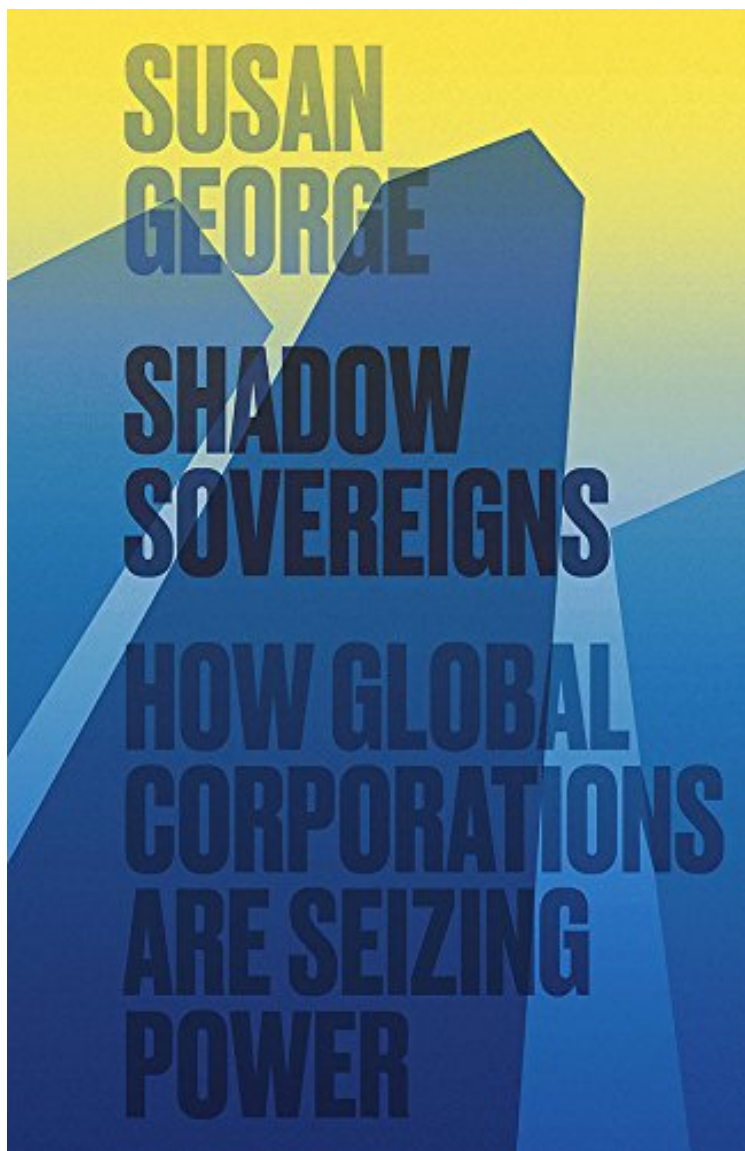


(Get free) Shadow Sovereigns: How Global Corporations are Seizing Power

Shadow Sovereigns: How Global Corporations are Seizing Power

Susan George

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Susan George : Shadow Sovereigns: How Global Corporations are Seizing Power before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Shadow Sovereigns: How Global Corporations are Seizing Power:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Rui FernandesExcelent.6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. "Business is regulating government"By David WinebergShadow Sovereigns is a call to arms. There is no pretense of being neutral. The evidence is frighteningly overwhelming. Susan George wants you to know yoursqu;re being traded away to the high bidders. She describes it as the lduo;rise of illegitimate

