What we believe to be the case, what we think should be the case, and what is actually the case.


My blog: The War Department and Peace Heroes

http://jamesrichardbennett.blogspot.com/

Newsletters:

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

Index:

http://www.omnicenter.org/omni-newsletter-general-index/

See Class, Corporations, Economics, Globalization, Go Not to Jail, Greed, Inequality, Information Control, Lobbying, Marx, Military Industrial Complex, Monopoly, Occupy, Regulation, Secrecy, Socialism, Too Big To Fail, US Economic Imperialism, Working Class, and related newsletters.

A Call to the People by George Monbiot:

From: Robert McAfee <robertjmca1@gmail.com>
Date: September 19, 2013, 5:36:29 AM CDT
To: Robert McAfee <robertjmca1@gmail.com>

After more than a quarter of a century of environmental campaigning I’ve come to see that the only thing that really works is public mobilisation: the electorate putting so much pressure on governments that they are obliged to take a stand against powerful interests. It doesn’t matter what weapons governments use to confront these interests: what counts is their willingness to use them. A system which undermines public involvement, boosts the power of the financial markets and reduces love and pride and delight to a column of figures is unlikely to enhance the protection of the natural world.
Nos. 9, 10, 11, 12 at end.

Contents #13

Dick, Moyers & Co.: Victims of US Capitalism in Milwaukee

Scheer, Predatory Takeover, The Great Stickup

Taibbi, Big Banks Price-Fixing

Dick, Warrior Capitalism

Taibbi, Everything Rigged

Leech, Capitalism Genocidal, Rev. by Sethness

Munoz, US Supreme Court Protects Corporations, MM Silent

Richard Wolff

Kroll, 2012 Elections and Billionaires

Remedies

Gibson, Public Banking

Contents #14

USA:

Leibovich: US Capitalism Washington, DC,

Cox: The Market as God

Moyers: Freeland, Taibbi, Income Inequality

Birdsell: Poverty of Working Poor

Ockert: SNAP Handouts Help Short-term

GLOBAL

Hedges: Global US Capitalism, World’s Elites vs. World’s Poor
Compelling and lucidly told stories .... A riveting book

NAOMI KLEIN, author of The Shock Doctrine

Instead of bottles and bricks thrown at protesters and marchers,
the weapons of choice have been usurious mortgage contracts and signing pens. The
language of segregation and interposition has been replaced with false narratives of getting a
piece of the American pie and property ownership as freedom. The evil of ‘states’ rights’ has
given way to the perniciousness of bankers’ rights. For many families in the black community,
home mortgages became new shackles, ending dreams and futures.
— from the foreword by CLARENCE LUSANE

With A Dream Foreclosed, Laura Gottesdiener, a Brooklyn-based investigative journalist,
offers a thoroughly researched picture of the housing crisis within the context of the broader
financial collapse, showing that the true cost is not in real estate value but in human tragedy
— especially the mass displacement of American families and dreams.

Gottesdiener’s “page-turning testimony” reminds us that not a single Wall Street banker has
been arrested for the countless predatory loans, acts of fraud and foreclosure abuse that
have contributed to the more than ten million people being evicted from their foreclosed
homes since 2007 — with millions more foreclosures in progress. That ten million people have
been thrown out of their homes (the equivalent of the entire population of Michigan) with
almost no coverage of their stories or perspectives is itself a testament to corporate influence
over public education, mass media and national debate.

Through real-life stories of four American neighborhoods fighting against foreclosure, A
Dream Foreclosed gives voice to the silenced population most affected by the global
economic crisis. What makes the book so compelling is that Gottesdiener profiles four heroic
families who not only challenge the big banks when threatened with foreclosure and eviction
—they organize their neighbors and win. Her main subjects, Bertha Garrett in Detroit, Martha
Biggs in Chicago, Griggs Wimbley in North Carolina, and Michael Hutchins in Tennessee, all
embody the spectacular possibilities that emerge when everyday people challenge corporate
power.

million Americans have lost their homes to foreclosures. . . .”
SENATOR SANDERS
31 October 13 AM  Reader Supported News

Bernie Sanders, Budget Deal Must Be Morally and Economically Sound.  Reader Supported News
Sanders writes: "As a member of the U.S. Senate Budget Committee, I am more than aware that a $17 trillion dollar national debt and a $700 billion deficit are serious problems that must be addressed. But I am also aware that real unemployment is close to 14 percent, that tens of millions of Americans are working for horrendously low wages ..."

