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Peter Dauvergne, Jane Lister

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Peter Dauvergne, Jane Lister : Eco-Business: A Big-Brand Takeover of Sustainability (MIT Press) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Eco-Business: A Big-Brand Takeover of Sustainability (MIT Press):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. superb critique of the current corporate sustainability trend By Erik Foley I have been a follower and even a proponent of corporate sustainability strategy for a number of years. This book provides a cogent and important counterpoint to an increasingly strong line of thinking that we can have win-win solutions to environmental problems. I teach in the business school and have earned a graduate degree in business and I have a background in environmental science. I would say that the authors cautioning of the true motivations of

corporations and we can realistically expect them to accomplish is well-founded and we should all keep it close on the long road ahead. Without a doubt, sustainable future is not possible without corporations and big brands being a critical part of it and integrating sustainability into their business strategy and operations. But we must see that as just one part of a more holistic transformation that must involve nongovernmental organizations, civil society, government, our school systems, etc. I would strongly recommend this book and after having read many corporate sustainability books, I think it stands alone in its critique of sustainability strategy in business. It is a cautionary tale and a very important one. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By J.Herrera Ok book. Interesting somewhat redundant 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A little repetitive and confused By jL Are the authors for eco-business or not? They certainly make it very clear in the beginning that they are not for the big brand takeover of eco-business, but then continue to expound upon the positive effects of big brand take over of eco-business. Very quick and easy read with nifty facts tucked into each chapter on big brand takeover, but it does leave you feeling hollow and unconvinced of the authors' prognosis.

McDonald's promises to use only beef, coffee, fish, chicken, and cooking oil obtained from sustainable sources. Coca-Cola promises to achieve water neutrality. Unilever seeks to achieve 100 percent sustainable agricultural sourcing by 2020. Walmart has pledged to become carbon neutral. Big-brand companies seem to be making commitments that go beyond the usual "greenwashing" efforts undertaken largely for public-relations purposes. In *Eco-Business*, Peter Dauvergne and Jane Lister examine this new corporate embrace of sustainability, its actual accomplishments, and the consequences for the environment. For many leading-brand companies, these corporate sustainability efforts go deep, reorienting central operations and extending through global supply chains. Yet, as Dauvergne and Lister point out, these companies are doing this not for the good of the planet but for their own profits and market share in a volatile, globalized economy. They are using sustainability as a business tool. Dauvergne and Lister show that the eco-efficiencies achieved by big-brand companies limit the potential for finding deeper solutions to pressing environmental problems and reinforce runaway consumption. Eco-business promotes the sustainability of big business, not the sustainability of life on Earth.

The message of this book is clear: buyer beware! Peter Dauvergne and Jane Lister provide an intelligent wake-up call, challenging us to be careful of what we ask for. While we may applaud big multi-national corporations for embracing the sustainability mantra, *Eco-Business* reminds us to keep a critical eye on their actions. Are we the proverbial Nero playing the market-based fiddle while climate change, resource scarcity, over-consumption, and income inequality only grow worse? This book will make you think about that very real possibility. (Andrew J. Hoffman, co-author (with John R. Ehrenfeld) of *Flourishing: A Frank Conversation About Sustainability*) Corporate responsibility or cynical greenwashing? *Eco-Business* finally provides a voice of deep knowledge and insight into the debate. Neither naive cheerleaders nor ideological critics, Dauvergne and Lister have written the most comprehensive and analytically revealing book yet on the growing power of corporate environmentalism. It is hard to read *Eco-Business* without a sense of gratitude to its authors for penetrating the complex perils of corporate sustainability. (Paul Wapner, Professor, Global Environmental Politics Program, American University; author of *Living Through the End of Nature: The Future of American Environmentalism*) This well-researched book presents a comprehensive overview of the wide ranging efforts of global brands to improve their environmental performance. It convincingly demonstrates why many global firms have decided that acting more sustainably can improve their competitive position. (David Vogel, Professor of Business and Political Science, University of California, Berkeley) This theoretically interesting and empirically rich book examines how economic motivations incentivize firms to adopt environmentally sustainable policies and push them down their supply chains. It challenges environmental politics scholars to explore how businesses can be motivated to contribute to solving environmental problems. (Aseem Prakash, University of Washington, Seattle) *Eco-Business* is an engaging, accessibly written book. It will appeal to both scholarly and less academically oriented audiences. I can easily see it assigned in courses on sustainability (of which there are a growing number) and in business and environment courses, as well as in courses on global governance or globalization. (Elizabeth R. DeSombre, Environmental Studies Program, Wellesley College) *Eco-Business* provides a wealth of examples of the business actions of all the big players from Walmart and McDonald's through to Ikea and Unilever: if you want to know how Coca-Cola manages its water supply, this is the book to read. The authors are detailed and precise in issues such as where companies have achieved their own sustainability targets and where they have fallen short -- all of them, it seems, promising to do better while aggressively marketing products such as nappies, soft drinks and bottled waters to new consumers around the world. (Isabelle Szmigin *Times Higher Education*) Authoritative.... A remarkably hype- and jargon-free look at the pros and cons of today's corporate eco-sustainability movement. (Library Journal) About the Author Peter Dauvergne is Professor of Political Science and Director of the Liu Institute for Global Issues at the University of British Columbia. He is the author of the award-winning *The Shadows of Consumption: Consequences for the Global Environment* (MIT Press) and other books. Jane Lister is a Senior Research Fellow at the Liu Institute. She is a sustainability governance scholar, practitioner, and author of several books including *Timber*

(Polity Press,nbsp; with Peter Dauvergne) and Corporate Social Responsibility and the State (UBC Press) .