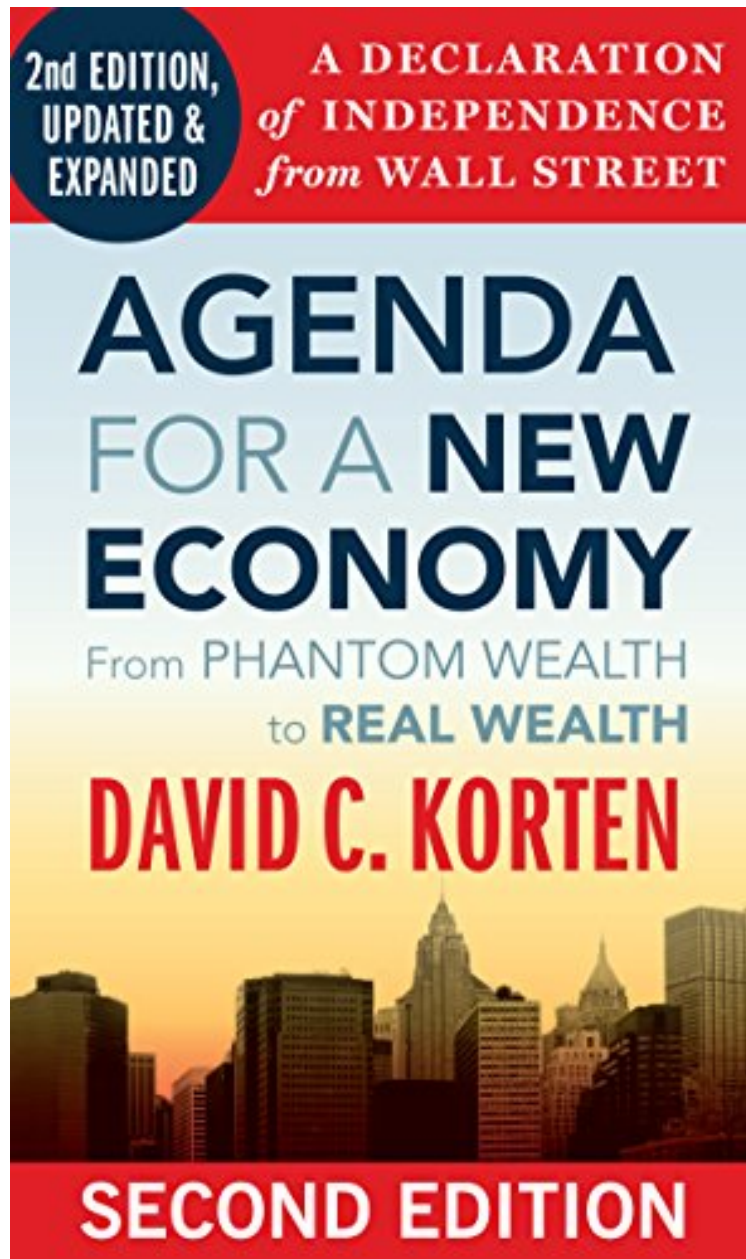


Agenda for a New Economy: From Phantom Wealth to Real Wealth

David C. Korten

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David C. Korten : Agenda for a New Economy: From Phantom Wealth to Real Wealth before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Agenda for a New Economy: From Phantom Wealth to Real Wealth:

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. A Four Pumped to Five to Stave Off the IdeologuesBy Robert David

