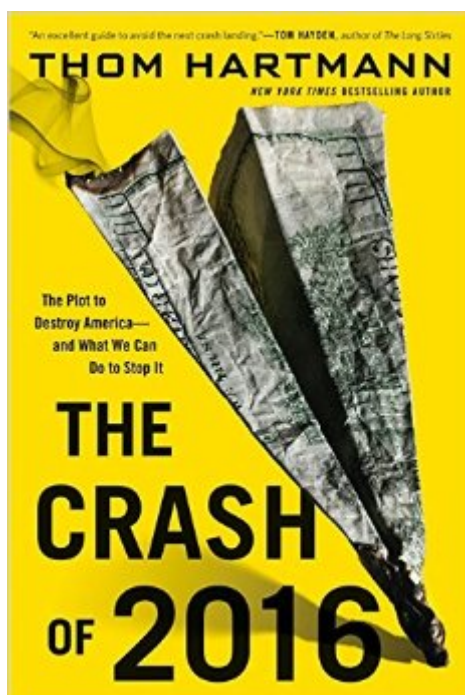


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The Crash Of 2016: The Plot To Destroy America--and What We Can Do To Stop It



Synopsis

The United States is more vulnerable today than ever before-including during the Great Depression and the Civil War-because the pillars of democracy that once supported a booming middle class have been corrupted, and without them, America teeters on the verge of the next Great Crash. The United States is in the midst of an economic implosion that could make the Great Depression look like child's play. In *THE CRASH OF 2016*, Thom Hartmann argues that the facade of our once-great United States will soon disintegrate to reveal the rotting core where corporate and billionaire power and greed have replaced democratic infrastructure and governance. Our once-enlightened political and economic systems have been manipulated to ensure the success of only a fraction of the population at the expense of the rest of us. The result is a "for the rich, by the rich" scheme leading to policies that only benefit the highest bidders. Hartmann outlines the destructive forces-planted by Lewis Powell in 1971 and come to fruition with the "Reagan Revolution"-that have looted our nation over the past decade, and how their actions fit into a cycle of American history that lets such forces rise to power every four generations. However, a backlash is now palpable against the "economic royalists"-a term coined by FDR to describe those hoarding power and wealth-including the banksters, oligarchs, and politicians who have plunged our nation into economic chaos and social instability. Although we are in the midst of what could become the most catastrophic economic crash in American History, a way forward is emerging, just as it did in the previous great crashes of the 1760s, 1856, and 1929. The choices we make now will redefine American culture. Before us stands a genuine opportunity to embrace the moral motive over the profit motive-and to rebuild the American economic model that once yielded great success. Thoroughly researched and passionately argued, *THE CRASH OF 2016* is not just a roadmap to redemption in post-Crash America, but a critical wake-up call, challenging us to act. Only if the right reforms are enacted and the moral choices are made, can we avert disaster and make our nation whole again.

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Customer Reviews

The Crash of 2016: The Plot to Destroy America - and What We Can Do to Stop It by Thom Hartmann
"The Crash of 2016" is a provocative and troubling look at an economic implosion that will occur unless we take drastic measures to stop it. "A story of how America was dragged into the Crash of 2016." Well-known progressive national and international radio and TV talk show host and accomplished author, Thom Hartmann places his focus on an economic crisis that may turn into the Fourth Great Crash since the Declaration of Independence in 1776. This stimulating 294-page book includes sixteen chapters broken out by the following five parts: 1. The Economic Royalists and the Corporatist Conspiracy, 2. Why We Crashed, 3. "Oppression, Rebellion, Reformation", 4. The Great Crash, and 5. Out of the Ashes.
Positives: 1. A professional and gifted author Hartmann is a master at engaging the public with a well-balanced narrative of history, current events and foresight. 2. The book has great format and flow. It's entertaining, enlightening and the pages turn themselves. 3. Hartmann is a great and passionate thinker. His knowledge of history, and his ability to identify patterns is only matched by the skill to convey his conclusions in a lucid, straightforward manner. 4. Troubling, straight-forward eye-opening conclusions. "This crash is coming. It's inevitable. I may be off a few years plus or minus in my timing, but the realities of the economic fundamentals left to us by thirty-three years of Reaganomics and deregulation have made it a certainty.

This is a very thought provoking book. In some respects it identifies the same issues as many others. e.g. financialization of the economy, the export of jobs via globalization, accumulation of debt etc. Where he differs is in his emphasis on the empowerment of what he calls, "the economic royalists" and the consequences of this empowerment. This thesis is clearly presented and quite convincing, for me at least. I was especially taken by his assignment of culpability for much of this empowerment to the Supreme Court. To date, I had simply accepted the role of the Supreme Court as the final arbiter of the constitutional status of laws. He asserts and defends the claim that this is not true. He further goes on to assign much of the culpability to the courts interpretation of constitutional language. He focuses especially on the term "human" as it applies to

corporations. This interpretation unleashed the use of corporate money to influence elections. This interpretation, he asserts and defends, is a contrivance contrary to common understanding and intended to empower corporations. I think an extension of the logic here, is that all too often this flexibility of interpretation lay beneath the determination of a law's constitutional status which, apparently, is a step too far. This is my first encounter with this thesis. His case was strong enough to create serious concern but short of certainty. In any case this issue alone makes the book worth buying and reading. He also does a nice job of laying out the political aspects for the empowerment of the "wealthy economic royalists". He tends to place the bulk of responsibility on republicans which seems a bit one-sided.

I read this book exclusively on the subway commuting to work in the winter of 2015, and it was both incredibly disturbing and extremely engaging. Thom Hartmann takes a deep look at the economic crisis of today and puts it in the context of economic crises in history. Beginning with the American Revolution, Hartmann explains how economic crashes have happened with regularity in the United States in a cycle where the economic elite consolidates power, crashes everything, and then the public rebels and creates reforms, followed by decades of forgetting during which the elites come to power again. The American Revolution was a rebellion against British corporate oppression, when the British government gave subsidies to big corporations like the East India Company while taxing mom and pop establishments in the United States. The colonial citizens revolted by boycotts and declaring independence from Britain. Eighty years later, the economic elite tried to monopolize expansion of the west by trying to bring slaves with them, but the working class countered with measures that led to the Civil War. Without free slave labor the south had to compete equally with settlers who only had their own labor at their disposal. However the next eighty years was shaped by huge advances in technology and a concentration of economic power in the hands of a few wealthy elite. Workers were oppressed, industries turned into monopolies, and politics were corrupted by the influence of big money. Eventually this led to the crash of 1929, followed by a decade of economic depression, and then years of rigorous reform. Unions were organized, working conditions improved, wages increased, the environment protected, limits were placed on corporate wealth, and a burgeoning middle class emerged.

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