

**BOOK REVIEW****Evil Geniuses: The Unmaking of America**

by

**Kurt Anderson**

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Kurt Anderson is a bestselling author with the following titles to his credit You Can't Spell America Without Me (co-author) Fantasyland True Believers Reset Heyday Turn of the Century. Anderson has also written for stage and screen.

An ever-increasing number of books in the West focus on the income disparity between the few very rich and the many poor in developed western societies. The book under review here adds to those books but focuses on the American political issues which brought the current situation into being.

The author has deeply researched US political history and identified the key people in the US who, whilst displaying signs of genius in politics, law, or banking and finance, showed evil in reaching and attaining their goals.

The book comprises five parts and twenty-nine chapters. Beginning with Part 1, A Brief History of America covers 1600-1865 and concludes with Part 5, Make America New Again, which includes Chapter 29, The Plague Year and Beyond.

The reader will personally identify with the author's well-researched conclusions in reading those parts of the book through which they have lived.

Whether the protagonists several of whom are Nobel Lauriets came from a background in academia, law, banking and finance or other fields, were seen by their peers as geniuses. However, upon entering and developing their careers, they invariably deviated from the good to the evil by disadvantaging most of the population. This process led to the status where the middle class were made obsolete, and the poor driven into homelessness. Where one per cent of the population holds ninety-nine per cent of the wealth. Much of this vast accumulation of wealth held by just a few people or a few corporations has come about through a progressive tax reduction on the wealthiest people and corporations in American society and by offshoring production to low-cost countries.

Members of both US political parties have followed the same route to achieving their goals, i.e., taking large sums of money from the largest US corporations in exchange for political favors such as preferential trade terms in fulfilling government contracts. Other methods have involved erosion of environmental protection regulations, reducing staffing in government agencies such as The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to the point where they fail to function. Other measures involve breaking international law and pursuing their version of terrorism allegedly to counter foreign terrorism. There are many definitions of evil, but perhaps the simplest definition of evil involves the practice devoid of ethics to reaching one's goal.

**Conclusion** This book is highly recommended to faculty and students seeking a deeper understanding of the key players and the mechanisms by which impoverishment of most of the U.S. society has occurred.