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The Establishment: And How They Get Away With It

the Establishment

And how they get away with it



Owen Jones

Author of Chavs



"This is the most important book on the real politics of the UK in my life time" IRVINE WELSH



Synopsis

Behind our democracy lurks a powerful but unaccountable network of people who wield massive power and reap huge profits in the process. In exposing this shadowy and complex system that dominates our lives, Owen Jones sets out on a journey into the heart of our Establishment, from the lobbies of Westminster to the newsrooms, boardrooms, and trading rooms of Fleet Street and the City.

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Customer Reviews

...for those wanting to get an inside look at the upper echelons of power on both sides of the spectrum, with candid interviews from members of parliament, trade union representatives, conservative think tank leaders, media magnates and more. I say "both sides of the spectrum," but a clear left-right division is a fairy tale -- at least in the UK, the area that chiefly concerns this book. A chapter is devoted to the influence of US and EU power brokers, but Owen Jones remains mainly interested in affairs at a national level. Chief takeaways from this book: 1.) Thatcher's influence was astronomical, and today's Labour party is its biggest victory -- by moving accepted discourse so far to the right that voters essentially had the choice between "right wing" and "marginally less right wing." 2.) Laissez-faire capitalism in modern Britain is only for poor people: they're the ones expected to pull themselves up by their bootstraps -- gumption, personal responsibility and all that. Nanny state socialism is only there for megacorps and banks: if they stumble, it's the state (and as a

result, the tax-payer) that ends up paying for it.³) Mainstream media reporting is almost wholly done by those middle class and up, and is subject to such crazy deadlines that they're often just slightly editing corporate/barely disguised corporate-sponsored think tank press releases. There's tons more in this great, great book, and I suggest you pick it up post-haste before the post in your haste gets bought up by a Qatar concern.

This is a great book that explains and summarizes the causes, features and effects of neoliberal ideology and practices which became mainstream in Europe. Owen Jones analyses in depth the case of the UK. However, it is amazing how similar this is to other countries. I'm from a south European country and was shocked to realize that our politicians, outriders and media speak precisely the same language. And when I say precisely I'm not exaggerating. It's the same people! During austerity, the top 10% got richer while the poorest 10% sunk in poverty. Outriders are all over defending the interests of the wealthiest in compliant media owned by rich people or obscure corporations. They have shifted the terms of acceptable debate and public companies were quickly privatized. Right wing politicians have managed to shift public anger towards public-sector workers and benefit-claiming people, the unemployed and immigrants (twice amazing as during the crisis there was a lot of emigration). These politicians are completely detached from real life and seem to think they are above and deserve better than other people. They created a narrative that the crisis had been caused by overspending and used that as a pretext to slash salaries and pensions and crush the national healthcare and public education services. This, while injecting millions in banks to "save" private shareholders and rich deposits (whereas the minimum salary "could not be increased because that would be "too expensive"). And so on, just as Owen Jones tells. Where I think the author is too soft is in attributing this simply to a set of values shared by establishment members. I cannot agree. There have been conspiracies to undermine public services in order to prove their inefficiency and lower their value before quickly selling them, for example. The last chapter of the book, about the democratic revolution, is also a bit naive in my opinion. But overall the book is excellent and made me understand a lot about what's going on in Europe and the world.

The greatest scam on the planet: how the rich protect their privileges while we pay for it. Owen Jones has stripped away the veil to reveal the ugly, naked truth. Read this, and be angry!

When universal voting came to pass, the elite had to find another way to hold on to their power and

wealth - here is how they do it. could be written about any western democracy - same sorry just different actors.

Many books are described as 'life-changing' but this, if you are interested in contemporary politics and how our lives are run, will change the way you look at and understand what's going on around you. Owen Jones analyses how the establishment (i.e. everything that adds up to controlling the way we live and even the way we think) works with the scalpel-like precision of a brain surgeon and the humour, modesty and engagement of a great story-teller. I can't urge you too strongly to read this book. Actually, it will change your life.

Superb book on contemporary British politics with many similarities to things happening in the US as well. The cover is pure genius! So many people asked me about this book as I carried it about because of the cover alone.

Brilliant book. The alternatives at the end could be beefed up a bit but everything else is spot on!

Well presented and well researched evidence, quite convincing for me. I find the author also very convincing in his evaluation of the role of elites in British society. I would recommend reading this book, no matter what your political ideas might be.

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