



# Unequal Protection: The Rise of Corporate Dominance and the Theft of Human Rights

By Thom Hartmann

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Unequal taxes, unequal accountability for crime, unequal influence, unequal privacy, and unequal access to natural resources and our commons-- these inequalities and more are the effects of corporations winning the rights of persons while simultaneously being given the legal protections to avoid the responsibilities that come with these rights. Hartmann tells the intriguing story of how it got this way-- from the colonists' rebellion against the commercial interests of the British elite to the distorted application of the Fourteenth Amendment-- and how to get back to a government of, by, and for the people.

From *Unequal Protection*:

"...over the past two centuries, those playing the corporate game at the very highest levels seem to have won a victory for themselves-- a victory that is turning bitter in the mouths of many of the six billion humans on planet Earth. It's even turning bitter in unexpected ways for those who won it, as they find their own lives and families touched by an increasingly toxic environment, fragile and top-heavy economy, and hollow culture-- all traceable back to the frenetic systems of big business that resulted from the doctrine that corporations are persons."

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## Unequal Protection: The Rise of Corporate Dominance and the Theft of Human Rights By Thom Hartmann Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1408686 in Books
- Published on: 2002-10-04
- Released on: 2002-10-04
- Ingredients: Example Ingredients
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 10.64" h x 1.19" w x 5.58" l,
- Binding: Hardcover
- 320 pages



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### Editorial Review

#### Review

“Beneath the success and rise of American enterprise is an untold history that is antithetical to every value Americans hold dear. This is a seminal work, a godsend really, a clear message to every citizen about the need to reform our country, laws, and companies.” ?*Paul Hawken, author of Natural Capitalism and The Ecology of Commerce*

“*Unequal Protection* should be in the hands of every thinking American. If we do not awaken soon, democracy will be replaced by a new 'Third Reich' of corporate tyranny. To be aware of the danger is the responsibility of each of us. No one has told us the truth better than Thom Hartmann. Read it!” ?*Gerry Spence, author of Give Me Liberty!*

“Hartmann combines a remarkable piece of historical research with a brilliant literary style to tell the grand story of corporate corruption and its consequences for society with the force and readability of a great novel. I intended to take a first glance and then couldn't put it down.” ?*David C. Korten, author of When Corporations Rule The World*

#### From the Publisher

“If you wonder why the corporate world constantly lurches from malaise to oppression to governmental corruption and back, *Unequal Protection* reveals the untold story. Beneath the success and rise of American enterprise is an untold history that is antithetical to every value Americans hold dear. This is a seminal work, a godsend really, a clear message to every citizen about the need to reform our country, laws, and companies.”

--Paul Hawken, author, *Natural Capitalism*

“I am grateful for this gift. It should be in the hands of every thinking American. If we do not awaken soon, democracy will be replaced by a new 'Third Reich' of corporate tyranny. To be aware of the danger is the responsibility of each of us. No one has told us the truth better than Thom Hartmann. Read it!”

--Gerry Spence, author, *Give Me Liberty!*

“This extraordinary book combines meticulous historical and legal research with a clear and compelling writing style to demonstrate beyond reasonable doubt the incompatibility of corporate personhood with democracy, the market economy, and the well-being of society. Complete with a practical program for essential reform to restore the rights of real persons - including model legislation - it is essential reading and an invaluable reference work for every citizen who cares about democracy, justice, and the human future.”

--David C. Korten, author, *When Corporations Rule The World*

“*Unequal Protection* is a blueprint for revitalizing the spirit of American democracy. Sometimes you have to understand the bad news in order to appreciate the good news. Thom Hartmann connects the dots in a way that is a tremendous gift for our generation of Americans.”

--Marianne Williamson, author, *Healing the Soul of America*

“Essential reading for anyone concerned about the future of democracy, both here and abroad. With devastating precision and well-reasoned passion, Thom Hartmann shows the reader precisely how the

corporate entity gained such a perilously dominant role in the life of a nation whose founders meant for its politics to respond to the concerns of people and communities, not return-seeking corporations."

--Jeff Gates, president, Shared Capitalism Institute, author, *Democracy At Risk*

"We thought it was only in science fiction that things created by humans could actually take over what is inherently our human heritage. But Thom Hartmann shows how we've already let that happen on a frightening scale - not in Frankenstein's monsters or Kubrick's creeping computer Hal - but in the corporations that present their friendly 'faces' to us as if we have nothing to fear from this ultimate usurpation of our rights as real humans."

--Ed Ayres, Senior Editor at Worldwatch and author, *God's Last Offer*

"For years, Thom Hartmann has been asking the important questions and inspiring people to act on their solutions. Now he tackles one of the hardest - how democracy in America and worldwide has been eroded by unaccountable corporate power. He looks at the structures that encourage destructive behaviour and offers alternatives. Fascinating history told engagingly. We need books like this to find a way forward."

--Paul Loeb, author, *Soul of a Citizen*

"Hartmann goes where no person has gone before - towards uncovering the true history of how corporations and the wealthy people behind them transformed our law and culture to usurp democracy. This book is an inspiration to all groups and communities and explains why we must rethink our engagement in single issue struggles and move towards the assertion of direct, democratic control over corporations."

