

America Beyond Capitalism: Reclaiming Our Wealth, Our Liberty, and Our Democracy

By Gar Alperovitz

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"Be prepared for a mind-opening experience."

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"America Beyond Capitalism comes at a critical time in our history-when we all know our system isn't working but we are not sure what can be done about it. This book takes us outside the confines of orthodox thinking, imagines a new way of living together, and then brings that vision back into reality with a set of eminently practical ideas that promise a truly democratic society."

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
"The kind of careful, well-researched, and practical alternative progressives have been seeking. And it's more-visionary, hopeful, even inspirational. I highly recommend it."

-Juliet Schor, author of The Overspent American: Why We Want What We Don't Need

"A compelling and convincing story of the future."

-William Greider, author of The Soul of Capitalism: Opening Paths to a Moral Economy

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Scheduled for publication on the 75th anniversary of the Black Thursday stock market crash, this closely argued treatise from University of Maryland political economist Alperovitz (*The Decision to Use the Atomic Bomb*) claims we are in the midst of another deep economic, social and political crisis. Capitalism, democracy, equality and liberty have disappeared from the United States, he says. Corporations and rich people control the wealth and government; their power destroys liberty and the entrepreneurial freedom necessary for capitalism. Traditional reforms are inadequate. Progressive taxation and social programs only redistribute income; we need to redistribute wealth. Easier voter registration and campaign finances miss the point; federal power must be reallocated to regional governments and local citizens' associations whose scale makes participatory democracy possible. We need shorter work weeks, stronger labor unions, worker-owned or directed firms, less debt and more respect for the environment. The first six chapters could have been written in the 1970s. The statistics and quotes are current, but there is no discussion of recent global experience with many of the ideas. The remainder of the book combines these ideas into what the author calls "21st century populism" working toward a "Pluralist Commonwealth." The book's strength lies in its integration of diverse populist issues into a coherent agenda rooted in deep American values from the Declaration of Independence.

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From [Booklist](#)

Alperovitz, an academic and political economist, calls on Democrats to "change the system," believing many Americans are searching for new policies as we face large deficits; unemployment; terrorism; and loss of belief in equality, liberty, and democracy. In his view, our unresponsive government, growing inequality, corruption, sprawl, and rising personal debt are reflections of a creative free market system that is no longer completely free or totally creative. Examining the extraordinary income and wealth controlled by elites and major corporations, he suggests that the future requires the development of a more community-centered, democratic market system. The author offers four fundamental suggestions to address current problems, including developing new institutions that hold wealth on behalf of small and large public groups (community-centered enterprises and worker-owned firms), and a regional rather than continental political system to appropriately represent a rapidly growing American population. His well-framed insight will appeal to a more liberal segment of library patrons during this presidential election year. *Mary Whaley*

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From the Inside Flap

We can all imagine a future where there's more to the American way than our current no-holds-barred capitalism, but will that future ever arrive?

In his new book, Gar Alperovitz, the renowned scholar of politics, economics, and history, predicts that we've reached a major turning point in history. *America Beyond Capitalism* argues that the first decade of the twenty-first century—challenged by growing economic inequality, the devaluing of civil liberties, and a government unresponsive to the people—is already producing conditions that will force the United States to undergo historic changes.

There have been five major political realignments in American history, from before the Progressive Era to beyond the New Deal. All have occurred in the face of the argument that major change was impossible.

America Beyond Capitalism shows that increasing numbers of citizens are also quietly beginning to take meaningful local and national action that can ultimately give explosive force to a new approach.

The fall of communism and the painful ramifications of a globalized market free-for-all have left many yearning for a realistic alternative. Alperovitz makes clear that capitalism and socialism are academic ideas that have never existed in their purest forms anywhere. Our nameless current system, which is a haphazard one, mostly controlled by the largest corporations, is not the only one possible.

If we look closely, America Beyond Capitalism suggests, the basic outlines of an achievable and community-sustaining vision are quietly taking shape—a vision that offers far better market-based ways to use our vast wealth to realize equality, democracy, and liberty.

The rapid changes of the early 1960s, a time of explosive ferment and new ideas, seemed to come out of nowhere. So, too, did the modern conservative revolution—which once was seen as a marginal political project. Fundamental change, Alperovitz suggests, is the rule, not the exception, in history, including in our own time, here and now.

Eloquently reasoned, passionately argued, and grounded in a wealth of irrefutable facts and data, America Beyond Capitalism offers anyone who wants to take part in this momentous enterprise a new way to think about—and then get to work to help build—a new future.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Amber Orlowski:

Information is provisions for people to get better life, information these days can get by anyone with everywhere. The information can be a expertise or any news even restricted. What people must be consider when those information which is inside former life are challenging to be find than now is taking seriously which one is acceptable to believe or which one the actual resource are convinced. If you get the unstable resource then you get it as your main information it will have huge disadvantage for you. All of those possibilities will not happen within you if you take America Beyond Capitalism: Reclaiming Our Wealth, Our Liberty, and Our Democracy as your daily resource information.

Clarence Liller:

Your reading 6th sense will not betray you actually, why because this America Beyond Capitalism: Reclaiming Our Wealth, Our Liberty, and Our Democracy publication written by well-known writer who really knows well how to make book which might be understand by anyone who else read the book. Written with good manner for you, leaking every ideas and writing skill only for eliminate your own personal hunger then you still uncertainty America Beyond Capitalism: Reclaiming Our Wealth, Our Liberty, and Our Democracy as good book not merely by the cover but also through the content. This is one book that can break don't ascertain book by its protect, so do you still needing a different sixth sense to pick this specific!?! Oh come on your reading through sixth sense already alerted you so why you have to listening to yet another sixth sense.

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