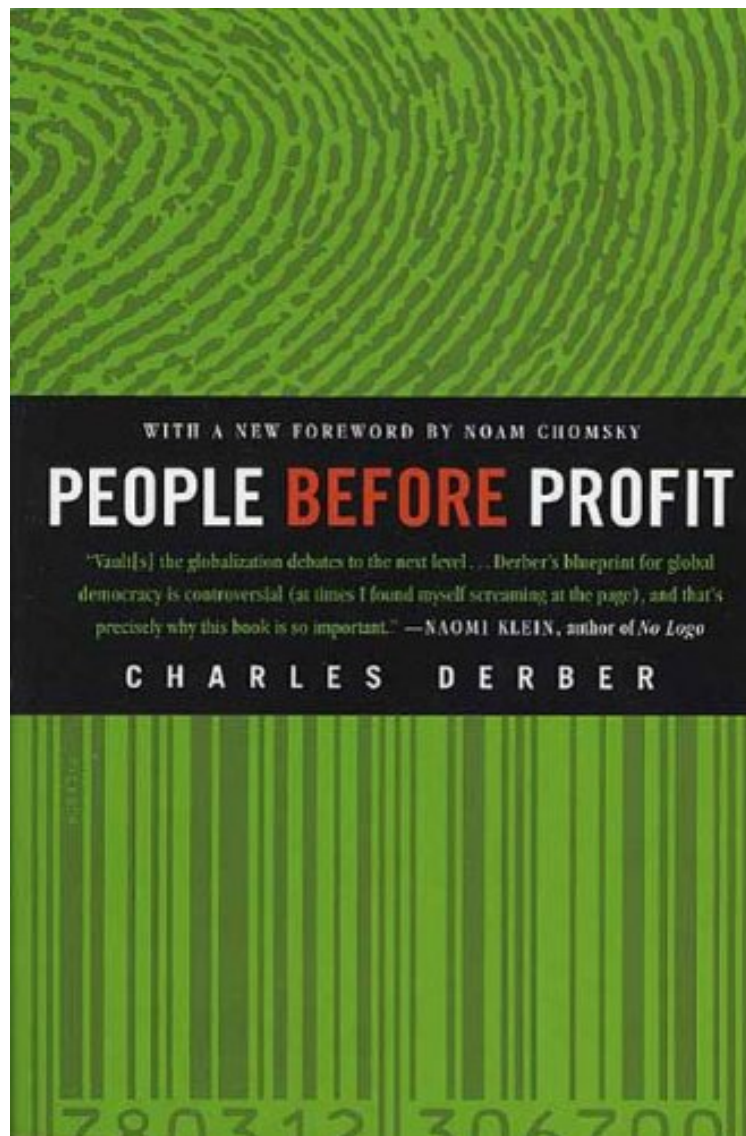


[Download free ebook] People Before Profit: The New Globalization in an Age of Terror, Big Money, and Economic Crisis

People Before Profit: The New Globalization in an Age of Terror, Big Money, and Economic Crisis

Charles Derber

ePub | *DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#1813848 in eBooks 2003-11-01 2003-11-01 File Name: B000FA5UVE | File size: 67.Mb

Charles Derber : People Before Profit: The New Globalization in an Age of Terror, Big Money, and Economic Crisis before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised People Before Profit: The New Globalization in an Age of Terror, Big Money, and Economic Crisis:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great read!By M. LarsonThis was recommended by a friend and I am really glad that I took the time to read this insight piece0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very well

