



Learn More About...

Corporate Accountability

An Annotated Bibliography

Click [HERE](#) for more resources on the various interrelated issues affecting corporate accountability.

Web Links

Center for Corporate Policy <<http://www.corporatepolicy.org/index.htm>>

The Center for Corporate Policy is a non-profit, non-partisan public interest organization working to curb corporate abuses and make corporations publicly accountable.

Ceres <<http://www.ceres.org/>>

Ceres works with investors, environmental groups, and corporations to address the threat of global climate change through stockholder actions that influence corporate and public policies.

Co-op America <<http://www.coopamerica.org>>

Co-op America was founded to harness economic power—the strength of consumers, investors, businesses, and the marketplace—to create a socially just and environmentally sustainable society. The organization focuses on economic strategies to solve social and environmental problems and mobilizes people to take personal and collective action in their economic roles. Another priority is worker justice.

Corporate Accountability International <<http://www.stopcorporateabuse.org/>>

Corporate Accountability International is a membership organization that protects people by waging and winning campaigns that challenge irresponsible and dangerous corporate actions around the world. Corporate Accountability International has scored major victories that protect people and save lives by forcing corporations to stop abusive practices.

Dollars and Sense <<http://www.dollarsandsense.org/>>

Dollars and Sense prints articles by journalists, activists, and scholars on a broad range of topics with an economic theme: the economy, housing, labor, government regulation, unemployment, the environment, urban conflict, and activism.

Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR) <<http://www.iccr.org/>>

ICCR is a thirty-year-old international coalition of 275 faith-based institutional investors including denominations, religious communities, pension funds, healthcare corporations, foundations and dioceses with combined portfolios worth an estimated \$100 billion. ICCR members utilize religious investments and other resources to change unjust or harmful corporate policies, working for peace, economic justice and stewardship of the Earth.

Public Citizen <www.citizen.org>

Public Citizen is a national, nonprofit consumer advocacy organization founded in 1971 to represent consumer interests in Congress, the executive branch and the courts.

Responsible Shopper <<http://www.greenamericatoday.org/programs/responsibleshopper/>>

Responsible Shopper provides global research and campaign information about the impact of major corporations on human rights, social justice, environmental sustainability and more. They draw on information from conventional media as well as reports and campaign briefs from a host of nongovernmental organizations around

the world. Responsible Shopper aims to alert consumers, investors, and concerned communities to problems with companies that they may shop with or invest in.

Books

Joel Bakan, *The Corporation: The Pathological Pursuit of Profit and Power* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 2004).

The author argues that the corporation's legally defined mandate to pursue its self-interest victimizes individuals and society. Governments have abdicated much of their control over the corporation through deregulation and privatization, he says. To remedy the situation, he advocates improving the regulatory system, strengthening political democracy, and creating a robust public sphere. Bakan believes that corporate rule must be challenged to bring balance and revive the values of democracy, social justice, equality, and compassion.

David Bollier, *Silent Theft: The Private Plunder of Our Common Wealth* (New York: Routledge, 2003).

David Bollier argues that a great untold story of our time is the staggering privatization and abuse of our common wealth. Corporations are engaged in a relentless plunder of dozens of resources that we collectively own—publicly funded medical breakthroughs, software innovation, the airwaves, the public domain of creative works, and even the DNA of plants, animals and humans. Too often, however, our government turns a blind eye—or sometimes helps give away our assets. *Silent Theft* outlines an ambitious new project to reclaim our common wealth.

Peter Camejo, Ed., *The SRI Advantage: Why Socially Responsible Investing Has Outperformed Financially* (Gabriola Island, BC: New Society Publishers, 2002).

Socially responsible investing (SRI) usually describes investments that screen out companies that violate environmental or other laws, use child labor or sweatshops, discriminate in hiring, produce products detrimental to society or engage in practices deemed reprehensible by most people. Although many people want to invest in socially responsible ways, until recently most investors believed that they had to give up some measure of performance to do so. *The SRI Advantage* presents overwhelming evidence that SRI has outperformed financially, explains why, and examines the implications for investment professionals, investors, pension funds, and community/nonprofit groups.

Amy Domini, *Socially Responsible Investing: Making a Difference and Making Money* (Chicago: Kaplan Publishing, 2001).