READ MORE

America the Possible: Manifesto for a New Economy
• James Gustave Speth

Honorable Mention, General-Non-Fiction category at the 2013 Green Book Festival sponsored by JM Northern LLC

Visit the America the Possible website

In this third volume of his award-winning American Crisis series, James Gustave Speth makes his boldest and most ambitious contribution yet. He looks unsparingly at the sea of troubles in which the United States now finds itself, charts a course through the discouragement and despair commonly felt today, and envisions what he calls America the Possible, an attractive and plausible future that we can still realize.

The book identifies a dozen features of the American political economy—the country's basic operating
system—where transformative change is essential. It spells out the specific changes that are needed to move toward a new political economy—one in which the true priority is to sustain people and planet. Supported by a compelling "theory of change" that explains how system change can come to America, the book also presents a vision of political, social, and economic life in a renewed America. Speth envisions a future that will be well worth fighting for. In short, this is a book about the American future and the strong possibility that we yet have it in ourselves to use our freedom and our democracy in powerful ways to create something fine, a reborn America, for our children and grandchildren.

James Gustave Speth is Distinguished Senior Fellow at Demos, and Professor of Law at Vermont Law School. He is the author of *Red Sky at Morning* and *The Bridge at the Edge*

JOYCE APPLEBY

Author of *Shores of Knowledge, The Relentless Revolution of Capitalism, Inheriting the Revolution,* and more.

*Shores of Knowledge* was the focus of discussion, which recounts how curiosity liberated people from dogma during the “age of enlightenment.” She was upbeat regarding the present resurgence of dogmatic religion in the US, believing that science and other liberations (women, color) were permanent.

Capitalist Chameleon

What is the nature of capitalism? For Joseph Schumpeter, the Austrian-born economist whose writings have acquired a special relevance in the past year or two, this most modern of economic
systems “incessantly revolutionizes the economic structure from within, incessantly destroying the old one, incessantly creating a new one.” Capitalism, Schumpeter proclaimed, cannot stand still; it is a system driven by waves of entrepreneurial innovation, or what he memorably described as a “perennial gale of creative destruction.”

Schumpeter died in 1950, but his ghost looms large over Joyce Appleby’s splendid new account of the “relentless revolution” unleashed by capitalism from the 16th century onward. Appleby, a distinguished historian who has dedicated her career to studying the origins of capitalism in the Anglo-American world, here broadens her scope to take in the global history of capitalism in all its creative — and destructive — glory.

She begins “The Relentless Revolution” by noting that the rise of the economic system we call capitalism was in many ways improbable. It was, she rightly observes, “a startling departure from the norms that had prevailed for 4,000 years,” signaling the arrival of a new mentality, one that permitted private investors to pursue profits at the expense of older values and customs.

In viewing capitalism as an extension of a culture unique to a particular time and place, Appleby is understandably contemptuous of those who posit, in the spirit of Adam Smith, that capitalism was a natural outgrowth of human nature. She is equally scornful of those who believe that its emergence was in any way inevitable or inexorable. . . .

In the book’s final chapters, Appleby traces the many species of capitalism that have
evolved in the postwar era, in places like the United States, Japan, France, Germany, Singapore, Taiwan and South Korea. Many of these success stories reveal that government intervention, far from being inimical to capitalist enterprise, can help sustain it. That’s even true of the United States: between 1941 and 1960, she observes, the government’s share of R. & D. funding went up 13-fold until it supplied a whopping 64 percent of the country’s research funds; government contracts to companies like I.B.M. spurred many innovations. The Internet, vehicle for so much entrepreneurial energy, was the product of government sponsorship.

