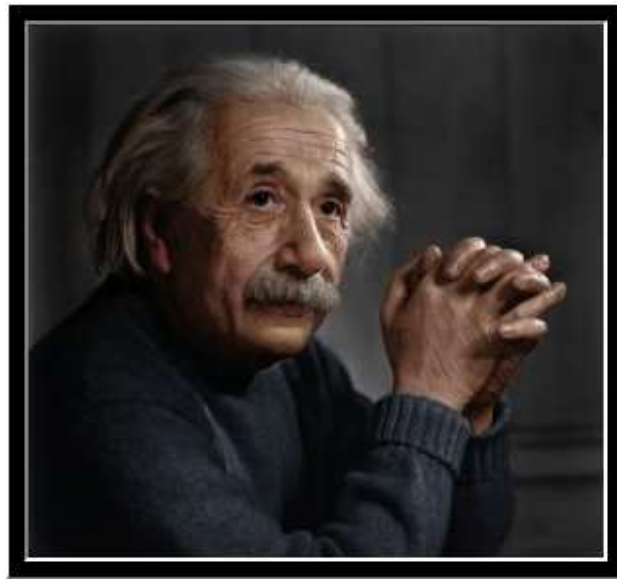


## **Separation of corporations and the state**

Summarized from Boyce Richardson, George Orwell, Albert Einstein, Howard Zinn  
Frank Zappa and Chris Hedges by KT888. All hail Dilbert!

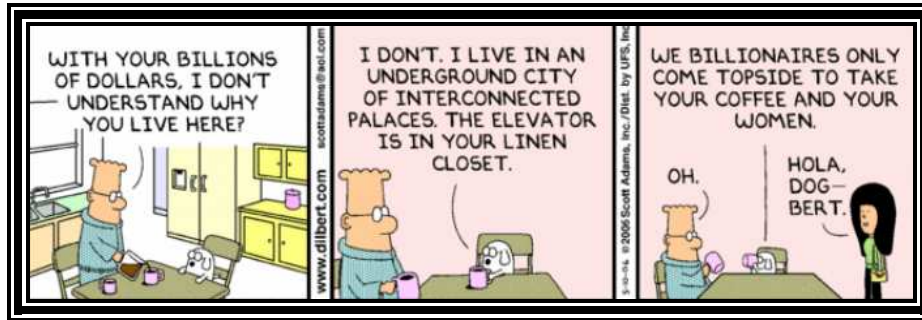


Private capital tends to become concentrated in few hands because of technological development and the increasing divisions of labor encourage the formation of larger units of production at the expense of smaller ones. The result is an oligarchy of private capital that is effectively unchecked by democratically organized political society because private capitalists inevitably control, directly or indirectly, the main sources of information.

It is thus extremely difficult, and indeed in most cases quite impossible, for the individual citizen to come to objective conclusions and to make intelligent use of his political rights.

Therefore the economic anarchy of capitalist society as it exists today is, in my opinion, the real source of evil today. We see a community of producers who are unceasingly striving to deprive us of the fruits our collective labour – not by force, but on the whole in faithful compliance with legally established rules. I am convinced there is only one way to eliminate these grave evils, namely through the establishment of a socialist economy, accompanied by an educational system which would be oriented toward social goals.

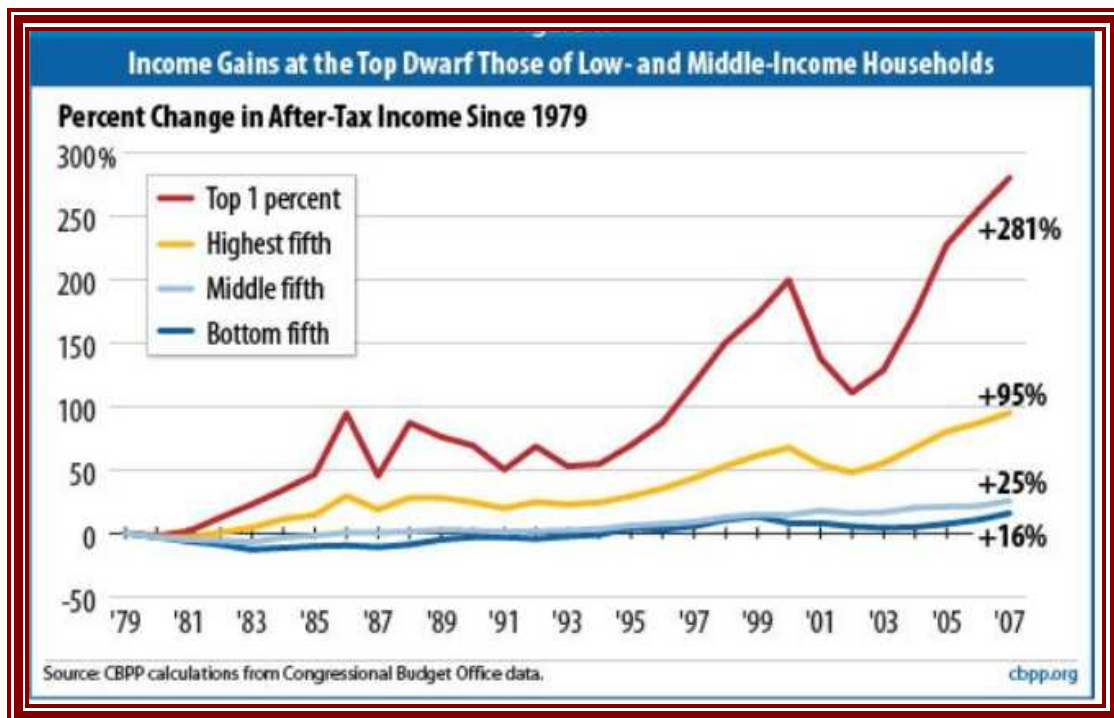
Albert Einstein, summarized from: Why Socialism? (1949)



