big Tobacco – passed a comprehensive national tobacco control law in keeping with the global tobacco treaty.

Public Health

• WATER
COMMUNITIES GO BOTTLED WATER FREE
Six states, 140 cities and a growing number of universities have declared an end to spending on bottled water, saving money and boosting confidence in the tap.

Environment, Public Health
• **LEGACY**

**OSCAR-WINNING DOCUMENTARY EXPOSES GE**

"Deadly Deception" won an Academy Award for Best Documentary, exposing GE's role in the nuclear-weapons industry and bringing word of the GE Boycott to more than one billion TV viewers worldwide.

*Human Rights, Public Health*

• **WATER**

**GRAND CANYON CLEARS OUT BOTTLED WATER**

When Coca-Cola's interference put the the National Park Service's plan to end the sale of bottled water at risk, thousands of members took action. The public outcry moved the Park Service to make good on its plan.

*Environment*

• **FOOD**

**FAST FOOD FEELS THE HEAT**

The organization is shifting the public climate around kid-focused junk-food marketing. In response, the fast food industry has made a wide range of changes to kids' meals and kid-focused promotions.

*Public Health*

• **WATER**

**BOTTLERS AGREE TO LABEL SOURCE**

The Think Outside the Bottle campaign compelled top bottler Pepsi to label the sources of its bottled water – all too often, the tap.

*Environment, Public Health*

• **TOBACCO**

**GLOBAL TOBACCO TREATY EMBRACED AROUND THE WORLD**

After the unanimous adoption of the global tobacco treaty, we launched a whirlwind grassroots campaign with governments and allied organizations across the Global South, swelling the number of ratifying countries from approximately 40 to 175 today.

*Public Health*

**WHAT'S NEW**

View

Blog
News Item

**Tetet’s resolve: Filipino ally takes on World Bank-backed water profiteers**

CORPORATE ACCOUNTABILITY INTERNATIONAL

DECEMBER 17, 2012

Read about our Filipino ally, Tetet, who seeks to make sure everyone in her country -- regardless of ability to pay -- has access to clean, safe water. A key ally in Corporate Accountability International’s campaign to halt the global corporate water grab, she is unflagging in her efforts to compel the World Bank to cease financing water profiteering and instead support local, democratic control of the tap.

**State budget is tapped out, but bottled water flows**

THE METROWEST DAILY NEWS

FRAMINGHAM — If you’re going to tackle a half-billion dollar budget drought, you better first be hydrated. As state officials wrangle with how to plug a $540 million mid-year budget gap, they have also spent more than a quarter-million dollars in the past five months on bottled water.

**How Your City Can Push Back Against Fast Food**

MICHELE SIMON, JD, MPH

DECEMBER 6, 2012

Last week, the National League of Cities, which represents over 19,000 cities, villages and towns, hosted its annual meeting in Boston, with one of its three aims to “strengthen neighborhoods and families.” What better way to accomplish that goal than to challenge fast food’s influence in their communities?
Cathy Raphael, Chair of the Board of the Ms. Foundation for Women, member since 2000

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HOW IS YOUR DONATION SPENT?

90% of all contributions to Corporate Accountability International are spent directly on programs, while 10% provide essential support services resulting in the highest marks from rating agencies.

CHRISTIAN CRITIQUE OF CORPORATE POWER

Frank Cordaro. ”Occupy the ‘Powers and Principalities’.” Via Pacis (Oct. 2011). “Global Corporatism trumps our Democracy, when corporations claim personhood, are given political rights, making legal the buying and selling of our government.”--Dick

US CORPORATE CONTROL OF INTERNET FOR PROFIT VERSUS PUBLIC


Ten years ago, the United States stood at the forefront of the Internet revolution. With some of the fastest speeds and lowest prices in the world for high-speed Internet access, the nation was poised to be the global leader in the new knowledge-based economy. Today that global competitive advantage has all but vanished because of a series of government decisions and resulting monopolies that have allowed dozens of countries, including Japan and South Korea, to pass us in both speed and price of broadband. This steady slide backward not only
deprives consumers of vital services needed in a competitive employment and business market—it also threatens the economic future of the nation.

This important book by leading telecommunications policy expert Susan Crawford explores why Americans are now paying much more but getting much less when it comes to high-speed Internet access. Using the 2011 merger between Comcast and NBC Universal as a lens, Crawford examines how we have created the biggest monopoly since the breakup of Standard Oil a century ago. In the clearest terms, this book explores how telecommunications monopolies have affected the daily lives of consumers and America's global economic standing.

Susan Crawford is visiting professor at Harvard Law School and Visiting Stanton Professor of the First Amendment at Harvard Kennedy School. She has been blogging and publishing articles about telecommunications and the future of the Internet since 2003. She has served on the ICANN board of directors and was a Special Assistant to President Obama for Science, Technology, and Innovation Policy. She lives in Manhattan.

Politics & Social Justice

Get Up, Stand Up

Uniting Populists, Energizing the Defeated, and Battling the Corporate Elite

by Bruce E. Levine

"We are living in a land in which corporate power buys as many politicians as it needs, unjust laws shovel money to the rich, and media substitute entertainment for information. Yet Bruce Levine dares to show how we can reclaim our deadened souls, regain integrity and passion, and begin to change our helplessness."

— Rev. Davidson Loehr, author of America, Fascism, and God

Polls show that the majority of Americans oppose recent US wars and Wall Street bailouts, yet they remain resigned to powerlessness. In Get Up, Stand Up, Bruce Levine offers an original and convincing explanation for this passivity. Many Americans are deeply demoralized by decades of oppressive elitism, and they have lost confidence that genuine democracy is possible. Drawing on phenomena such as learned helplessness, the abuse syndrome, and other techniques for pacifying a population, Levine explains how major US institutions have created a climate of fatalism and defeatism set in, truths about social and economic injustices are not enough to set people free.