The way you invest can contribute not only to your bottom line but also to a just and fair society. In this book, the movement's pioneer and the name behind the Domini 400 Social Index—Amy Domini—shows you how. Domini's methods include how to select stocks based on social and ethical considerations; how to use your power as a shareholder to communicate with companies; how to convince companies to make positive social changes from environmental practices to human rights; and how to invest in your community and make a difference locally.

Stuart L. Hart, *Capitalism at the Crossroads: The Unlimited Business Opportunities in Solving the World's Most Difficult Problems* (Upper Saddle River, NJ: Wharton School Publishing, 2005).

Global capitalism stands at a crossroads—facing international terrorism, worldwide environmental change, and an accelerating backlash against globalization. Today's global companies are at a crossroads, too: finding new strategies for profitable growth has never been more challenging. Both sets of problems are intimately linked, says Stuart L. Hart—and so are the solutions.

Naomi Klein, *No Logo: Taking Aim at the Brand Bullies* (New York: Picador, 1999).

As global corporations compete for the loyal hearts, minds, and bodies of consumers who not only buy their products but willingly advertise them from head to toe, from school books to sporting arenas, a new generation is beginning to fight consumerism with its own best weapons. At once infuriating, provocative, and inspiring, *No Logo* uncovers the insidious practices and effects of corporate marketing – and the powerful potential of a growing activist movement that is changing the face of the twenty-first century.

Articles/Papers

“2003 Report on Socially Responsible Investing Trends in the United States,” *Social Investment Forum Industry Research Program*, December 2003, <<http://www.socialinvest.org/resources/research/documents/2003TrendsReport.pdf>>

This Report by Social Investment Forum notes the impressive growth of socially responsible investments, measuring total assets, share percentage of dollars under professional management, and growth rate, as well as increase in shareholder advocacy activity and community investing.

“A New Tool for Environmental Protection and Justice,” *Rachel’s Democracy and Health News*, Aug. 8, 2003.

<http://jades.socioeco.org/en/documents/pdf/newtool_en.pdf>

This issue of the newsletter argues that the role of large corporations as fiduciary to investors has encouraged corporate actions and policies that harm workers and the environment and create disproportionate environmental impacts on people of color and on low-income communities.

“Socially Responsible Investment Guidelines: Principles for USCCB Investments,” *The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops*, 12 November 2003, <<http://www.nccbuscc.org/finance/srig.shtml>>

The bishops outline several strategies to exercise responsible financial stewardship over their economic resources and ethical and social stewardship in their investment policy.

Miguel Bustillo, “U.S.: A Shift to Green,” *Los Angeles Times*, 12 June 2005, <<http://corpwatch.org/article.php?id=12391>>

The author credits General Electric Co., Duke Energy Corp., JP Morgan Chase & Co., DuPont Co., United Technologies Corp., Baxter International Inc. and Cinergy as those among American corporations that are increasingly calling for action on global warming, sensing a business opportunity in cutting greenhouse gases while hoping to shape regulations they believe are inevitable.

Lakshmi Chaudhry, “The Great American Job Scam,” *AlterNet*, 27 July 2005, <<http://www.alternet.org/story/23607/>>

Online interview with Greg LeRoy, author of *The Great American Job Scam: Corporate Tax Dodging and the Myth of Job Creation*, covering fraudulent corporate tax breaks, the power relationship between corporations and politicians and the critical need for civic self-esteem.

Don S. Doering et. Al., “Tomorrow’s Markets: Global Trends and Their Implications for Business,” 2002,

<http://pdf.wri.org/tm_tomorrows_markets.pdf>

Business leaders have a tendency to see “social” concerns as having little relevance to competition in the marketplace. Instead, these fall under the headings of corporate citizenship or corporate philanthropy, or are left to managers to address as matters of individual conscience. It is becoming more and more apparent that treating broader social issues and corporate strategy as separate has been unwise, leading to missed opportunities and bad competitive choices. Social activists, not just companies, have a major stake in the openness and fairness of the international trading system. This resource can help both corporate and social sectors to adopt new ways of approaching these issues.