## WHEN I WAS A BOY IT WAS NOT LIKE THIS

In 1928 before the great depression, the top 1% was taking in 23.9% of earnings. There was not enough income and wealth available in the economy to sustain prosperity. The Great Depression was the result.

In 1976 a clerk in a unionized grocery store (me) made \$13.80 / hour with a pension fund and benefits and the top 1% was taking in 8.9% of the economy. Forty years later the top 1% is taking in 22% and stores clerks are earning \$12.00 / hour without benefits or the benefit of pensions.





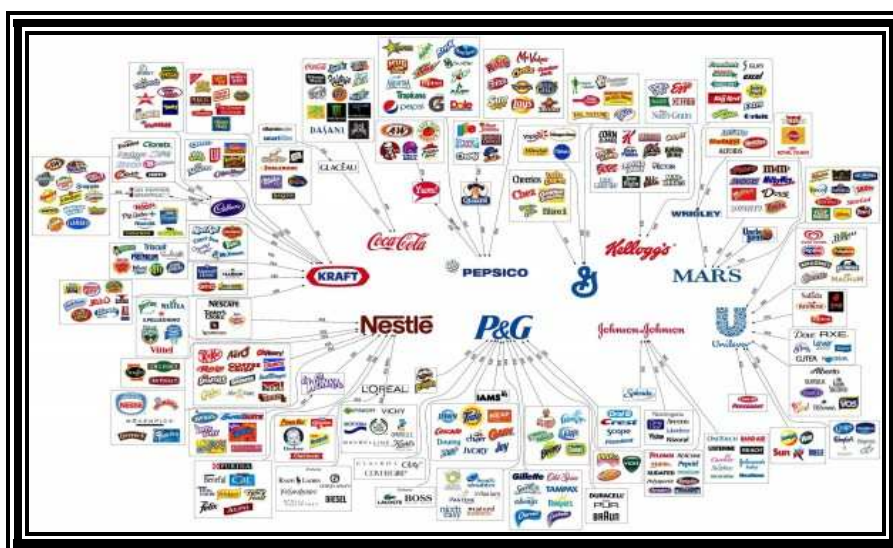
Corporations do not define capitalism. **Capitalism** is a system that allows owners to profit from the goods and services they provide. Capitalism present on a spectrum and if not tightly controlled denies its benefits to most.

Through a lack of control modern corporations have achieved a total dominance over our political and economic life and they are plunging us into a dysfunctional world of haves and have-nots, a world of rage, resentment and hopelessness, a world where we privatize profits and socializing risks.

Corporations have only 2 objectives and for this reason must be tightly controlled and separated from government

- 1: To maximize profits to shareholders;
- 2: To ensure their own continued growth.

In pursuit of these aims they are accountable to no one except their shareholders, with this single minded purpose they have taken over everything, and all of us. We have begun a collective journey back thru time, rather than learning from history we are going to repeat history – back to the days of unregulated capitalism and its inherent instability.





## THE DRIVE FOR EXPORTS

When markets consolidate and small, locally-owned firms give way to conglomerates profits soar and income disparity grows.

