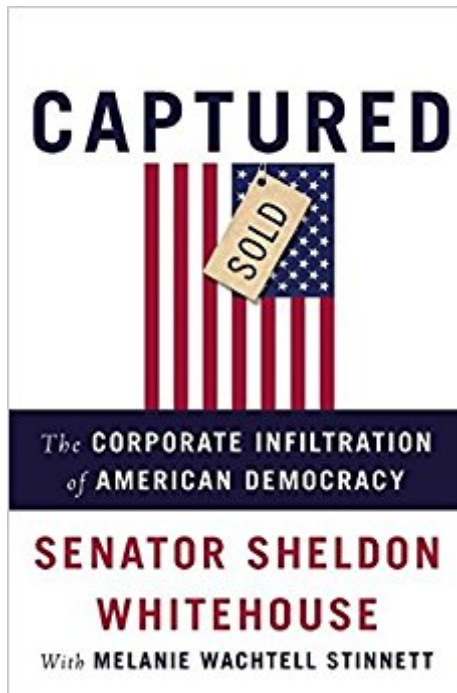




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Captured: The Corporate Infiltration Of American Democracy



Synopsis

A U.S. senator, leading the fight against money in politics, chronicles the long shadow corporate power has cast over our democracy. In *Captured*, U.S. Senator and former federal prosecutor Sheldon Whitehouse offers an eye-opening take on what corporate influence looks like today from the Senate Floor, adding a first-hand perspective to Jane Mayer's *Dark Money*. Americans know something is wrong in their government. Senator Whitehouse combines history, legal scholarship, and personal experiences to provide the first hands-on, comprehensive explanation of what's gone wrong, exposing multiple avenues through which our government has been infiltrated and disabled by corporate powers. *Captured* reveals an original oversight by the Founders, and shows how and why corporate power has exploited that vulnerability: to strike fear in elected representatives who don't get right by threatening million-dollar "dark money" election attacks (a threat more effective and less expensive than the actual attack); to stack the judiciary—even the Supreme Court—in "business-friendly" ways; to "capture" the administrative agencies meant to regulate corporate behavior; to undermine the civil jury, the Constitution's last bastion for ordinary citizens; and to create a corporate "alternate reality" on public health and safety issues like climate change. *Captured* shows that in this centuries-long struggle between corporate power and individual liberty, we can and must take our American government back into our own hands.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Praise for Senator Sheldon Whitehouse: "Sheldon Whitehouse is one of the most respected and thoughtful progressives in the Senate. His energy and enthusiasm make him a powerful voice in defending our American democracy against the relentless, pervasive and often hidden power of corporate special interests." Senator Elizabeth Warren; An extraordinarily intelligent and wide-ranging critique of the current state of our political and economic affairs. This book reminds me distinctly of the great muckraking texts of the progressive era; texts that really shook up the status quo in the American polity and economy. And I truly believe that this book has the potential to be one of those much needed historic calls-to-action; Bravo! — William Novak, Charles F. and Edith J. Clyne Professor of Law, University of Michigan Law School; For climate activists; or really anyone who thinks climate change is a problem; there's a lot to love about Senator Sheldon Whitehouse. — Think Progress "An elected official who speaks the truth." — Janet Larsen, Earth Policy Institute

Sheldon Whitehouse represents Rhode Island in the U.S. Senate. He has served as a federal and state prosecutor, business regulator, courtroom litigator, environmental advocate, and government reformer. Boston-based writer Melanie Wachtell Stinnett is a former Director of Policy & Communications for the Tobin Project.

This book is a must read for every American who loves his/her country. It is a frightening lesson in the Civics classes that are no longer taught in our schools, because it speaks in very direct and understandable terms about the powerful and hidden forces that are undermining our core democratic values. If you have wondered why formerly reasonable men and women in politics now embrace untenable positions such as climate change denial, reducing the already shrinking share of federal tax income coming from corporate taxes, and the baseless and untrammled attack on voting rights, then this book will clearly and concisely explain it. And it will cast it in an historical perspective, as well. The book, "Dark Money," by Jane Mayer, is very well researched and well written, and it provides the foundation from which Senator Whitehouse builds his exposition of the ongoing and well-disguised attack on our most cherished democratic values. "Captured" adds to that excellent book in many important ways, two of which jump out to this reader. The first is that he has a ringside seat to the ways in which corporate dark money is at work to take away the voice that all us have had, and expect to have, in our government. His examples are harrowing and very real,

a true insider's story of what we are losing, and rapidly. What also struck me, and which is news even to my well informed attentions, is the ongoing corporate attack on our civil jury system. I was raised by a father who was what we then called an Eisenhower Republican, in Pennsylvania. He was a local public official, and more importantly, he was a trial attorney. I grew up hearing him say that the American judicial system and the jury trial were the most cost effective social programs we have. One case in front of one jury can provide enough economic incentive to make a corporation stop manufacturing cars that burst into flames on impact, or stop making products that are harmful to our health, or stop putting dangerous materials into our buildings. This book lays out in frightening clarity how this great institution is being forcibly eliminated. And this is just the tip of the iceberg. And that is the point of this essential book. We are looking at the tip of the iceberg. What is unseen are the think tanks, the tax exempt organizations, the paid media, the super Political Action Committees, and the corporations and billionaires who are actively at work in not letting us see how they are setting up their own version of a political party, and one that will brook no heterodoxy. And it is one that serves only them, and at our expense. Eisenhower Republicans are a vanishing breed. And Teddy Roosevelt Republicans are extinct. And lest you think this is a partisan issue, this book will show you how both major parties are at risk. It was difficult for me to read it, because the story is so frightening. And I found that the personal forward was something I almost could not read past. We tend to question our public officials, but we miss the fact that people like Senator Whitehouse are devoted public servants, and that the bulk of that great burden falls on their families. The sacrifices are deeply felt. We need more public servants like Senator Whitehouse. And most importantly we have to listen to him and those like him. Read this book, now.

Great book. Small print which translates into slower reading, at least for me/

Sheldon Whitehouse's book "Captured the Corporate Infiltration of American Democracy" is a must read for everyone from the American history geek to those of us who want to understand why our government can move two steps forward and three back. This book is not about political parties but the influence of corporate money in our Democracy and the fundamental question is our government currently for the people and of the people in the original sense.

Great book! Unsettling but important information in this insane time in our history.

Everyone should read this book - I would vote for sheldon whitehouse for President

Big brother is no longer just watching! Read this and share the knowledge with everyone you know. Hard truth reveals the depth of control these people plan to use to implement their addenda.

God help us...but it's all true. Needs to be said and needs to be read.

Thoroughly researched and presented extremely well. Too bad the rest of our representatives are so tied to the money. Shame on the Koch brothers especially.

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