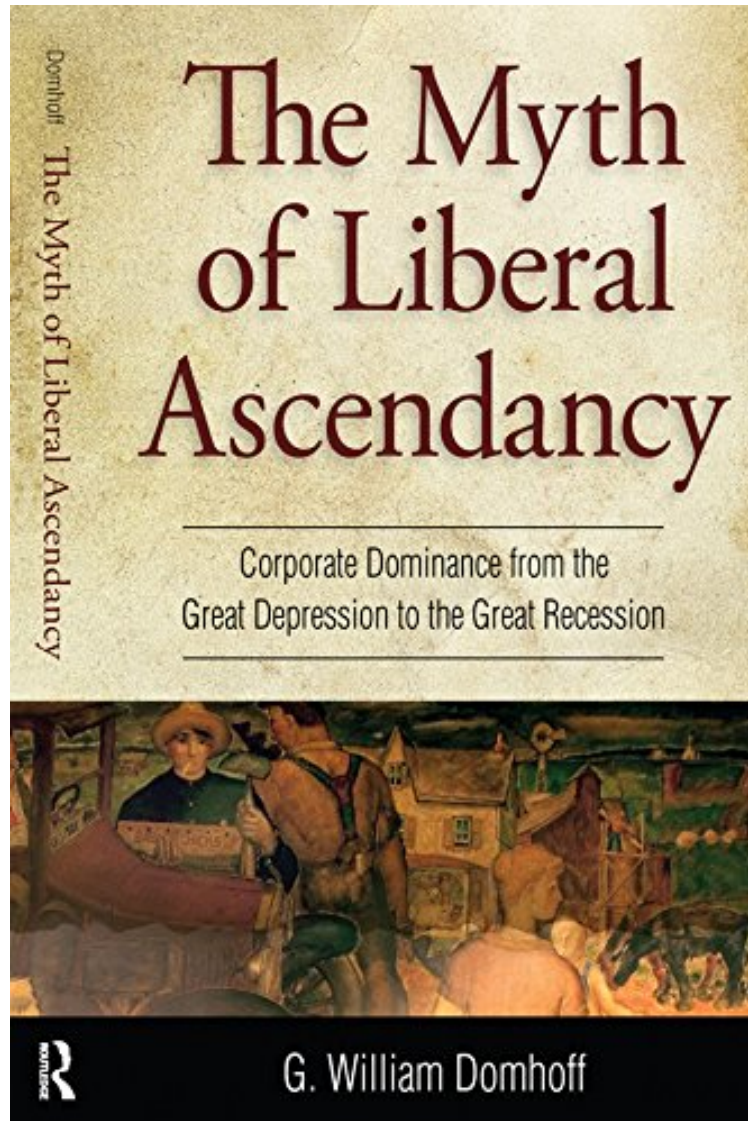


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## Myth of Liberal Ascendancy: Corporate Dominance from the Great Depression to the Great Recession

*G. Williams Domhoff*

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**G. Williams Domhoff : Myth of Liberal Ascendancy: Corporate Dominance from the Great Depression to the Great Recession** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Myth of Liberal Ascendancy: Corporate Dominance from the Great Depression to the Great Recession:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. As dry as a popcorn fart, but required reading ...By K. JacksonAs dry as a popcorn fart, but required reading if you are concerned about 'where your country went' and you want it back.

We live somewhere between a Plutocracy and a Kleptocracy in America now. 12 of 13 people found the following review helpful. Obama Cares (about the corporate elite) By Gold Star Family Survivor G. William Domhoff is possibly the world's authority on the influence America's corporate elite has upon state policy. In this book, he puts to rest any claim that their influence has ever waned. He looks at so-called "liberal periods," like the New Deal, when there clearly were reforms, beneficial to the ordinary citizens, and shows they were possible only because a sector of the upper class judged them as serving their interests as well. From the Great Depression to the Great Recession, a conflict brewed within the corporate elite. On one side were "liberals," who believed the long-term viability of capitalism required accommodations to labor and other non-rich. On the other side were "conservatives," who were unwilling to make any concessions that would dilute capitalist purity. With both sides committed to preserving capitalism and protecting corporate interest, the factions agreed on far more than they disagreed. Even in times like the New Deal or the Great Society, the conservatives were ever-present and able to place severe constraints on any possible reforms. Those reforms were largely a liberal capitalist accommodation to demands from labor, women, racial minority and left-wing students. The corporate liberals transmuted this left opposition in ways, which served them. Feminism and civil rights were manipulated to integrate those movements' potential leadership into the corporate hierarchy. These concessions were never acceptable to conservatives, who were now able to undermine the labor movement and its allies and galvanize support among working class whites who feared their jobs, communities, values and life style were under attack. This new alliance help solidify the power of the conservatives, who have dominated since the Reagan Revolution, and prevented Democratic liberal administrations like Clinton's or Obama's from attempting programs, even vaguely approaching the New Deal or the Great Society. Anyone who wants to understand the origins of the current conservative period should read this book.

