An Allconsuming Century Why Commercialism Won In Modern

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the unqualified victory of consumerism in america was not a foregone conclusion the united states has traditionally been the home of the most aggressive and often thoughtful criticism of consumption including puritanism prohibition the simplicity movement the 60s hippies and the consumer rights movement but at the dawn of the twenty first century not only has american consumerism triumphed there isn t even an ism left to challenge it an all consuming century is a rich history of how market goods came to dominate american life over that remarkable hundred years between 1900 and 2000 and why for the first time in history there are no practical limits to consumerism by 1930 a distinct consumer society had emerged in the united states in which the taste speed control and comfort of goods

offered new meanings of freedom thus laying the groundwork for a full scale ideology of consumer s democracy after world war ii from the introduction of henry ford s model t so low in price that no man making a good salary will be unable to own one and the innovations in selling that arrived with the department store window displays self service the installment plan to the development of new arenas for spending amusement parks penny arcades baseball parks and dance halls americans embraced the new culture of commercialism with reservations however gary cross shows that even the depression the counterculture of the 1960s and the inflation of the 1970s made americans more materialistic opening new channels of desire and offering opportunities for more innovative and aggressive marketing the conservative upsurge of the 1980s and 90s indulged in its own brand of self aggrandizement by promoting unrestricted markets the consumerism of today thriving and largely unchecked no longer brings families and communities together instead it increasingly divides and isolates americans consumer culture has provided affluent societies with peaceful alternatives to tribalism and class war cross writes and it has fueled extraordinary economic growth the challenge for the future is to find ways to revive the still valid portion of the culture of constraint and control the overpowering success of the all consuming twentieth century

the all consuming nation examines how planners during world war ii laid the foundation for a massconsumption economy high wages full employment new technologies and a rapid growth in population known as the baby boom ushered in a golden age of economic growth by the end of the twentieth century consumerism triumphed over communism socialism and all other isms seeking to win hearts and minds around the world mark lytle investigates the environmental and sociocultural costs of the consumer capitalism framework set in place in the twentieth century shedding light on both the catalysts and consequences of a national identity forged through mass consumption

shopping as an entertainment experience explores the ways in which shopping has become a significant entertainment feature in our daily lives dr mark h moss examines the department store the mall and the e store to demonstrate how shopping is often the most common leisure experience that people indulge in to occupy themselves this unique book focuses on the historical evolution of shopping environments into contemporary entertainment or cultural zones through a phenomenological framework moss analyzes the way stores outlets and restaurants in malls mingle and merge aspects of consumption and

merchandising shopping as an entertainment experience appeals to sociologists cultural theorists and those interested in popular culture

a bold new interpretation of modern history as a struggle between three economic groups we are now living in an age of merchants but it was not always so the history of civilization in large part is a story of a battle between agrarian aristocracy the military and a class of learned experts or priests yet in seventeenth century england and in the netherlands another group entered the mêlée for power the merchants for the last four decades the merchant s power has been unfettered in merchant soldier sage acclaimed oxford scholar david priestland proposes a radical new approach to understanding today s balance of power and analyzes the societal and economic historical conditions required for one of these three value systems to dominate priestland asserts that in the wake of the great recession the weakened and discredited merchant still clings to power but the world is again in the midst of a period of upheaval

corporate social responsibility has entered the mainstream but what does it take to run a successful purpose driven business a harvard business school professor examines leaders who put values alongside profits to showcase the challenges and upside of deeply responsible business for decades ceos have been told that their only responsibility is to the bottom line but consensus is that companies and their leaders must engage with their social and environmental contexts the man behind one of harvard business school s most popular courses geoffrey jones distinguishes deep responsibility which can deliver radical social and ecological responses from corporate social responsibility which is often little more than window dressing deeply responsible business offers an invaluable historical perspective going back to the quaker capitalism of george cadbury and the worker solidarity of edward filene through a series of in depth profiles of business leaders and their companies it carries us from india to japan and from the turmoil of the nineteenth century to the latest developments in impact investing and the b corps jones profiles business leaders from around the world who combined profits with social purpose to confront inequality inner city blight and ecological degradation while navigating restrictive laws and authoritarian regimes he found that these leaders were motivated by bedrock values and sometimes but not always driven by faith they chose to operate in socially productive fields interacted with humility with stakeholders and felt a duty to support their

communities while far from perfect some combined visionary practices with vital flaws each one showed that profit and purpose could be reconciled many of their businesses were highly successful though financial success was not their only metric of achievement as companies seek to coopt ethically sensitized consumers jones gives us a new perspective to tackle tough questions inspired by these passionate and pragmatic business leaders he envisions a future in which companies and entrepreneurs can play a key role in healing our communities and protecting the natural world

how did donald trump almost single handedly reverse america s decline as the 21st century began the world s only superpower was economically adrift policing the world at the expense of american lives and trillions of dollars weighed down by one sided trade and security agreements with europe and china ratified in a different era elites of both political parties battled over who would manage america s decline from preeminent world power in the trump century the indomitable lou dobbs explains how trump has steered the debate every day he has been in politics greatly expanding what washington thinks is possible by 2016 the globalist elites demanded no one speak about limiting illegal immigration or securing our borders the elites told you communist china would soon be like us and the pc orthodoxy told you what you could or could not say you were told america s middle class could never grow again and wages would be stagnant into perpetuity trump reversed all of that as radical democrats and the deep state conspired to overthrow his presidency as the deadly pandemic raged and orchestrated street protests and violent riots dominated news headlines he not only made america great again but created a new standard for all future presidents and likely has set the american agenda for the next hundred years the trump century opens a window into trump s thinking on the economy foreign policy and border security and will energize his allies when they realize the future they ve shaped

traces the evolution of social ideas and values in the united states during the twentieth century using such indicators as advertising crime and justice family life fashion music race and class sex and gender and work

provides historical coverage of the united states and canada from prehistory to the present includes information abstracted from over 2 000 journals published worldwide

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