--Thomas Linzey, Esq., Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund

"Many consider Abraham Lincoln's famous Gettysburg Address to be the penultimate statement of our nation's spiritual mission. It's climactic words resolve that 'government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth.' But we are today allowing a rise of corporate dominance that is producing a 'government of the corporation, by the corporation, and for the corporation.' Our government has lost track of its mandate to serve the public interest and seems increasingly to do the bidding of corporate interests. The consequences - for human rights, social justice, public health, and the environment - are catastrophic. How has this come to pass? And most critically, is there anything we can do about it? *Unequal Protection* is nothing less than an act of compelling and heroic sanity. It is THE book to read if you want to perceive corporate dominance clearly, become more able to stand in its way, and more able to uphold the true values of this nation."

--John Robbins, author *The Food Revolution*, and *Diet For A New America*

From the Inside Flap

### ***Unequal Protection***

*The Rise of Corporate Dominance and the Theft of Human Rights*

Was the Boston Tea Party the first WTO-style protest against transnational corporations? Did the Supreme Court sell out America's citizens in the nineteenth century, with consequences lasting to this day? Is there a way for American citizens to recover democracy of, by, and for the people?

Thom Hartmann takes on these most difficult questions and tells a startling story that will forever change your understanding of American history. He begins by uncovering an original eyewitness account of the Boston Tea Party and demonstrates that it was provoked not by "taxation without representation" as is commonly suggested but by the specific actions of the East India Company, which represented the commercial interests of the British elite.

Hartmann then describes the history of the Fourteenth Amendment-- created at the end of the Civil War to grant basic rights to freed slaves-- and how it has been used by lawyers representing corporate interests to extend additional rights to businesses far more frequently than to freed slaves. Prior to 1886, corporations were referred to in U. S. law as "artificial persons." But in 1886, after a series of cases brought by lawyers representing the expanding railroad interests, the Supreme Court ruled that corporations were "persons" and entitled to the same rights granted to people under the Bill of Rights. Since this ruling, America has lost the legal structures that allowed for people to control corporate behavior.

As a result, the largest transnational corporations fill a role today that has historically been filled by kings. They control most of the world's wealth and exert power over the lives of most of the world's citizens. Their CEOs are unapproachable and live lives of nearly unimaginable wealth and luxury. They've become the rudder that steers the ship of much human experience, and they're steering it by their prime value-- growth and profit at any expense-- a value that has become destructive for life on Earth. This new feudalism was not what our Founders-- Federalists and Democratic Republicans alike-- envisioned for America.

It's time for "we, the people" to take back our lives. Hartmann proposes specific legal remedies that could truly save the world from political, economic, and ecological disaster.

## **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Thom Hartmann is an award-winning author of more than a dozen books, an international relief worker and psychotherapist, a former business and marketing consultant, and the founder and former CEO of seven corporations that have generated over a quarter-billion dollars in revenue. The father of three grown children, he lives in central Vermont with his wife, Louise.

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Barry Houde:**

The book *Unequal Protection: The Rise of Corporate Dominance and the Theft of Human Rights* gives you the sense of being enjoy for your spare time. You should use to make your capable a lot more increase. Book can to become your best friend when you getting anxiety or having big problem together with your subject. If you can make reading a book *Unequal Protection: The Rise of Corporate Dominance and the Theft of Human Rights* for being your habit, you can get more advantages, like add your capable, increase your knowledge about several or all subjects. It is possible to know everything if you like start and read a e-book *Unequal Protection: The Rise of Corporate Dominance and the Theft of Human Rights*. Kinds of book are several. It means that, science guide or encyclopedia or other individuals. So , how do you think about this book?

#### **Maryann Goldberg:**

Precisely why? Because this *Unequal Protection: The Rise of Corporate Dominance and the Theft of Human Rights* is an unordinary book that the inside of the reserve waiting for you to snap it but latter it will surprise you with the secret this inside. Reading this book adjacent to it was fantastic author who all write the book in such incredible way makes the content inside easier to understand, entertaining means but still convey the meaning fully. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this anymore or you going to regret it. This

excellent book will give you a lot of advantages than the other book get such as help improving your talent and your critical thinking way. So , still want to delay having that book? If I have been you I will go to the publication store hurriedly.

**Ricardo Bishop:**

Do you really one of the book lovers? If so, do you ever feeling doubt when you are in the book store? Make an effort to pick one book that you find out the inside because don't determine book by its deal with may doesn't work at this point is difficult job because you are scared that the inside maybe not while fantastic as in the outside look likes. Maybe you answer can be *Unequal Protection: The Rise of Corporate Dominance and the Theft of Human Rights* why because the great cover that make you consider regarding the content will not disappoint a person. The inside or content is actually fantastic as the outside or cover. Your reading 6th sense will directly show you to pick up this book.

**Alex Miller:**

Reading a book to be new life style in this season; every people loves to study a book. When you study a book you can get a great deal of benefit. When you read textbooks, you can improve your knowledge, mainly because book has a lot of information onto it. The information that you will get depend on what kinds of book that you have read. If you wish to get information about your study, you can read education books, but if you act like you want to entertain yourself you can read a fiction books, this kind of us novel, comics, and also soon. The *Unequal Protection: The Rise of Corporate Dominance and the Theft of Human Rights* provide you with new experience in looking at a book.

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