Based on new archival research, G. Williams Domhoff challenges popular conceptions of the 1930's New Deal. Arguing instead that this period was one of increasing corporate dominance in government affairs, affecting the fate of American workers up to the present day. While FDR's New Deal brought sweeping legislation, the tide turned quickly after 1938. From that year onward nearly every major new economic law passed by Congress showed the mark of corporate dominance. Domhoff accessibly portrays documents of the Committee's vital influence in the halls of government, supported by his interviews with several of its key employees and trustees. Domhoff concludes that in terms of economic influence, liberalism was on a long steady decline, despite two decades of post-war growing equality, and that ironically, it was the successes of the civil rights, feminist, environmental, and gay-lesbian movements-not a new corporate mobilisation-that led to the final defeat of the liberal-labour alliance after 1968.

"The sociologist G. William Domhoff has long been a leading analyst and critic of corporate power and economic inequality in the United States. The Myth of Liberal Ascendancy builds on his previous work and offers his broadest historical narrative of what he sees as continual corporate dominance over American public policy since the late 1930s...[it]represents one of the most comprehensive and persuasive historical overviews available..." ?The Journal of American History "Domhoff makes a convincing case that business leaders were more influential in the development of public policy during these decades than most other accounts would have it. VERDICT Whether or not they agree with him, historians and political scientists will need to reckon with the reach of Domhoff's argument, the depth of his research, and the controlled passion underlying both." ndash;Library Journal ""Domhoff reminds us in his latest masterpiece, The Myth of Liberal Ascendancy, the class war perpetrated by corporations and their owners against the rest of America predates the Reagan Era and, in fact runs all the way back to the New Deal and earlier." ndash;Jewish Currents ""No one who wants to claim understanding of the nature of American economic policy can ignore this work. Domhoff has meticulously scrutinized dozens of episodes over the last half century in the endless political battle to achieve a semblance of economic fairness and social justice. As the story unfolds, we see the ways that corporate power has profoundly restricted the capacity of government to promote equality of opportunity and economic security?even when some headway was being made. Those who think they know that story will find in this work a great deal of news and much to challenge their presuppositions." ?Richard Flacks, University of California, Santa Barbara ""Domhoff's exhaustive review of national policy-making from 1939 to the Great Recession inflicts major damage on studies that find periods of liberal ascendancy alternating with periods of conservative dominance. Students will find abundant evidence in his research." ?John F. Manley, Professor Emeritus of Political Science, Stanford University ""This is a beautifully written inquiry into how the United States moved so far to the political right in recent decades. Professor Domhoff provides a careful analysis of one of the most dramatic and important transitions of our times: the transformation from relative equality during most of the years immediately before and after World War II, to a world in which a well-organized and politically-engaged corporate community accelerated a movement to the right, starting in the 1970's. In addition to making an important contribution to understanding historic political shifts, this book also contributes to our understanding of patterns of inequality and the concentration of social and financial resources in the hands of a small portion of the population. The book is a must-read for sociologists, economists, political scientists, historians, and anyone who cares about inequality. ?Lisa A.

Keister, Duke University "In his most recent book, Domhoff debunks the view that the United States moved toward greater equality during the New Deal and that it wasn't until decades later that the power elite began its rise to power. Instead he convincingly demonstrates, contrary to the "fairy tale" of a liberal-labor ascendancy, that the large corporations have been well-organized and politically mobilized since the late 1930s and that the U.S. has experienced increasing corporate dominance ever since." ?Jill Quadagno, author of *One Nation, Uninsured : Why the U.S. Has No National Health Insurance*, Oxford University Press (2006) About the AuthorG. William Domhoff, Professor Emeritus at UC Santa Cruz, is the author of *Who Rules America?* (6th edition 2009) and *The New CEOs: Women, African American, Latino, and Asian American Leaders of Fortune 500 Companies* (2011).