Jeffrey Kaplan, “Consent of the Governed,” *Orion Magazine*, 10 March 2003,

<<http://www.orionmagazine.org/index.php/articles/article/132/>>

This article provides a thoughtful analysis of the waning of autonomy of state and local governments as corporations grow larger and gain more extensive rights under the U.S. Constitution.

L. Hunter Lovins and Walter Link, “Pension Funds: Key to Capitalizing Natural Capitalism,” 2002,

<http://www.natcapsolutions.org/publications_files/Pension_Funds.pdf>

The authors explain that U.S. pension funds represent, directly and indirectly, 46% of American GDP, and 33% of market capitalization of the U.S. Stock Exchange. Pension fund members are typically people who tend to have strong social or environmental values, they say, and companies must feel that investors will reward them if they engage in more socially and environmentally responsible behavior.

Peter Montague, “The World is New, Part 2,” *Rachel’s Democracy & Health News*, 3 November, 2006,

<http://www.precaution.org/lib/06/prn_prevention.061123.htm>

In the past 50 years, corporations have grown almost unimaginably influential. Originally invented as a way for entrepreneurs to raise capital from strangers, publicly-traded corporations have proven to be extraordinarily

successful and they have grown steadily, year by year. In many cases, growing bigger has become their main purpose.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, "Economic Justice for All: Pastoral Letter on Catholic Social Teaching and the U.S. Economy," *Archdiocese of St. Paul/Minneapolis Office for Social Justice*, 1986, <<http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/international/EconomicJusticeforAll.pdf>>

"Our faith calls us to measure this economy, not by what it produces but also by how it touches human life and whether it protects or undermines the dignity of the human person. Economic decisions have human consequences and moral content; they help or hurt people, strengthen or weaken family life, advance or diminish the quality of justice in our land."

Periodicals/Newsletters

"Corporate Accountability in Action" (Newsletter of Corporate Accountability International) <<http://salsa.democracyinaction.org/o/2215/t/8036/signUp.jsp?key=3730>>

The Corporate Examiner (Publication of ICCR) <<http://www.iccr.org/publications/corpexaminer.php>>

The Green Money Journal, <<http://www.greenmoneyjournal.com/>>

The Multinational Monitor <<http://multinationalmonitor.org/>>

Audio/Visual/Interactive Resources

The Corporation. Prod. Big Picture Media Corporation, 2005 <<http://www.thecorporation.com/>>

In the 19th-century, courts changed the definition of corporations from get-the-job-done mechanisms to persons under the 14th Amendment with full civil rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. *The Corporation* performs a running psychoanalysis of the corporation with the characteristics of a prototypical psychopath: a callous unconcern for the feelings and safety of others, the lack of capacity to experience guilt, an ingrained habit of lying for profit, etc. The film portrays the unpredicted application of patent law through an endlessly receding tracking shot in an infinite patents archive. 145 minutes.

The Bottom Line: Privatizing the World. Prod. ISCA, 2004

This provocative documentary investigates the privatization of the world and invites viewers to reflect on the notion of the "common good." Through various stories recorded in Canada, the U.S., Mexico, France, Brazil and India, this documentary discusses the world's compliance to private interests: a Canadian farmer is sued by Monsanto because patented seeds brought by the wind are growing in his fields; traditional knowledge is being patented in India; American people without insurance are denied healthcare; and businessmen want to sell Canadian water to the highest bidder despite the desperate need for water for thousands of people in the world. The film offers a revealing snapshot of a global community at a crossroads.

Paul Hawken, "Natural Capitalism to Distract the Ruling Elites from a Green Coup d'Etat," 30-minute plenary presentation at the 1999 Bioneers Conference.

Paul Hawken describes our current challenge as the need to change the value system of network society to make it compatible with the sustainable network.

Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility Podcast <<http://podcast.iccr.org/>>

To celebrate the 40th anniversary of its 1971 founding, the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility is telling its story. This year-long series of monthly podcasts shares the voices of the ICCR members who made history by pioneering the practice of shareholder activism.

Thomas Linzey, "Corporations versus Democracy," 30-minute plenary presentation at the 2004 Bioneers Conference.

Thomas Linzey shows how a corporate rights elimination ordinance strips corporations of constitutional protections designed for human beings as he discusses the most unlikely revolt against corporate agribusiness in rural Pennsylvania in 1998.