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This Changes Everything: Occupy Wall Street and the 99% Movement

Sarah Ruth van Gelder

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Sarah Ruth van Gelder : This Changes Everything: Occupy Wall Street and the 99% Movement before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised This Changes Everything: Occupy Wall Street and the 99% Movement:

6 of 7 people found the following review helpful. A CRITICAL BOOK FOR UNDERSTANDING THE "OCCUPY" MOVEMENTBy Steven H ProppThe Foreword to this 2011 book states that YES! magazine decided to publish a

book about the OWS movement, because "We found most media reports on the Occupy movement confusing or dismissive... we felt we could help the growing number of people interested in this movement understand its import." Sarah van Gelder (executive editor of YES! magazine) assembled articles to "1) feature voices from inside and outside the movement, 2) spotlight changes capable of shifting our society's wealth back to the 99%, and 3) show the power of social movements to bring about change." The first essay notes that "we are not to blame for a weak economy, for a subprime mortgage meltdown, or for a tax system that favors the wealthy but bankrupts the government." (Pg. 2) It asserts that "Today's economy redistributes wealth from the poor and middle class to those at the top," since the income of the top 1% grew 275% between 1979 and 2007, while the income of the bottom 20% grew just 18%. (Pg. 3) Explaining why OWS has presented no "list of demands," the same essayist notes that "A list of specific demands would make it easier to ... divide the movement... Occupy Wall Street is ... developing consensus statements at its own pace." (Pg. 7) In the "Declaration" of the NYC movement, however, issues such as housing foreclosures; corporate bailouts of banks giving their executives huge bonuses; huge student debts; outsourcing of labor, etc. (Pg. 36-38) This book---along with others such as TIME What is Occupy?: Inside the Global Movement, Occupy!: Scenes from Occupied America, and Voices From the 99 Percent: An Oral History of the Occupy Wall Street Movement---is an excellent one for anyone interested in learning more about the OWS movement.

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Some hope for the world
By John Knox
Wish more people would read it. It is sad how greedy the world has become. People love to waste money on things. Much to the detriment of the environment
0 of 2 people found the following review helpful. This Changes Everything
By Dianne Leonard
The only fault I found with this account of the Occupy movement is that it doesn't cover the hows and whys of the violent, nationally-coordinated police suppression of the movement. (This from someone near Oakland, Calif, where the suppression was especially brutal, and the City has still not apologized.

We Are the 99%
The Occupy Wall Street movement named the core issue of our time: the overwhelming power of Wall Street and large corporations--- something the political establishment and most media have long ignored. But the movement goes far beyond this critique. This Changes Everything shows how the movement is shifting the way people view themselves and the world, the kind of society they believe is possible, and their own involvement in creating a society that works for the 99% rather than just the 1%. Attempts to pigeonhole this decentralized, fast-evolving movement have led to confusion and misperception. In this volume, the editors of YES! Magazine bring together voices from inside and outside the protests to convey the issues, possibilities, and personalities associated with the Occupy Wall Street movement. This book features contributions from Naomi Klein, David Korten, Rebecca Solnit, Ralph Nader, and others, as well as Occupy activists who were there from the beginning. It offers insights for those actively protesting or expressing support for the movement--- and for the millions more who sympathize with the goal of a more equitable and democratic future. Since their founding in 1996, YES! Magazine and YesMagazine.org have been showing how powerful ideas fused with practical actions can drive profound change toward a more just, sustainable, and compassionate world. Project Censored calls YES! "the standard for solutions journalism." Democracy Now's Amy Goodman calls YES! "a vital voice of independent journalism." The Utne Independent Press Awards have repeatedly recognized YES! Magazine.

Very lively, forward-looking, and filled with interesting insights.