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The Speech: On Corporate Greed and the Decline of Our Middle Class

Bernie Sanders

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"Bernie Sanders is such a rarity, and people should appreciate what he's doing not just for his home state of Vermont, but for the reputation of all politicians in general."

—MATT TAIBBI, *Rolling Stone*

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SPEECH

On Corporate Greed *and the* Decline
of Our Middle Class



WITH A NEW INTRODUCTION

BERNIE SANDERS

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Bernie Sanders : The Speech: On Corporate Greed and the Decline of Our Middle Class before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Speech: On Corporate Greed and the Decline of Our Middle Class:

17 of 18 people found the following review helpful. Independents, a dying breed. Want to know more about this one. By Thyme Wisper I have seen more and more quotes from this senator being shared in Facebook. What he consistently said in those quotes came across to me as honest, practical, factual and were insights or opinion on a

specific issue. No partisan bullets. No extreme political biting remarks. I know this seems like a contradiction in terms, but he comes across with rational emotion. He cares about the people of this nation, that is clear. And he obviously (and to me, uniquely) reads the bills that come up for a vote and does deep analysis of what the enactment of any bill will DO to the average citizen, the effect to the nation. When CBS interviewed him about this book, there was given a glimmer of a possibility that he might run for President. Independents are becoming a rare breed in this polarized political environment. So I wanted to know more and decided to read this book. He explains right from the start that this is the actual 8 1/2 hour filibuster speech, just as the title states. He explains that as a speech there is a lot of redundancy. Senate members are coming in and out, for one thing. The key points of his speech thus need to be repeated. Besides this is a filibuster - the point is to keep talking for a long time. So I kept that in mind as I read the script of the speech - this book. I did not skip over the repetition as I discovered that there were the occasional supporting Senators who added to his speech. They provided additional perspective and sometimes more facts. I now want to know more about this senator. 14 of 15 people found the following review helpful. Every voter should read this book. By Dr. P. Read this book, if you want the gory details on how corrupt and callous the GOP is, and how much it costs this nation. Bernie tried in every way possible to show them how cutting the estate tax for the rich gave billions only to the people who already have billions, while they cry about the deficit and cut social programs. He tried to get them to add a \$250 one time check to seniors, who hadn't had a Cost of Living Adjustment in two years. He tried to get them thinking about children in poverty, seniors who can't afford their medication, etc. But no, they were unmoved and glued to their plan. I'm even more disgusted with Republicans now than I was before I read the book. Bernie knows his facts, and more importantly, knows the meaning of those facts, into the future, and what it means about the hearts of our legislators. 6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Only billionaires won't like this book. By Joseph Colombo Bernie has always fought really hard for the middle class of this country and this book is a perfect example of that. Show me another politician who would devote that amount of time and energy towards fighting the insanity that is giving tax breaks to billionaires when ordinary hard working people of this country are struggling to get by. He speaks on many important issues facing the American people including corporate greed, the crumbling infrastructure, trade deals, and health care. Don't bother reading this book if you're a billionaire, but on the off chance that you're not, it's definitely worth a read. BERNIE 2016

On Friday, December 10, 2010, Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders walked on to the floor of the United States Senate and began speaking. It turned out to be a very long speech, lasting over eight and a half hours. And it hit a nerve. Millions followed the speech online until the traffic crashed the Senate server. A huge, positive grassroots response tied up the phones in the senator's offices in Vermont and Washington. President Obama reportedly held an impromptu press conference with former President Clinton to deflect media attention away from Sanders' speech. Editorials and news coverage appeared throughout the world. In his speech, Sanders blasted the agreement that President Obama struck with Republicans, which extended the Bush tax cuts for millionaires and billionaires, lowered estate tax rates for the very, very rich, and set a terrible precedent by establishing a "payroll tax holiday" diverting revenue away from the Social Security Trust Fund, threatening the fund's very future. But the speech was more than a critique of a particular piece of legislation. It was a dissection of the collapse of the American middle class and a well-researched attack on corporate greed and on public policy which, over the last several decades, has led to a huge growth in millionaires even as the United States has the highest rate of childhood poverty in the industrialized world. It was a plea for a fundamental change in national priorities, for government policy that reflects the needs of working families, and not just the wealthy and their lobbyists. Finally, Sanders' speech - published here in its entirety with a new introduction by the senator - is a call for action. It is a passionate statement informing us that the only people who will save the middle class of this country is the middle class itself, but only if it is informed, organized, and prepared to take on the enormously powerful special interests dominating Washington.

Matt Taibbi, Rolling Stone "Bernie Sanders is such a rarity, and people should appreciate what he's doing not just for his home state of Vermont, but for the reputation of all politicians in general."