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Capitalism: A Ghost Story



Synopsis

From the poisoned rivers, barren wells, and clear-cut forests, to the hundreds of thousands of farmers who have committed suicide to escape punishing debt, to the hundreds of millions of people who live on less than two dollars a day, there are ghosts nearly everywhere you look in India. India is a nation of 1.2 billion, but the country's 100 richest people own assets equivalent to one-fourth of India's gross domestic product. *Capitalism: A Ghost Story* examines the dark side of democracy in contemporary India, and shows how the demands of globalized capitalism has subjugated billions of people to the highest and most intense forms of racism and exploitation.

Book Information

Paperback: 136 pages

Publisher: Haymarket Books (May 6, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1608463850

ISBN-13: 978-1608463855

Product Dimensions: 0.2 x 5.2 x 7.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 32 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #44,780 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #16 in Books > Business & Money > Economics > Income Inequality #22 in Books > History > Asia > India #43 in Books > Business & Money > Economics > Free Enterprise

Customer Reviews

Courageous and clarion Roy (*Walking with the Comrades*, 2011) continues her analysis and documentation of the disastrous consequences of unchecked global capitalism. She investigates India's "Gush Up" capitalism and how it is reinforcing a caste system that benefits the elite while wreaking cruel havoc on the greater population and the country's invaluable natural resources. Roy reports on collusion between New Delhi and multinational corporations that results in the corruption and dysfunction of local governments and brutal initiatives, disguised as security measures, in which people are forced off their land to make way for highways, airports, dams, mines, and factories. While violence is used against the poor, the middle class is covertly coerced by way of what Roy calls the "exquisite art of Corporate Philanthropy." She cites eye-opening examples of how the support by well-established international foundations of admirable cultural projects and NGOs also insidiously engenders privatization and the infiltration of grass-roots

movements against corporate pillaging. As Roy observes, "The algebra of infinite injustice works in mysterious ways." Precise and revelatory, Roy gives us an awful lot to think about. --Donna Seaman

Capitalism feels like straight reportage from the front lines of a war. In every part of the world, the rich few keep getting richer on the backs of a population that continues to work harder and grow poorer for it. And Roy keeps sending these furious, intelligent bulletins to alert us to what's going on. More people than ever are listening to her." #151;The Stranger Praise for Arundhati Roy's Field Notes on Democracy: "Gorgeously wrought . . . pitch-perfect prose. . . . In language of terrible beauty, she takes India's everyday tragedies and reminds us to be outraged all over again." #151;Time "In her searing account, Roy asks whether our shriveled forms of democracy will be 'the endgame of the human race' #151; and shows vividly why this is a prospect not to be lightly dismissed." #151;Noam Chomsky #147; The scale of what Roy surveys is staggering. Her pointed indictment is devastating." #151;The New York Times Book Review #147; An electrifying political essayist... So fluent is her prose, so keen her understanding of global politics, and so resonant her objections to nuclear weapons, assaults against the environment, and the endless suffering of the poor that her essays are as uplifting as they are galvanizing." #151;Booklist

Non-Profit Industrial Complex (oxymoron) Capitalism: A Ghost Story by Arundhati Roy. Chapter 1 isn't about India; it's about the entire world and corporate philanthropy. "Corporate Philanthropy", two conflicting words. Don't Read the whole book. Just read pages 21 to 46. Chapters 2 thru 6 are kind of depressing. They're about India's poverty and how capitalism is making it worse. What's new? I bought this book because of Chapter 1. It is the heart and soul, and almost half (41%) of the book. This chapter reveals the deceptive nature of Corporate Charity, the Non Profit Industrial Complex (NPIC) and Non Government Organizations (NGOs). It shows the role they play in suppressing dissension or misdirecting grass roots movements. Not just in India, but, the entire planet. Arundhati explains how it is possible for the entire population to remain complacent (apathetic) while the atrocities in chapters 2 thru 6 take place. MOST corporate charities do MORE HARM THAN GOOD. Roy names specific corporations and their links to specific Grass Roots organizations. She discusses Bretton Woods, the IMF, the World Bank, the CFR, RAND, the CIA, the Ford & Rockefeller Foundations, Nelson Mandela & the ANC, Steve Biko, MLK, The Black Panthers, Bill Gates, Oprah, Memorandums Of Understanding (MOU) and much more; all within these 40 pages. I have not read

a book this concise and understandable, since "Green Eggs and Ham" (minus the repetition). To get an idea of what Chapter 1 is about, below is a statement by Malcolm X (not in the book). He's referring to MLK and his Nobel Peace Prize. "He got the peace prize, we got the problem.... If I'm following a general, and he's leading me into a battle, and the enemy tends to give him rewards, or awards, I get suspicious of him. Especially if he gets a peace award before the war is over." Malcolm X

Ask yourself why Malcolm never got a peace prize? And, why is there no Malcolm X Day? I recommend Chapter 1 of this book to anyone seeking the truth as to how the world works. It will help them bypass a lot of useless, misleading, disinformation. This book has 128 pages: 31 pages of index & footnotes, 57 pages for chapter 2 thru 6, 40 pages for chapter 1. Since this book is concise, I also recommend that you supplement it with the following:

Bill Blum's "Rogue State" & "Killing Hope". Noam Chomsky's "Understanding Power". Lance Selfa's "The Democrats: A Critical History". MLK speech "Beyond Vietnam (1967,04,04)". Malcolm X speech "Message to the Grass Roots (1963,11,10)". Or the following DVD's & YouTube Videos: Margaret Flowers (Flowers, Hochfeld & Huntington - Talking Healthcare, Jan. 29, 2011). "The Corporation- Manufacturing Consent". "Baraka - Dead Can Dance - The Host Of Seraphim [HD - 1080p]". John Pilger. Vandana Shiva | Zmagazine.org

I saw Roy in a video with Howard Zinn (A People's History). This led me to a video of her reading Chapter One of this book. That video was posted on YouTube by Non Profit - "Wrong kind of Green". It can also be found at "OutlookIndia" and of course at "Haymarket Books".

Really thorough and interesting book. Quick read with some good humor peppered in.

Roy's rhetoric is both engaging and energizing: her work is equal parts academia and activism. I do wish that more explanation of Indian history had been given as backstory to her discussions of modern politics, though I understand much of that may have been assumed as prior knowledge as Roy writes to an Indian audience. Her transcribed speech to an Occupy Wallstreet crowd (last chapter) is a great showcase of her prowess as a revolutionary rhetorician.

A great writer tells the truth

roy nails it it does not get any better than this.

Ms. Roy tells a compelling story of the insidiousness of Capitalism. It has a right to exist and no one is against making money; however, the way in which they make it, is poison to the peoples of the world and their countries. The destructive behavior of "Global Capitalism" misdirects the essential goal of the human project from advancing mankind to advancing a few people. This has been done in the name of trickle-down economics, which, itself, has too few leaks. To little attention is given to spreading the advances of knowledge because of the self-centeredness of a few people who celebrate their advantages and wish to remain so - advantaged. They forget that those below them bureaucratically are still those who put them where they are, the people need to understand their power to remove the advantaged into a more just position. Read the book!

An interesting insight into corporate India. A compilation of fast flowing articles worth reading.

I have really enjoyed reading this book and have learned many poignant facts and been given some valuable perspectives to think about.

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