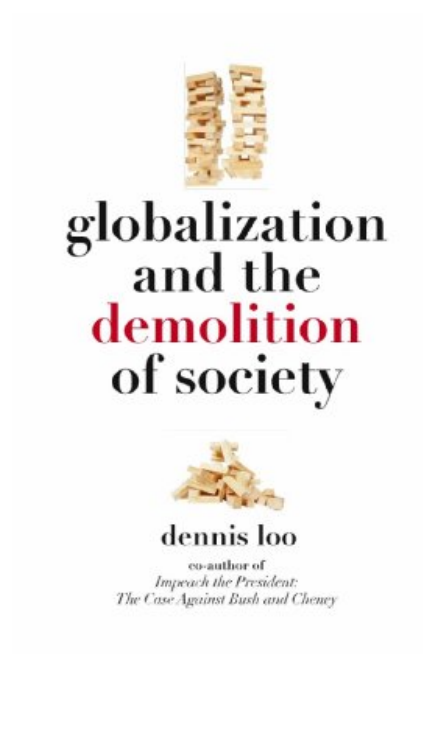


GLOBALIZATION AND THE DEMOLITION OF SOCIETY BY DENNIS LOO



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globalization
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dennis loo

co-author of
*Impeach the President:
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Review

If you purchased the Kindle edition before May 1, 2012, a revised version of it is available for free from Kindle if you tell Amazon that you give them permission to update your version of the book for your Kindle. If you do this, you should know, any notes and highlighting that you have done will be lost. The revised version corrects an error, however, that was made by the eBook transcribers.

From the Author

A clear understanding of what we face as a society needs to inform our decision-making processes on the societal level and on the individual level, now more than ever. Yet it is more difficult than ever to get an accurate picture, let alone a good analysis, of what's afoot from normally relied upon sources such as mainstream media and public officials. In this book I do something that most people don't try to do: convey in the most rigorous and sophisticated way possible what's going on, so that the issues and their complexities aren't oversimplified, but I illustrate these points with examples drawn from everyday life. That way what might appear disturbing, threatening, confusing, and/or frustrating can be made clear and people, no matter what their background, can relate to and act effectively upon what they now understand more deeply. As I state in the Introduction, when "it comes to society, deciphering what is going on and determining what to do about it are more difficult than simply saying: 'Here's what is happening and here's what we can do about it.' Barriers get in the way of both correctly understanding what is going on and taking action that will accomplish what you seek." That is why this book covers a lot of ground, including history and theory, because learning the lessons of history and being conscious about the particular theoretical lens we are employing is indispensable to the people actually governing ourselves. The stakes are exceedingly high and the time is short, but an opening is now apparent that appeared after I finished the book: Arab Spring and the grassroots popular eruptions worldwide that are known in the U.S. as the Occupy movement. These developments are enormously encouraging and are the kind of mass popular action that I point to in my book as the way forward.

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GLOBALIZATION AND THE DEMOLITION OF SOCIETY BY DENNIS LOO PDF

Since the 1980s, advocates of “free market” forces and unrestrained individualism have succeeded in making their views dominant worldwide. In this timely, startlingly honest, wide-ranging, and profound book Dennis Loo shows that free market fundamentalism - also known as neoliberalism - make us not more secure or prosperous: it tears the social fabric and undermines security, leading inevitably to disasters on the individual, regional, and global levels.

Neoliberalism is based on the mantra that market forces should run everything. It aims to eliminate job and income security, the social safety net (including welfare and other social guarantees), unions, pensions, public services, and the governmental regulation of corporations. It consequently undermines the basis for people to voluntarily cooperate with authority as almost everyone is increasingly left by themselves to face gargantuan private interests, with governmental and corporate authority ever more indifferent to the public’s welfare.

Loo points out that given this trend, the government must rely on ever increasing secrecy, deception, surveillance, fear and force in order to keep people in line, no matter which political party is in power. This is the underlying reason why the Democratic and Republican Parties are less and less distinguishable from each other, and why both parties have been moving politically to the Right.