Alternative paths to capitalist success have only multiplied in recent years. In the closing pages, Appleby chronicles the startling rise of China, which has challenged all the usual assumptions about the inevitable linkage of democracy and capitalism. China’s ascent, Appleby reminds us, should humble anyone who thinks capitalism — or rather, capitalists — cannot adapt to novel circumstances.

Appleby ends with the event that defines our particular moment in the history of capitalism: the financial crisis. She doesn’t pull any punches in assigning blame, from bloated executive compensation packages to rampant deregulation of the financial system. Despite her libertarian leanings, she believes government can and should exercise some restraints on these excesses.

That prospect makes her optimistic about the future. “There is no reason to think that societies won’t continue to modify and monitor their economies in pursuit of shared goals,” she writes. “A relentless revolution, yes, but not a mindless one.”

Stephen Mihm is the author of “A Nation of Counterfeiters: Capitalists, Con Men, and the Making of the United States.”

For the complete review go to: http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/24/books/review/Mihm-t.html?pagewanted=all&r=0

Public Banking in Costa Rica: A Remarkable Little-known Model by

Ellen Brown, Op-Ed, NationofChange, Nov. 12, 2013: In Costa Rica, publicly-owned banks have been available for so long and work so well that people take for granted that any country that knows how to run an economy has a public banking option. Costa Ricans are amazed to hear there is only one public depository bank in the United States (the Bank of North Dakota), and few people have private access to it. So says political activist Scott Bidstrup, who writes: For the last decade, I have resided in Costa Rica, where we have had a “Public Option” for the last sixty-four years.
Contents #9 Nov. 12, 2012
Hedrick Smith, *Who Stole the American Dream?*
To Schneiderman: Prosecute or Resign
Taibbi, Why Government Doesn’t Fight Wall Street
Barofsky, *Bailout* on TARP
Nader: Where Were the Whistleblowers?
Freeland, *Plutocrats*
Reich, Book on US Capitalism
Reich, Interviewed About US Capitalism
Survey: Confidence in Capitalism Declines
Wolf: Global Financial Fraud
Looking Back at Capitalist Greed, PBS: Remember the Triangle Fire

Contents #10
Ha-Joon Chang, *About Capitalism*
Gibney Video: *Park Avenue, 1% of 1%:*
Hacker and Pierson: *Winner-Take-All Politics*
Bybee, War on Wages
Foster and McChesney, Monopoly-Finance Capital
Pollin, Full Employment
Wenz, Progressive Taxation
Mondiot, Unregulated Capitalism and Climate Change
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Taibbi, Lies about Bailout
Ad Busters on US Capitalism
Ad Busters on Canadian Capitalism
Moyers & Co. Programs
Richard Wolff’s Books
Jim Wallis, *Serving the Common Good*

**Contents #12**

Animated Film on Nature of Capitalism  
Connaughton, Why Wall Street Always Wins  
Moyers Interviews Sheila Bair and Richard Wolff March 22  
Stagnation  
Tunnel People and Economic Collapse  
Dauvergne and Lister, Corporate Takeover of Sustainability  
Smil, What We Have Taken from Nature  
Blinder, Cause and Cure of Economic Crisis  
Leopold, World of Top Hedge-Fund Managers  
Garson, How the 99% Lives in the Recession

Here is the link to all OMNI topical newsletters:  
http://www.omnicenter.org/newsletter-archive/  
Many of OMNI's newsletters expose the liabilities of US capitalism (unregulated corporations, large gap between rich and poor, deceptive advertising, endemic boom and bust, and so on). See the Index.

**END US CAPITALISM NEWSLETTER #15**

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Dick Bennett

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

Index:  
http://www.omnicenter.org/omni-newsletter-general-index/

National/International Days  
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