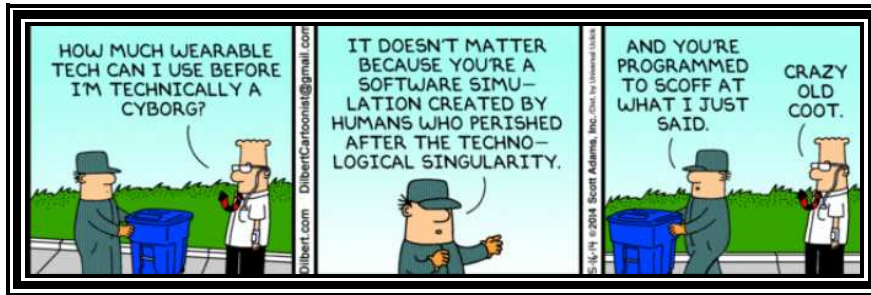
- Of the world's 100 richest economies, 51 are corporations.
- 300 **individual** billionaires own more than **6 billion** people combined.

The drive for exports and larger markets benefits corporations and impoverishes everyone else. Free trade agreements are little more than corporate charters of rights. When markets are completely consolidated competition disappears and the controlling corporation can shape the futures not only of communities, but whole financial systems. The story is stark: worker productivity higher, profits higher, wages down, employment down, corporate income taxes down. The process is so efficient that today ten mega-corporations control the output of almost everything you buy, from household products to designer clothing.

The result is that corporations enter and leave communities at will destroying local institutions, cultural traditions and decision-making; they decide;

- Who will be elected by controlling funding at elections
- What will be taught in schools and debated publicly, on TV or seen in theatres.
- When war will be waged and against whom
- Where our food and fibre is grown processed and marketed and how much toxic contamination will be present in our air and water.

Name your own decency: healthcare or education it is being thrown on to the scrapheap.



## COLONIZE THE MIND

Why have we allowed this to happen? Corporations have spent a huge fortune in carefully nurturing their image. They have become expert at what Edward Said calls "ideological pacification", the colonizing of the public mind or manufacturing consent.

Thus, the TINA syndrome (There is No Alternative) has become an unspoken assumption that informs virtually every issue. "The sheer power of corporate capital," says American writer Cornel West, "makes it difficult to even imagine what a free and democratic society would be like....." "To gain a hearing from the corporate-owned mass media you must pay homage to the gods of privatization, shrinking government and global competitiveness.

Political candidates who espouse an alternative are simply ignored. Protest when allowed is divided between groups that focus on gender, race, and the evils of big government and entitlements. Divide-and-rule has reached its apogee. The citizenry is under control.

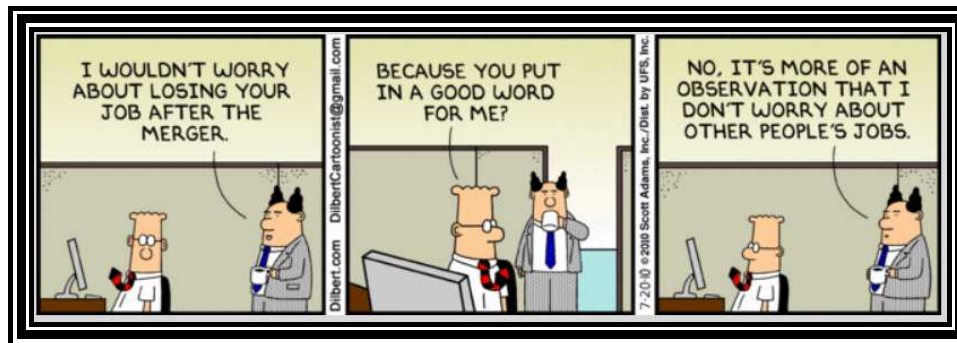
***The fact about censorship is that it is largely voluntary. Unpopular ideas are silenced without the need for any official ban because the press is owned by wealthy men who have every motive to be dishonest. Anyone who challenges prevailing orthodoxy finds himself silenced with surprising effectiveness. George Orwell's Preface to Animal Farm 1945***

Citizens are preoccupied adjusting to the painful changes forced by global restructuring and anger is easily redirected towards "special interests", unions, environmentalists, nurses, natives, anyone who raises a voice of protest. They are the ominous forces, powerful despite their lack of resources, unlike the altruistic owners of capital.

Policies like minimum wages, enforceable employment standards, collective bargaining, unemployment insurance, pensions, bus subsidies, student grants, marketing boards, environmental and health regulations have all been redefined in the contemporary language of corporatism as "entitlements" which have to be abandoned, in the name of competitiveness.

Economic expansion is occurring at the expense of the workers who are propelling it. The middle class systematically dismantled becomes demoralized rather than radicalized.







