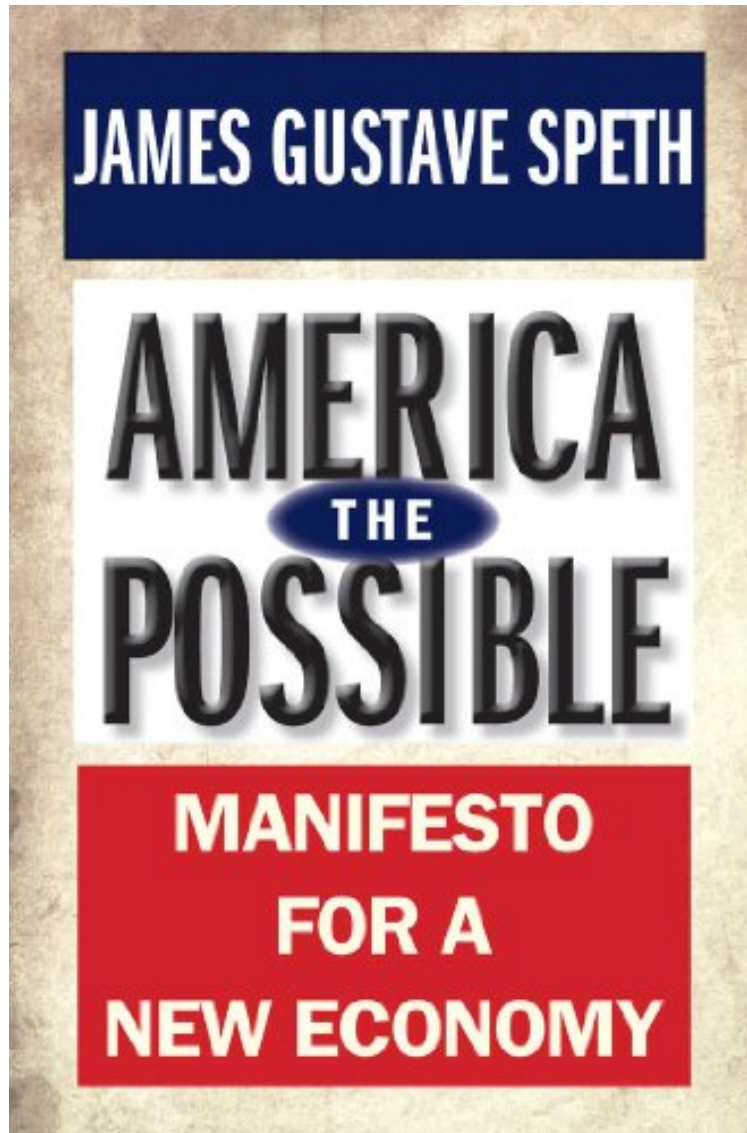


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America the Possible: Manifesto for a New Economy (American Crisis)

James Gustave Speth

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James Gustave Speth : America the Possible: Manifesto for a New Economy (American Crisis) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised America the Possible: Manifesto for a New Economy (American Crisis):

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Gus Speth's Stirring Call to Reform Our Political System By Ridgway Hall In "America the Possible: Manifesto for a New Economy" Gus Speth spells out the many respects in which our economy is badly skewed and not functioning fairly or effectively, and relates that directly to failures in our

political system. It is no secret that our Congress is hopelessly gridlocked, politicized and dysfunctional. As Speth points out in a thoroughly researched and documented analysis, this is largely the result of the corrupting influence of money in our political system. A half dozen well-financed and powerful special interest groups effectively control the agenda in Congress, and heavily influence the outcome of elections. The Supreme Court's ill-considered decision in Citizens United, which opened the door to unlimited corporate political contributions, has further aggravated an already bad situation. As a result, it is the agendas of well-financed special interest groups and individuals that Congress is addressing, and not that of the nation as a whole. "America the Possible" begins with a compelling account of how the human population is exploding exponentially and outstripping the carrying capacity of our planet to sustain this growth, or human civilization as we know it. We have overfished our oceans, overharvested our forests, polluted our air and water, and triggered a serious disruption of our climate with manmade greenhouse gas emissions, yet our political leaders are not dealing with or even responsibly discussing these issues. The list of unaddressed or underaddressed problems is far broader than just environmental, including education, health care, employment opportunity and disparity of wealth. Our GDP has been rising since the 1950s, but individuals' sense of well-being, and satisfaction with life, has not. Speth demonstrates convincingly that we do not lack the resources or information to deal responsibly with these issues, but we lack the political leadership. Our system is broken. To address this, Speth calls for a transformation of our political system to reflect a fairer, more representative, and more progressive set of values. This must come from the grass roots. Whatever you may think of the Tea Party, they figured out quickly how to organize voters, get their message out, and get candidates elected who would champion their views. The "Occupy Wall Street" movement, and various progressive think tanks and organizations, need to take a page from their playbook. "America the Possible" discusses in specific detail how we can not only reshape our government to be more responsive and reflective of the popular will, but how corporations and other institutions can be reformed to better reflect the interests of their shareholders and the public. These are subjects which Gus Speth has been dealing with throughout his life, and which he is uniquely well qualified to discuss. As a result, after reading this book I felt optimistic that we have the tools we need to make our government more responsive to the public interest and more effective in its procedures, that we can build a fairer economy, and that our levels of happiness with our lives, both individually and as a nation, can be significantly improved in the process. This book is a "must read" for all who think we can do better. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Gus Speth strikes again! By N. Halfen Talk about telling it like it is. Gus Speth strikes again! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By chung hsieh excellent!

In this third volume of his award-winning American Crisis series, James Gustave Speth makes his boldest and most ambitious contribution yet. He looks unsparingly at the sea of troubles in which the United States now finds itself, charts a course through the discouragement and despair commonly felt today, and envisions what he calls America the Possible, an attractive and plausible future that we can still realize. The book identifies a dozen features of the American political economy; the country's basic operating system; where transformative change is essential. It spells out the specific changes that are needed to move toward a new political economy; one in which the true priority is to sustain people and planet. Supported by a compelling "theory of change" that explains how system change can come to America, the book also presents a vision of political, social, and economic life in a renewed America. Speth envisions a future that will be well worth fighting for. In short, this is a book about the American future and the strong possibility that we yet have it in ourselves to use our freedom and our democracy in powerful ways to create something fine, a reborn America, for our children and grandchildren.

"[Speth] does a marvelous job of summarizing the most pressing problems and offering realistic and promising solutions. . . . This book is optimistic even in the midst of seemingly insurmountable problems."?Choice