However, the situation is not truly hopeless. History tells us that for democratic movements to get off the ground, individuals must recover self-respect, and a people must regain collective confidence that they can succeed at eliminating top-down controls. Stand Up describes how we can recover dignity, confidence, and the energy to do battle. That achievement fills in the missing piece that, until now, has undermined so many efforts to energize genuine democracy.
Get Up, Stand Up details those strategies and tactics that oppressed peoples have successfully employed to gain power. We the People can unite, gain strength, wisely do battle, and wrest power away from the ruling corporate-government partnership (the "corporatocracy"). Get Up, Stand Up explains how.

About the Author

Bruce E. Levine
Bruce E. Levine, Ph.D., is a clinical psychologist and has been in private practice since 1985. His most recent book is Surviving America's Depression Epidemic: How to Find Morale, Energy, and Community in a World Gone Crazy. He is the author of Commonsense Rebellion: Taking Back Your Life from Drugs, Shrink, Corporations, and a World Gone Crazy and authored a chapter for Alternatives Beyond Psychiatry. Dr. Levine has been a regular contributor to Huffington Post and his articles and interviews have been published in Adbusters, The Ecologist, and many other periodicals.

'The Goldman Sachs Conspiracy': Li Delin's Chinese Bestseller Blames Bank For Crisis

ELAINE KURTENBACH 08/25/10
SHANGHAI — Goldman Sachs & Co., reviled in the U.S. for its role in the financial crisis, is now getting hammered in the world's No. 2 economy with a sensationalist new book accusing the investment bank of trying to destroy China.

The "Goldman Sachs Conspiracy," which has sold over 100,000 copies since it was released in June, reaching popular website Sina.com's top-10 list, follows another by author Li Delin, "Eliminate All Competitors – How Goldman Sachs Wins Over the World," published last year.

Li, a financial journalist, appears to have hit pay dirt among Chinese readers with an appetite for the would-be exposes that get prominent display in downtown bookstores, such as "Who Killed Toyota: the Truth of America's Attack" and "Currency War."

The nearly 300-page, highly dramatized account covers much of the same ground as a widely cited piece by Matt Taibbi last year in the Rolling Stone magazine that portrayed the Wall Street institution as a "a great vampire squid wrapped around the face of humanity, relentlessly jamming its blood funnel into anything that smells like money."

Li's book takes ample license in its attacks on Goldman Sachs. The company's ultimate goal, he says in the first chapter, is to "kill China."

"Like a fox chewing a bone, Goldman Sachs knows the rules of the game and when to go for your neck," it says. With the "cruel character of a Manchurian tiger, the group creeps around the world, like a veteran hunter stalking its prey, when it smells blood it pounces!" the chapter says.

Goldman Sachs' office in Beijing refused to comment on the book and on others of its ilk.

The financial cataclysm of 2008 and ensuing global recession has resulted in a profusion of books dissecting the role of global investment banks including Goldman Sachs.

"It reads like a novel, rather than a real story," said Peng Yunliang, a securities analyst.

"Goldman Sachs has been at the eye of the storm and is seen as the culprit behind the mess. That's clearly the most popular topic on the market," he said.

Goldman was sharply criticized, especially in the U.S., for its high executive pay after it accepted a $10 billion government bailout during the financial crisis. It also received $13 billion from insurer American International Group Inc. after the government bailed that company out. The bank recently agreed to a record settlement with the Securities and Exchange Commission over civil fraud charges.
In China, the company's business appears to have weathered well the market chaos elsewhere. The investment bank was an underwriter in the recent record-breaking $22.1 billion initial public offering by the Agricultural Bank of China, among other big deals.

Goldman also saw handsome gains from a $4.9 million investment in 2007 in a 12.5 percent stake in drug maker Shenzhen Hepalink, which later raised about $864 million in an IPO that catapulted the company's little-known founders to become, at least on paper, the richest couple in China.

Li, in an online chat, said the book was no exaggeration.

"The real financial battle is even more dramatic than my book, according to my knowledge of the markets," he said. "Goldman Sachs is the hand behind the financial crisis, maybe even its cause." He soon plans to publish a third book about the company.

The conspiracy genre and dramatized accounts of scandals are popular in China, as in many markets. China's government exerts strong control over the news media and broadcasters, but the book publishing industry has a bit freer leeway for commentary, particularly when the targets are not Communist Party officials.

The Chinese-language book also accuses Goldman Sachs of involvement in the recent Dubai and Greek debt debacles and the wider European financial and fiscal crises.

To buttress its myriad allegations, the book notes well-known links between former top Goldman Sachs executives, such as former U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson, and government officials in America and other countries.

It also includes copies of what appear to be U.S. court documents. They include a complaint against Goldman Sachs and Fabrice Tourre, a Goldman vice president accused of shepherding a deal at the center of SEC charges that the company sold mortgage securities without telling buyers that they had been created with input from a client that was betting on them to fail.

Last month [i.e. July 2010—Dick], a U.S. federal judge approved a settlement calling for Goldman Sachs & Co. to pay $550 million to settle civil fraud charges that the Wall Street giant misled buyers of mortgage-related investments. In the settlement, Goldman acknowledged that its marketing materials for the deal omitted important information for buyers.

The penalty was the largest against a Wall Street firm in SEC history. But the settlement amounts to less than 5 percent of Goldman's 2009 net income of $12.2 billion after payment of dividends to preferred shareholders – or a little more than two weeks of net income.

Associated Press researcher Ji Chen contributed to this report.

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