STEELE Vivas I would normally rate this book a four because of its lack of reference to Buckminster Fuller (see Critical Path; the Open Money movement; or the literature on wealth of networks, fortune at the bottom of the pyramid, and collective intelligence, but I make it a solid five for three reasons: 1. Anybody capable of writing The Great Turning (Volume 1 of 2) (EasyRead Large Edition): From Empire to Earth Community [DO NOT BUY THE EASY READ EDITION, AMAZON IS SCREWING UP IN FAVOR OF EASY READ AND NOT LISTING NORMAL BOOK] has massive credibility with me. 2. In the context of all the complex books I read, this is one of the most complete, elegant, well-stated, thoughtful, and relevant books it's been my pleasure to enjoy in the past few years. This is a market- and life-changing work. 3. To stave off the ideologues who live in a fantasy world totally disconnected from the larger reality, this is the group represented on the one hand by American Fascists: The Christian Right and the War on America and on the other by Rule by Secrecy: The Hidden History That Connects the Trilateral Commission, the Freemasons, and the Great Pyramids. My fly-leaf notes: + Truth teller, consistent view of crisis as potential for innovation and healing + Consistent with life and liberty--although the Green movement books do not appear here in any significant way, totally consistent with win-win or Nonzero: The Logic of Human Destiny where the only sustainable business is a green business. + Superb preface that outlines the book's genesis, for me this was a major plus up front. + Early discussion of the misperception of money as wealth rather than a form of exchange, of Wall Street as a form of legalized theft using illusions in place of tangible production. + WALL STREET CANNOT BE FIXED. I agree. See The Design of Business: Why Design Thinking is the Next Competitive Advantage. He says "We need to rebuild the system from bottom-up." Later on he says that Wall Street is "corrupt beyond repair" and must be eliminated. I agree. + Global poverty (the #1 high-level threat according to the UN High-Level Threat Panel (which is senior to the fraud-ridden International Panel on Climate Change), is directly rooted in the falseness of the financial system and its inevitable failure (my words: the house of cards, the Ponzi scheme, is over--every Secretary of the Treasury since Central Banking was introduced has been a Bernie Madoff). + The book is deliberately short and simplified but not simple. Fifteen gray boxes and two tables provide substance in small coherent and easily digested bits. + The author slams Jeff Sachs and his Common Wealth: Economics for a Crowded Planet which I seem to recall doing as well (and first); and has high praise for James Speth's The Bridge at the Edge of the World: Capitalism, the Environment, and Crossing from Crisis to Sustainability. + He points out that the U.S. Government is cooking the books on inflation, and that one study he respects places inflation in 2008 at between 12 and 13 percent. As I have seen what my own dollar can buy cut in half over the past ten years, that passes my smell test. + He specifically identified the combination, under the "Reagan Revolution," which I thought I was a part of, of CEOs, religious fundamentalists, anti-tax libertarians, and neo-conservative militarists (he does not mention ardent supporters of "Israel right or genocidal") as being the down-fall of the economy. I would add Newt Gingrich and the end of bipartisanship and Congressional responsibility, a tale told in The Ambition and the Power: The Fall of Jim Wright : A True Story of Washington, I see that as the point that winner-take-all spoils and patronage destroyed the integrity of Congress beyond repair, and the beginning of the end of the two-party system that is now a corrupt tyranny in league with Wall Street (see my own book, also free online, Election 2008: Lipstick on the Pig (Substance of Governance; Legitimate Grievances; Candidates on the Issues; Balanced Budget 101; Call to Arms: Fund We Not Them; Annotated Bibliography). + Another great quote: "Empire's greatest tragedy is the denial and suppression of the higher-order possibilities of our human nature." I certainly agree and would point readers to the work of Stewart Brand, Harrison Owen, Paul Hawkin, Tom Atlee, Barbara Marx Hubbard, and others--others would add Ken Wilbur and Don Beck. + As the book draws to a close he notes that Thomas Jefferson (patron saint of Phi Beta Iota, the Public Intelligence Blog) had it right, workers must be owners for democracy to be sustained; we have the wrong indicators (e.g. gross domestic product does not distinguish between healthy and junk food); and we need to transition to "spaceship economics" as opposed to frontier economics, the first being a closed system. He credits Kenneth Boulding vice Buckminster Fuller on this point, which irritates me. + Seven principles of healthy living systems are articulated. + New Economy Priorities include reclaiming misallocated resources; military conversion; greening buildings and rolling back sprawl; and an end to advertising with a commensurate increase in public service media. On page 122 he lists 12 points that are alone worth the price of the book. The book ends with a notional speech by White House lead actor Barack Obama, and relates today's emerging bottom-up revolution to the original American Revolution--this is possible, but Obama is the last nail in the coffin, not the catalyst for positive change, in my view. Over-all a phenomenal book, the one book to give for Christmas, the one book to insist your college-age and precocious senior high schoolers read. In some ways, as I have been building a brick wall with 1470+ non-fiction books, this particular book gave me a rather special satisfaction, almost as if it were a finishing piece, an end piece, that brought together all that came before. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Hope For a New Economy By D. Timothy McCoy Capitalism has done what its name suggests. However, while it has made many rich the book raises the harrowing question, at what cost. That it is the greatest option, possibly the only option is presented as a myth. It has produced great wealth for a few at the cost of the weak and the destruction of our planet. Greed, power and cancerous consumption have been some of its outcomes. Korten makes a courageous and compelling argument for a better way, an alternative way. I felt it a massive thought in lieu of the power of capitalism. Building an economy, a society on the

basis of enough, compassion and stewardship seems worth the effort if we are to survive. While capitalism works for some, it obviously does not for the majority. It is not designed to. "Trickle down" seems like bread crumbs do a dying person. We can do much better and Korten has some very cogent ideas for doing so. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. not bad
By S Hudson
The strength I remember from this book is the due credit it gives the New Deal for establishing American prosperity. This jibes with Putin's ideas in the great book Russian Populist by Matthew Johnson that a strong state is needed for prosperity.

NEW EDITION, REVISED AND UPDATED
Nearly two years after the economic meltdown, joblessness and foreclosures are still endemic, Wall Street executives are once again getting massive bonuses, and our leaders in Washington lack the will to make desperately needed fundamental changes to the economy. Change will have to come from below. Agenda for a New Economy is the handbook for that revolution. In this revised and updated edition David Korten has fleshed out his vision of the alternative to the corporate Wall Street economy: a Main Street economy based on locally owned, community-oriented "living enterprises" whose success is measured as much by their positive impact on people and the environment as by their positive balance sheet. We will lose nothing in the process because, as Korten ably demonstrates, the supposed services Wall Street offers are simply a con game. And Korten now offers more in-depth advice on how to mount a grassroots campaign to bring about an economy based on shared prosperity, ecological stewardship, and citizen democracy.