## A WORLD UNDER CORPORATE DOMINANCE

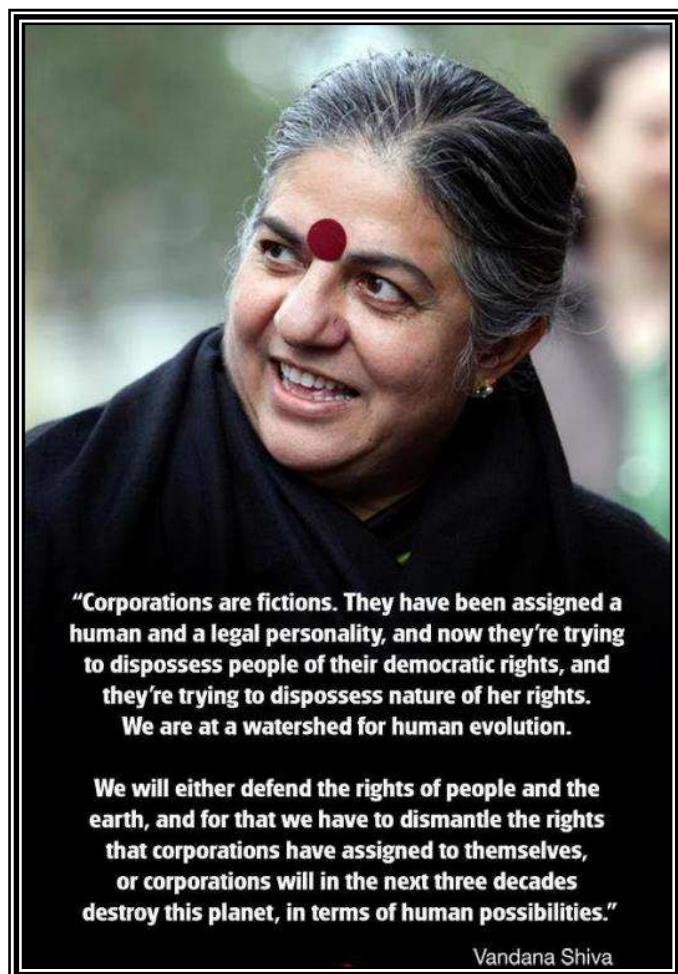
Corporations, unhindered by national barriers have increasingly relocated to wherever regulation is removed. Today they are free to hire rootless economic mercenaries from anywhere they can get them.

If a state maintains "a greedy collectivist and populist stance" the aristocracy will simply move on. We are in an age that belongs to the global corporation; the nation state irrelevant.

This nightmare is not even being driven by bad people, the corporate structure that is "an autonomous technical structure that behaves to its primary function: to give birth and impetus to profitable new technological forms, and to spread itself around the globe."

Corporations by their very nature are amoral; they can, without misgivings, make decisions that are antithetical to community goals. In fact, "non-emotionality" is the desired attitude required for "objective" corporate decision-making.

Of course, corporations seek to hide their amorality and try to act as if they were altruistic. They often advertise the very qualities they lack. All acts are in service to profit. All apparent altruism is measured against possible public relations benefit."