Loo tells this story of two worlds in contention – those who uphold private interest vs. those who defend the public interest - by drawing from everyday life to illustrate and bring alive what might otherwise seem to be disconnected and disparate disturbing developments. Even after reading only one chapter, you will come away from Globalization and the Demolition of Society looking at the world differently.

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Review

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Most helpful customer reviews

8 of 9 people found the following review helpful.

Globalization is bad for us

By DD Wills

Dennis Loo's new book, *Globalization and the Disruption of Society*, builds on anti-corporate capitalism, anti-globalization arguments that he and others have made elsewhere, and adds a powerful summary narrative focusing on the political and philosophical history of the rise of modern neoliberalism. His attention to defining and explaining the array of terminology that has developed around these phenomena, and which is often used without care or knowledge, is a great contribution of the book. His lucid discussions of how these terms and the ideologies they sometimes shroud have changed the political landscape identify for students, academicians, or the general reader the local and global social economic effects of particular policy decisions, from "free trade" agreements to wage suppression to war. Dr. Loo's background in social movements and analysis of the criminal justice and higher education sectors introduces valuable examples of the negative consequences of uncontrolled globalization.

The title is particularly apt. The free marketeers who are the only beneficiaries of deregulation and globalization are now literally dismantling the remnants of the social contract in country after country. Like the IMF in a developing nation, the corporate elite and their servants in Washington and elsewhere have imposed austerity measures, gone after unions and public employees, forced huge cuts in public programs, and insisted on giving business and the rich everything they want. Loo points out that 497 individuals in the U.S. have as much wealth as the bottom half of all humanity - three billion people. And some of the latter (e.g., Tea Partiers) appear to think that's normal and acceptable! If you want to know how we got to this sorry state of affairs, read this book. If you want to engage with a sophisticated perspective on the road to a radically different state of affairs, read this book.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

Easy read, packed with knowledge

By Walter

Where others are willing to accept the status quo, Dennis Loo is not. This book provides insight on what is wrong with the United States and the global economy as a whole. If you are looking to have your eyes opened to an entirely different America, this is the book for you. While mainstream media walks along the surface of controversial issues such as US involvement in the Middle East, Loo digs deep into the problem and exposes the contradictions in policy that truly make us question the intent of our government. While his writing is intended to convey his personal opinions, Loo backs these arguments up with factual evidence. I went into this book in a very careful manner, questioning his claims in hopes that a certain level of skepticism would lead me to a more balanced understanding of our nation. However, I was shocked to find that the arguments put forth are backed by indisputable evidence. Many of the actions carried out by the US military and our politicians in Washington D.C. are simply inexcusable. It is no wonder why these stories have not reached the headlines because they generate such overwhelming doubt against the intentions of our elected officials. Furthermore, Loo's writing allows readers who are not as familiar with domestic and global issues to understand the magnitude of our government's deceit. This book is a must read for anyone intrigued by political power and social justice. I have thoroughly enjoyed it and now feel better equipped to face the dark future that lies ahead of us.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

An Important Work on the Current State of World Affairs

By ky90

If you have ever wondered why certain policies in not only the United States as well as the World, seem to have stemmed from a "broken" government, this book will help to answer some of those questions. The key focus of this book is on neoliberalism, a term that is not well known in the U.S. but is absolutely crucial in order to understand the current government as well as those in recent history. This book also connects various aspects of life that are affected by neoliberal policies, including the media, various corporations as well as key social problems that are faced by many in the world today. For those who are interested in the Occupy Movement or even just want to know about it, this book will explain nearly everything that movement is about and will help those who are already part of the movement further understand their aspirations.

In summary, if you have any interest in what the government has been doing, social change or globalization, this book may open your eyes to what's really going on and reminds me of various authors that have been featured on programs such as The Daily Show and The Colbert Report; shows which I think would be a great place for this book to be promoted.

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