authority"; Transnational corporations (TNCs) are usurping justice and privatizing legislation. Her main preoccupation is the TTIP, the new transatlantic trade treaty. She says it contains one chapter on trade and 24 on regulating trade for the benefit of the TNCs. They get all kinds of new rights, bypassing local governments, plus the ability to sue them if they do anything to curb imports, even of dangerous materials. George paints a grim scenario where American gun rights get transferred to Europe by an arbitrator picked by the TNC. No appeal is allowed. Never again would national parliaments be in charge of setting the regulatory rules on new products and processes, she says. It has the potential to bring financial disasters that would dwarf the crisis of 2008-9, and for precisely the same reasons: the TNCs running trade as they run finance — with total disregard for anything but immediate profit. Even the UN has been contaminated, if not neutered, by the TNCs. George says the UN has voluntarily become part of the problem. She cites CFC actions: DuPont called ozone depletion "a science fiction tale... a load of rubbish"; utter nonsense"; but The Montreal Protocol banning CFCs defeated its "Alliance for Responsible CFC Policy"; and is considered the greatest collective global environmental achievement, ever. Now that the DuPonts of the world have infiltrated the UN and have a seat at numerous tables, this achievement is unlikely to ever be surpassed. The UN committee on coal was eclipsed by corporate sponsors, who wrote the final communiqué; as an appreciation for coal. George says allowing them to drape themselves in the UN flag is "bluewashing";, discrediting the entire institution. She aims the first and last salvos at the Davos World Economic Forum, where the TNCs openly pursue world political domination. Their manifestos, working papers and forums are completely clear: corporates perform far better than governments. What is puzzling in all this is the lack of outrage by those in power. Throughout history, men would do anything to maintain and enlarge their power. You were either conqueror or roadkill, and no one willingly chose roadkill. Yet national governments, state governments, and even the UN seem not at all disturbed by this massive elbowing-in of TNCs. For unexplored reasons, stepping aside for corporations does not bother elected officials. There is another book here. David Wineberg 7 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Who's this book for? By Kate Vane Thirty years ago I read Susan George's "How the Other Half Dies" and it was one of those books that stayed with me. I was just becoming interested in politics and she showed in devastating detail what corporations can do to people who are poor and powerless. So I was keen to read "Shadow Sovereigns". I have to say I was disappointed. George is angry (and why not, all these years on and the situation is in many ways worse). However, the anger undermines her argument. It feels like she wrote the book in a rage and didn't pause to reflect or structure her thoughts. I'm not sure who her target reader is. The section on lobbying is quite general and abstract and if, like me, you already have an interest in these issues you won't learn much. Later she does illustrate her arguments with specific examples (including one court case she was once again pitted against Nestle). In the chapter about TTIP she gives exhaustive detail which will be useful to activists but might overwhelm the general reader who is looking for a broad understanding of the issues. Even though I largely agree with her, I felt quite put off by the strident tone, and I'm afraid that someone coming to these issues for the first time, who isn't familiar with the context, may be completely alienated. *I received an ARC from the publisher via Netgalley. If you're interested in reading more about the power of corporations over governments, I'd recommend "Treasure Islands: Uncovering the Damage of Offshore Banking and Tax Havens" by Nicholas Shaxson.

Lobbying has long been part of the political landscape. But in recent years links between big business and government have become stronger and more far-reaching than ever. Global corporations now demand control over decisions affecting labour laws, finance, public health, food and agriculture, safety regulations, taxes and international trade and investment. They even claim the right to private tribunals where they can sue governments for passing laws that could harm their present or future profits. These business elites don't want to govern directly. They operate behind the scenes - directing planning, setting standards and fashioning government to maximise their own profits. Thanks to the UN Global Compact they have extended their influence to the highest levels of multilateral decision-making and now, via the Davos-inspired Global Redesign Initiative, they are setting their sights on managing world-wide public policy. Elected by and accountable to no one, secretive and highly organized, these shadow sovereigns are destroying the very notion of the common good and making a mockery of democracy. It is high time we challenged this assault on our rights and our institutions. In this incisive and clear-sighted book Susan George provides us with the practical knowledge to do just that.

"Susan George's work has provided deep understanding of the world in which we live. "Shadow Sovereigns" carries these insights further to the carefully hidden core of global decision-making, a matter of prime significance for those who hope to take their fate into their own hands in times when critical decisions will determine the future of the human experiment." Noam Chomsky, Massachusetts Institute of Technology "Driven by a virulent strain of neoliberalism, the global corporate assault on democracy has now reached unprecedented and planet-cooking extremes. Nobody is better qualified than Susan George to document and dissect the inner workings of this process. The result is a book will galvanize those new to the subject while providing veteran opponents with renewed urgency

and fresh insights."Naomi Klein, author of *This Changes Everything* and *The Shock Doctrine* "Susan George has found and revealed the blueprint that transnational corporations are using to conquer our political system. In this vital book, written with characteristic rigor and flair, she lifts the veil on the many mechanisms through which corporations buy politicians, manipulate global policy, and in the process render our democracy a farcical pantomime. Most importantly, *Shadow Sovereigns* hauls corporations out of the dark where they like to operate and shows them to be the frontline troops in the neoliberal assault on public life. George's diagnosis that the grand Enlightenment tradition is being fatally corrupted by what she calls the Great Neoliberal Regression is chilling. But by shining a light on our new silent rulers and telling us how they work, George replenishes the intellectual armory we need to fight back."Matt Kennard, author of *Irregular Army* and *The Racket*About the AuthorSusan George is a high profile political scholar and activist whose previous books have been widely read and translated. She is currently president of the board of the Transnational Institute, a world-wide fellowship of scholars and activists.