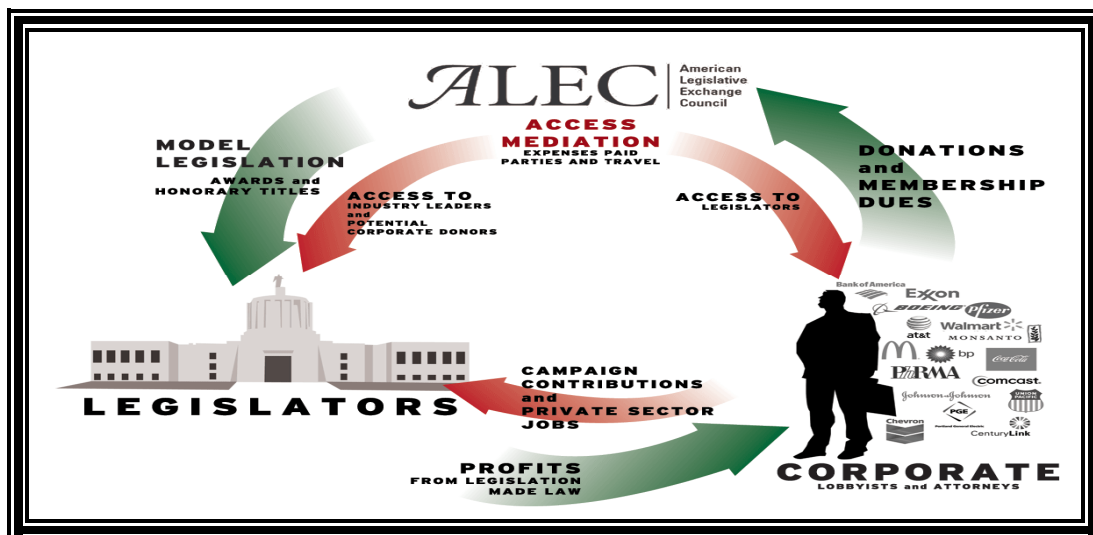




## THE CORPORATION: SUBLIMELY EFFICIENT

A key to the success of the corporation is given by Robert Monk, once a Reagan-employed economist, who wrote that corporations are like "a shark, no malevolence, no intentional harm, just a sublime efficiency without any capacity to factor in the consequences to others." People with this profile are called Psychopaths.

Corporations are not bothered by regulation, because their wealth and power enables them to take over the regulatory agencies. Under the watchful eye and generous funding of "think tanks" we are jettisoning environmental regulation for which generations have fought so bravely. This is how they work.



One would never guess from the media that they had any connection to the problems we face because they own the media; yet corporate crime is way ahead of street crime. In one year 24,000 street homicides occurred yet 56,000 people died on the job, killed by companies which know perfectly well what they are doing, but couldn't care less.





## **LIMITING THEIR POWERS**

Corporations get their authority from the State in the form of a charter, and it is in the legislatures that the **limits once placed on corporate behavior have been abandoned**.

The turning point was 1886, when a judge who was a shareholder in a corporation appearing before him declared corporations to be "persons". Sixty years later Supreme Court Justice W.O. Douglas said there was no history or reason to support the decision.

Corporations can be controlled thru their charters, granted by legislatures, under which corporations do business. Charters impose conditions to limit behavior. A strategic agenda to change this situation would pursue the following objectives:

- Prohibition from all lobbying to influence public policy.
- Prohibiting a corporation from buying or owning another corporation
- Organizing referenda to strip corporations of "personhood"
- Dismantling corporations that do not:
  - protect the rights of workers;
  - control toxic chemicals;
  - negotiate during strikes;
  - have caps on manager salaries;

Until a few decades ago, all of the suggested limitations on corporate powers were law in many States. Today 49 States have provisions under which corporate powers could be limited. Corporations once were required to have a clear purpose; corporate stockholders and managers were legally liable for corporate law violations; directors of corporations had to come from among shareholders; corporations had a limited life; they were prohibited from owning other corporations; they were also prohibited from making political contributions or charitable or civic donations.

In other words, there is nothing new about what is proposed. Over the years the corporations have managed to shake free from public control, and we need to re-impose conditions that were once considered necessary by those whose struggle was to a large extent against the unlimited power of the kings and corporations that ran everything in colonial and feudal times.



## THE PROSPECTS FOR A COHERENT MOVEMENT

The struggle was between capital and labour. Capital won. Universities once a source of free thought only occasionally offers glimmers of hope such as when the Victoria economics students denounced their curriculum as the handmaiden of global capitalism, but those outbursts of rebellion are few from those going into debt in the hope of being appointed to roles of corporate governance.


An effective popular movement would coalesce around the following plan:

1. Define and denounce corporate rule thru education.
2. Disrupt corporate rule through non-violent direct action.
3. Dismantle corporate rule thru the revoking of corporation charters.

the most powerful corporation becomes helpless when its workers stop working, when its customers refuse to buy its products.

The strike, the boycott, the refusal to serve, the ability to paralyze the functioning of a complex social structure, these remain potent weapons against the most fearsome state or corporate power.

- Howard Zinn



Attempts at system wide change will be met by power struggles and deception; examples abound in history. Movements compete for power, fight over doctrine, overreach and collapse. They fall victim to propaganda, they are infiltrated and harassed, and their leaders targeted for arrest and death. But we are in a time of decay and there is a fundamental truth once unleashed is very hard to silence.

Professor Sheldon Wolin, author of “Politics and Vision” and “Democracy Incorporated,” believes the systems of indoctrination and propaganda within the corporate state is so sophisticated and pervasive that activity must be focused on education. It is a task that’s arduous and dangerous in our present age.

To confront corporations is a daunting task. But as Howard Zinn wrote “No cold calculation of the balance of power need deter people whose cause is just.” It seems that nothing less is at stake than the quality of life that will be available to our descendants.

It is true that the materialistic society, the so-called culture that has evolved under the tender mercies of capitalism, has produced what seems to be the ultimate limit of this worldliness.

And nowhere, except perhaps in the analogous society of pagan Rome, has there ever been such a flowering of cheap and petty and disgusting lusts and vanities as in the world of capitalism, where there is no evil that is not fostered and encouraged for the sake of making money.

