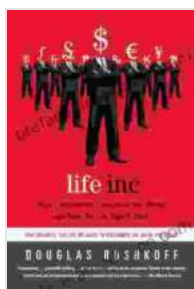


# How the World Became a Corporation: The Rise of Corporate Capitalism and the Erosion of Democracy

In his groundbreaking book, *How the World Became a Corporation*, Joel Bakan argues that the rise of corporate capitalism has fundamentally transformed our world, eroding democracy and creating a system that is increasingly rigged in favor of the wealthy and powerful.



## Life Inc.: How the World Became a Corporation and How to Take It Back by Douglas Rushkoff

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 1027 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 304 pages



Bakan traces the origins of corporate capitalism back to the 17th century, when the first corporations were chartered by the British Crown. These early corporations were granted special privileges, such as limited liability and the ability to raise capital from outside investors. Over time, these privileges allowed corporations to grow in size and power, and by the 20th century, they had become the dominant economic force in the world.

Bakan argues that the rise of corporate capitalism has had a number of corrosive effects on democracy. First, corporations have become increasingly powerful relative to governments. This has led to a situation in which corporations are able to exert undue influence over public policy, often at the expense of the public interest.

Second, the rise of corporate capitalism has led to a concentration of wealth and power in the hands of a small number of individuals and corporations. This has created a system that is increasingly rigged in favor of the wealthy and powerful, and has made it more difficult for ordinary people to have a say in how their society is run.

Third, the rise of corporate capitalism has led to a decline in civic engagement and participation. As corporations have become more powerful, people have become increasingly alienated from the political process. This has led to a decline in voter turnout and a decrease in the number of people who are actively involved in their communities.

Bakan concludes his book by arguing that we need to take back our democracy from corporations. He calls for a number of reforms, including:

- \* Increasing the transparency of corporate decision-making
- \* Reducing the power of corporate lobbyists
- \* Breaking up large corporations
- \* Expanding worker ownership and control of businesses
- \* Promoting alternative forms of economic organization, such as cooperatives and social enterprises

Bakan's book is a powerful indictment of corporate capitalism and its corrosive effects on democracy. It is a must-read for anyone who is concerned about the future of our democracy and who wants to take action to create a more just and equitable world.

## Praise for *How the World Became a Corporation*

"Joel Bakan's *How the World Became a Corporation* is a brilliant and timely book. It is a must-read for anyone who wants to understand the corrosive influence of corporate power on our democracy." - Robert Reich, former US Secretary of Labor

"Bakan's book is a powerful indictment of corporate capitalism and its corrosive effects on democracy. It is a must-read for anyone who is concerned about the future of our democracy." - Noam Chomsky, author of *Manufacturing Consent*

"Joel Bakan's *How the World Became a Corporation* is a tour de force. It is a must-read for anyone who wants to understand the history and current state of corporate power." - David Korten, author of *When Corporations Rule the World*



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