doneBy firsttimerExcellent commentary on the real story of Globalization of business and its consequences. A fair and balance assessment and a easy read.8 of 9 people found the following review helpful. A fresh view on GlobalizationBy Friederike KnabeWith many books recently written on the topic of globalization it is encouraging to find one that brings out new significant aspects. PEOPLE BEFORE PROFIT does this in a way that places it in the top range of my recommended books. In addition to providing a wealth of important reflections and very useful facts, Derber covers the complex topics surrounding globalization in a clear and very accessible style. By placing himself inside the circumstances and arguments he addresses his readers directly, fostering ongoing reflection and dialogue.Derber examines the various uses and misuses of the term "globalization" that "globalizers" and "anti-globalizers" are claiming for their own ends. He cuts through the ideologies and myths by probing the concept within its historical context - reminding us that globalization and its driving force, "empire building", have been around for thousands of years. All ancient globalization systems were based on the exploitative relationship between a "core" and the "periphery". The net wealth flowed from the periphery (natural resources, cheap labour) to the core (skilled labour, technology) resulting in an ever-increasing gap between the rich core and the poor periphery.Derber compares such uneven co-dependent power relationships to a dysfunctional marriage where the powerful partner can leave or bullies the other into submission. The win-win myth of globalization is in fact a "race to the bottom" where the corporations alone have the "exit power". He emphasizes parallels between early US history and the ambitions of recent US administrations. While confined in those days to one country, the concept of globalization can be applied to the American "Robber Barons" then just as much as to the US power brokers of big corporations today. Derber contends their desire to expand economic power and political influence is dependent on the ever-increasing gap between rich and poor. "Free trade" is a misnomer in the context of unequal power relationships between the rich North and the developing countries of the South. In Derber's comparison today's billions of poor in Southern countries have taken the place of the exploited impoverished workforce during the "Gilded Age", underpinning his arguments with many pertinent examples. Yet, his main objective is to motivate all participants in the "globalization game" to learn important lessons from the past. His fundamental precept is that we must "reinvent globalization to create a safe, democratic and economically secure world".He challenges the narrow economic perspective of corporate leaders, arguing that globalization without democratization will fail sooner rather than later. Insisting that the political, social and cultural aspects of a globalized world have to be given equal prominence, he dissects the world economic and trading systems, such as the WTO, IMF and the World Bank. He emphasizes the importance of the "positive rights" of the UN system (right to food, shelter, work, etc.). These issues, he stresses, are of utmost importance in a fairer globalized world. He deplores the refusal of US administrations to adhere to existing international legal instruments. At the same time, he examines the "antiglobalization" movements differentiating between the "UN camp" and the "barbershoppers", the latter concerned only with the local community. Derber argues strongly that the localists and the globalists have to come together into a network of global justice movements that recognize that real democracy at one level cannot be sustained without democracy at all levels. He challenges his critics who have called him an idealist or similar with clear arguments, reporting on positive trends in intergovernmental trade debates as well as the democratization processes that have emerged since the Seattle demonstrations.Derber elaborated four principles for a "global New Deal" designed to bring democratic control to the global system and to establish fair economic and trade relationships. One pre-requisite is the dismantling of the Bretton Wood institutions, i.e. the IMF, WTO and World Bank, which he sees as a major culprit for the current unfair global trading system. Real participation of people and accountability to civil society represent other crucial components of his vision. Finally, the "global security" we all want and need, whether citizen or transnational corporation, cannot be achieved without tackling the extreme rich-poor divide in this world. Derber concludes PEOPLE BEFORE POWER with a series of concrete action recommendations for his readers. Read this book, whatever perspective you have on globalization. It might provide you with new insights and understanding of the challenges ahead. [Friederike Knabe, Ottawa Canada]

The issue of globalization-its promises, and more often, its shortcomings-commands worldwide attention. Recent events illuminate the dark side of globalization and underscore the urgent need to redesign its basic principles. The terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001 are one in a series of crisis that have shaken the foundations of the global order. The rise of strong anti-globalization movements around the world, the deteriorating global economy, including America's own economic turbulence, and an ever-growing distrust of powerful multinational corporations in the face of catastrophic mismanagement, symbolized by Enron and WorldCom, dramatize the failure of globalization. For a safe and economically secure future, Charles Derber argues in People Before Profit we must de-bunk the myths about our current form of corporate-led globalization and re-orient ourselves on a more democratic path.Popular misconceptions, what Derber terms the "globalization mystique," present globalization as new, inevitable, self-propelling, and win-win for rich and poor countries alike. By challenging each of these beliefs, Derber reveals a dynamic system that is constantly being invented and re-invented-and can be again. Globalization does not have to be a "race to the bottom" where the poverty gap grows ever wider and half the world lives on less than two dollars a day. In fact, Derber's hopeful and detailed vision of reform, including practical suggestions for every concerned citizen,

shows that globalization has the potential to be an authentic agent of democracy, social justice, and economic stability. The challenges are great; the new globalization will require deep and difficult changes, as well as a new politics that shifts power away from the elite. But the seeds have already been planted and the new globalization is beginning to emerge. In a moment rich with opportunity, *People Before Profit* is an essential contribution to the most important debate of our times, written in clear, straight-forward prose for everyone seeking a better world.

From Publishers Weekly Sociologist Derber (*Corporation Nation*) has a breezy writing style, slightly more academic than that of Thomas Friedman, whom he invokes often in this critique of the increasing trend toward globalization. Where Friedman sees globalization as an inevitable process, Derber believes we can still change globalization's direction, eliminating its market-driven excesses to provide truly universal economic development. The goals he proposes—ending global poverty, promoting local democracy and culture, making businesses socially accountable and creating a framework for genuinely collective peace and stability—are not new, nor is his observance that people all over the world are coming together to achieve those goals, but what his analysis lacks in originality, it makes up in accessibility. Despite Derber's optimism that American citizens will sympathize with the emphasis of "third-wave" activists on combating corporate corruption and influence over government, he does admit his insistence that "we cannot have global democracy in a world so thoroughly dominated by the United States" is likely to meet with mainstream resistance. Reaction to that frank assessment is likely to overshadow other discussion, such as Derber's cogent explanation of the threats that the WTO and IMF pose to local sovereignty, especially with regard to labor and environmental legislation, and his 25 suggestions for "what to do right now," simple actions that almost anyone can take to become politically aware and active. It's clear Derber wants to do more than preach to the choir and less clear that the public is ready to listen. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. The first comprehensive examination of how the globalization debate will be radically changed by recent violence and economic turbulence. About the Author Charles Derber, a noted social critic, is a Professor of Sociology at Boston College. He is the author of eight books including *Corporation Nation* and *The Wilding of America*.