We live in a society whose whole policy is to excite every nerve in the human body and keep it at the highest pitch of artificial tension, to strain every human desire to the limit and to create as many new desires and synthetic passions as possible, in order to cater to them with the products of our factories and printing presses and movie studios and all the rest.

Thomas Merton, in *The Seven Storey Mountain* (1948)

Economic myth teaches that high inequality is the price of robust growth. Scientific research suggests the opposite: inequality damages economies.

In “The Darwin Economy,” Robert H. Frank of Cornell University cites a study showing that among 65 industrial nations, the more unequal ones experience slower growth on average. Likewise, individual countries grow more rapidly in periods when incomes are more equal, and slow down when incomes are skewed.



## WORKING FOR CHANGE

Chris Hedges



Popular Resistance,

<https://www.popularresistance.org/>

Fight for the Future,

<https://www.fightforthefuture.org/>

Backbone Campaign,

<http://www.backbonecampaign.org/>

Rising Tide North America,

<http://risingtidenorthamerica.org/>

United Workers, <http://unitedworkers.org/>

A daily news service







## How it works: Koch Industries

Koch Industries is the second largest privately held company in America with a healthy media influence particularly when it comes to sowing doubt about any issue that threatens their interests. Climate change denial is one of their major areas of involvement.

Koch Industries is the largest owner of the tar sands; holding leases on 1.1 million acres in northern Alberta. They are involved in mining bitumen, transportation, exploration and refining. One of Canada's largest crude oil exporters they are responsible for about 25 percent of oil sands crude imports into the United States.

The Koch's' influence over the climate debate and the conservative media is not obvious to the general public, it's not always apparent that the pundits we see on TV have a direct relationship to the company.

Planet Gore, along with National Review Online's (NRO) main blog, The Corner, regularly features guest posts by representatives funded by the Koch's money. Examples include Chris Horner and Ian Murray of the Competitive Enterprise Institute. NRO's blogs regularly work to undermine climate science.

Pat Michaels, a senior fellow at the libertarian Cato Institute, is another regular guest blogger. Cato has received \$13 million from Koch family foundations since 1998. (Michaels' refusal to disclose how much money he's taken from fossil fuel interests has drawn scrutiny—most recently when a senior House Democrat raised questions about whether he lied on his resume about his funding from energy interests.)

The various Koch Foundations donate millions to universities, think tanks, and public policy shops to shape public opinion in the mold of their libertarian philosophy.

