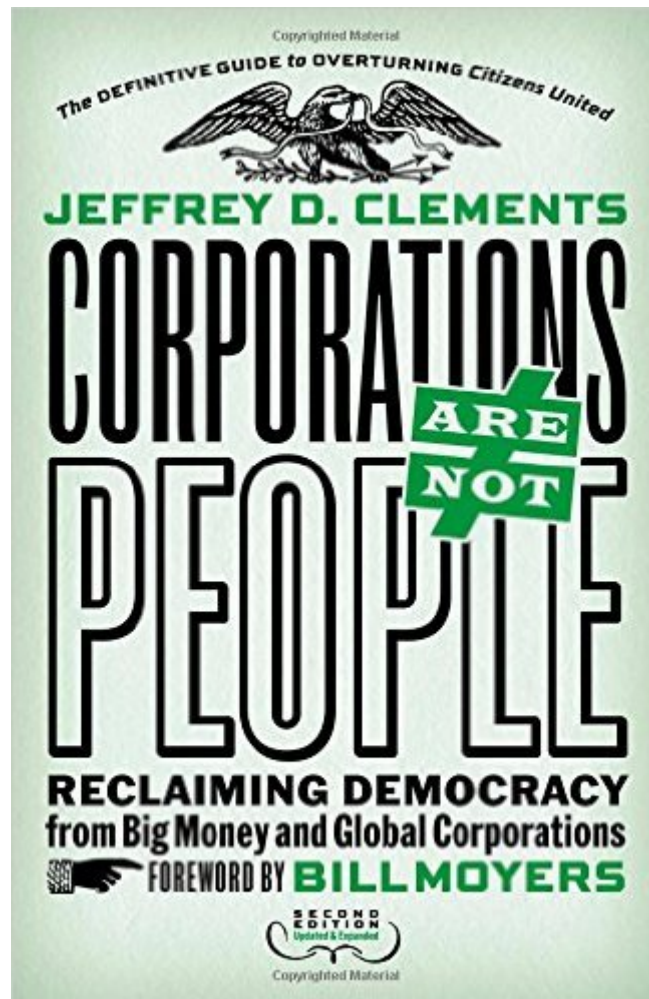


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# Corporations Are Not People: Reclaiming Democracy From Big Money And Global Corporations



## Synopsis

NEW EDITION, REVISED AND UPDATED Since the Supreme Court's Citizens United ruling that the rights of things "money and corporations" matter more than the rights of people, America has faced a crisis of democracy. In this timely and thoroughly updated second edition, Jeff Clements describes the strange history of this bizarre ruling, its ongoing destructive effects, and the growing movement to reverse it. He includes a new chapter, "Do Something!", showing how "state by state and community by community" Americans are using creative strategies and tools to renew democracy and curb unbalanced corporate power. Since the first edition, 16 states, 160 members of Congress, and 500 cities and towns have called for a constitutional amendment to overturn Citizens United, and the list is growing. This is a fight we can win! Â

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The problem of excessive corporate power over government has grown to the level that every citizen needs to be concerned. "Capture" has occurred. Today EXXON is making available to its Russian partner Rosneft the most technologically sophisticated information relating to arctic drilling - the key to Russia's future - at just the time the President and allies are enforcing sanctions over precisely this conduct. Does the U.S. government have no power in a case of national security to influence Exxon's behavior. Jeff Clements' book is the one that you want to buy and have by your bedside - it tells the story from the beginning. How did we get here? Who wanted this result? I have read virtually all the books in his bibliography and it is just thrilling that his 2nd edition brings it all

together in a comprehensible form. He does better - he has undertaken the daunting task of attempting to confront power with a Constitutional Amendment. The future for the United States will depend on how many people understand what Jeff Clements is saying and how many people follow his lead.

This is a terrific work bringing together the essential elements of the corporate money takeover of our political system. The writing style is loose and easy to absorb, the text moves easily from history to analysis and combines well formulated arguments with coherent historical support. Whether you are firmly grounded in the fight against corruption or are interested in picking up a first book for general information, this book has something in it for you.

Full disclosure--I worked on this book and I'm admittedly biased. But I felt called to speak up when I read "DB Cooper's" anarchist rant--he obviously never actually read the book. I suspect he's not DB Cooper, either, who last I heard was hijacking airplanes. The irony is that nearly 80% of conservatives also agree that corporations should not be given the same status and civil rights as "natural persons" under the law. When this book was first published, only one state had passed a vote challenging this notion. We now have 14 states with ballot measures or legislation passed in favor of an amendment and dozens more on the way. I give Jeff Clements and this book a lot of the credit--and you will too if you take the time to read it and hear Jeff out.

I have read more than a few books on the subject of Citizens United and the corporate purchase of our government. There are other 5 star books, but this is the best I have read so far. The author dissects the problem, provides the history, and solutions to the problem. The problem goes beyond money in politics or the wholesale purchase of politicians to the highest bidder, Mr. Clements explains that better than any author in my opinion. Any good book on this subject will write about Lewis Powell's activist crusade for corporations before and during his tenure on the Supreme Court. He hits that mark. The author gives a clear definition of what a corporation is. He also shows the corporate lobby-political revolving door and how certain individuals have enriched themselves for legislation they have successfully fought for. He does an excellent examination of Citigroup and its part in the financial crisis. On campaign financing post-Citizen United he aptly states on page 163- "Those who pay for campaigns and elections are those who get the representation." For a comprehensive book on this subject you can't do better than this book! The best part is that the book has realistic solutions and some resources that I found very educational. There are a slew of

organizations and websites out there and he lists them.

This is an invaluable book to anyone concerned with the increasing and almost unchecked power of powerful corporations in our political system. Numerous court decisions, not just Citizens United, have made a bad situation worse. Clements explains without resorting to legal jargon, why corporate "personhood" is a sham. As even conservative Justice William Rehnquist has said, a corporation is a creation of the state and has no rights apart from what their corporate charter grants them. Clements gives example after example of corporations getting right-wing judges, like Clarence Thomas, to overturn laws passed by the people. (See pages 63-4 for just how awful Thomas is ). There is no graver threat to democracy today. My only disagreement with Clements is my skepticism of his proposed constitutional amendment to overturn Citizens United. Electing politicians who will appoint judges that will overturn it is a more practical and realistic approach. Nevertheless, I strongly recommend this book.

Full of shocking facts about corporations today and the last 60 years, and importantly, it is well researched. All facts and charts show a source, this is not someone writing just their opinion, its supported by facts and sources. Check this out and find out how to help get our country back from multinational corporations that could care less about consumers, wages, product quality and least of all, America.

If you don't know about this problem you need to read this book. Clements explains corporate personhood clearly, concisely and easy to read style that's well documented and indexed. Could use updating with new info on Article V convention calls ins and outs as the subject is unclear in any literature. Mr. Clements is also approachable and works easily with his fans.

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