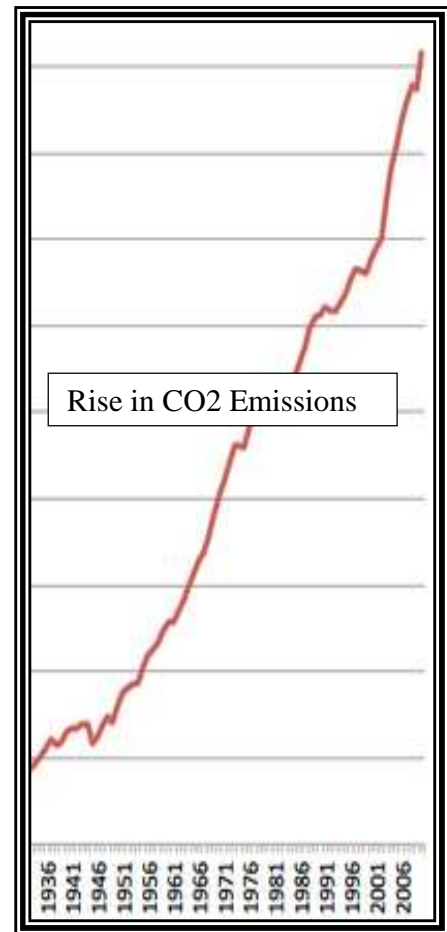


**Partial listing of the Kock brothers spending to influence public opinion.**

Cato Institute: \$3,785,750  
 Institute for Humane Studies: \$15,613,336  
 60 Plus Association: \$53,880,446  
 American Commitment: \$12,899,544  
 Center to Protect Patient Rights (American Encore): \$118,667,000  
 American Energy Alliance: \$2,614,960  
 American Future Fund: \$76,822,409  
 American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC): \$1,019,958  
 American Values Action: \$230,000  
 Americans for Job Security: \$4,945,000  
 Americans for Limited Government: \$7,160,000  
 Americans for Prosperity: \$60,470,808  
 Americans for Responsible Leadership: \$25,552,800  
 Americans for Tax Reform: \$5,502,000  
 Americans United for Life Action: \$624,000  
 Center for Shared Services: \$8,500,387  
 Citizen Awareness Project: \$1,000,000  
 Citizen Link: \$8,980,218  
 Club for Growth: \$1,365,000  
 Common Sense Issues: \$160,000  
 Concerned Women for America: \$11,401,573  
 Donors Trust: \$8,890,000  
 EvangChr4 Trust: \$6,135,000  
 Foundation for Individual Rights in Education: \$1,430,561  
 Free Enterprise America: \$3,627,500  
 Freedom Partners  
 Freedom Partners Action Fund: \$4,000,000  
 Generation Opportunity: \$14,699,211  
 Hispanic Leadership Fund: \$692,000  
 National Association of Manufacturers: \$3,670,000  
 National Federation of Independent Business: \$2,710,783  
 National Rifle Association: \$6,615,000  
 National Right to Work Committee: \$1,000,000  
 Philanthropy Roundtable: \$338,945  
 Public Notice: \$17,466,943  
 Republican Jewish Coalition: \$700,000  
 Revere America: \$2,300,000  
 RightChange.com: \$850,000  
 Susan B Anthony List: \$1,560,000  
 TC4 Trust  
 Tea Party Patriots: \$230,000  
 The Libre Initiative Trust: \$3,957,366  
 Themis Trust: \$24,831,000  
 US Chamber of Commerce: \$3,000,000  
 West Michigan Policy Forum: \$1,250,000



Brookings Institution: \$2,389,400  
 Mercatus Center: \$9,185,500  
 Pacific Research Institute: \$1,167,000  
 Reason Foundation: \$1,026,058  
 Tax Foundation: \$727,100  
 The Federalist Society: \$2,563,335  
 The Heritage Foundation: \$6,140,791  
 The Manhattan Institute for Policy Research: \$2,175,000  
 Washington Legal Foundation: \$1,605,000  
 Arizona State University: \$1,129,000  
 Auburn University: \$300,000  
 Beloit College: \$173,000  
 Bill of Rights Institute: \$4,353,694  
 Brown University: \$450,632  
 Catholic University of America: \$1,000,000  
 Charles Koch Institute: \$2,800,000  
 Clemson University: \$1,107,516  
 College of Charleston: \$158,552  
 Deerfield Academy: \$68,106,000  
 Duquesne University: \$102,000  
 Emporia State University: \$750,000  
 Florida Gulf Coast University: \$404,896  
 Florida State University: \$1,591,155  
 George Mason University: \$38,970,642  
 George Washington University: \$221,620  
 Grove City College: \$655,149  
 Hampden-Sydney College: \$164,600  
 Harvard University: \$142,500  
 Hillsdale College: \$144,423  
 Kansas State University: \$1,081,368  
 Loyola University of New Orleans: \$162,000  
 Massachusetts Institute of Technology: \$395,480  
 New York University: \$213,500  
 Northwestern State University: \$250,000  
 Northwestern University: \$201,154  
 Ohio State University: \$112,000  
 Pembroke Hill School: \$100,000  
 Rockefeller University: \$650,000  
 San Jose State University: \$188,400  
 Southern Methodist University: \$1,000,000  
 Suffolk University: \$730,117  
 Troy University: \$1,474,500  
 United Negro College Fund: \$25,000,000  
 University of Kansas: \$298,500  
 University of Missouri: \$107,000  
 University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill: \$229,300  
 University of Texas: \$143,675  
 Utah State University Foundation: \$604,351  
 West Virginia University: \$1,043,500  
 Wichita State University: \$6,000,000  
 Youth Entrepreneurs: \$4,575,260  
 Allen-Lambe House Foundation: \$1,498,896  
 American Ballet Theater: \$1,000,000  
 Lincoln Center: \$100,000,000  
 American Museum of Natural History: \$20,000,000  
 Ballet Theatre Foundation Inc.: \$2,500,000  
 Johns Hopkins University: \$20,000,000  
 Koch Cultural Trust: \$1,170,860  
 Koch Wetlands Exhibit: \$500,000  
 M.D. Anderson Cancer Center: \$26,500,000  
 Massachusetts Institute of Technology: \$170,000,000  
 Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center: \$67,000,000



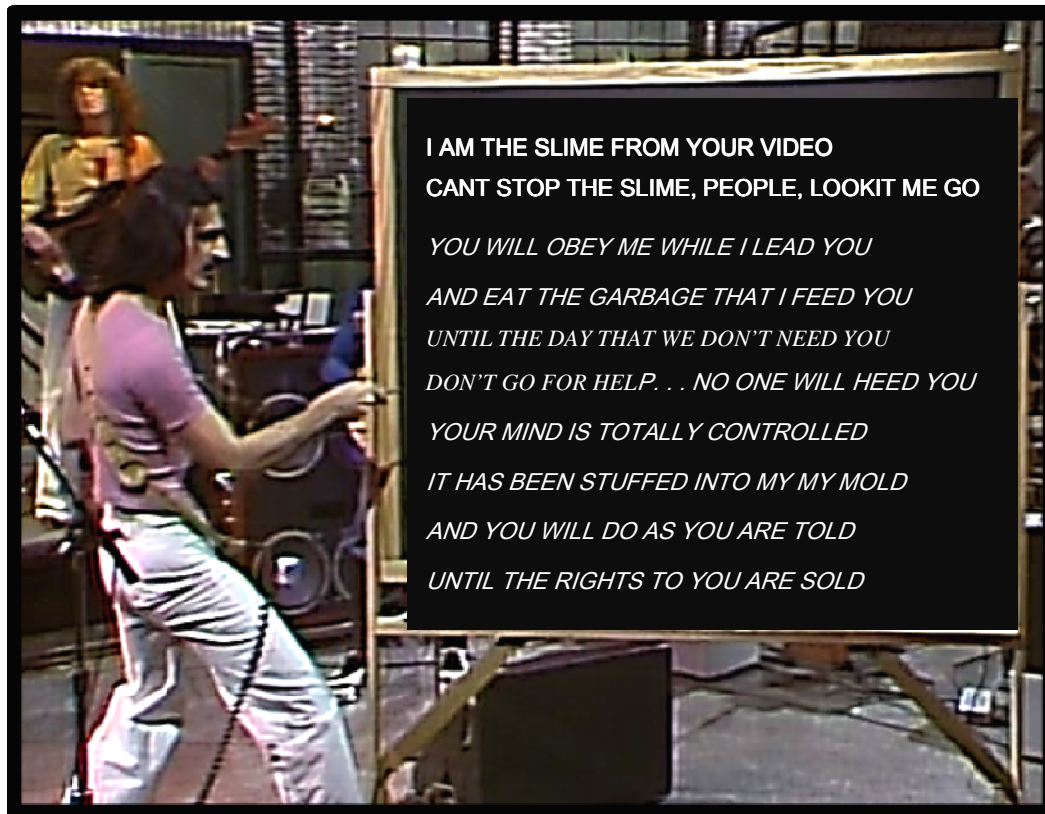
Mount Sinai Medical Center: \$10,000,000  
New York-Presbyterian Hospital: \$128,000,000  
PBS: \$23,000,000  
Prostate Cancer Foundation: \$2,300,000  
Smithsonian's Museum of Natural History: \$50,000,000  
The Hospital for Special Surgery: \$26,200,000  
The Metropolitan Museum of Art: \$65,000,000  
The Nature Conservancy: \$1,373,334  
Wichita Center for the Arts: \$298,700

**A criminal is a  
person with  
predatory instincts  
without sufficient  
capital to form a  
corporation.  
—Clarence Darrow**





## Frank Zappa; a freak from the 70's who had it figured out



If you cannot get your head around the idea that an economic system has to be just because it's the right thing to do, then you may be able to understand that in every language, the first word after "Mama!" is "Mine!"

A system that doesn't allow ownership for the majority, that concentrates rather than distributes wealth, that doesn't allow you to say "Mine!" when you grow up, has -- to put it mildly -- a fatal design flaw.

The thing is you can screw people for about three generations until they overcome the indoctrination, manipulation and censorship and then people finally figure it out, and if they have nothing they have a tendency to initiate counterrevolution.

Frank Zappa Summer of 76



The biggest threat to America today is .... moving America toward a fascist theocracy, and everything is steering us right down that pipe ... I really think that. ... When you have a government that prefers a certain moral code derived from a certain religion and that moral code turns into legislation to suit one certain religious point of view, and if that code happens to be very, very right wing, almost toward Attila the Hun... Frank Zappa on Crossfire debate on censorship (1986) Appearance on Crossfire, CNN (1986) - YouTube video

It's time for a revolution, but probably not in the terms that people imagine it. The word seems to conjure up images of— sort of a modern day version of peasants going into the street with their pitch forks to go after the bad guy who lives in a big house someplace on a hill and we're gonna get that son-of-a-bitch and we'll take all the stuff away from him and we'll give it to the workers, you know. And that's not the kind of revolution I had in mind. ... I thought that it might be nice if it was handled a little bit more modern and efficient way, without people getting slaughtered in the street. It's a matter of infiltration.

As quoted in Frank Zappa, a VPRO documentary, directed by Roelof Kiers, Aired February 11, 1971;