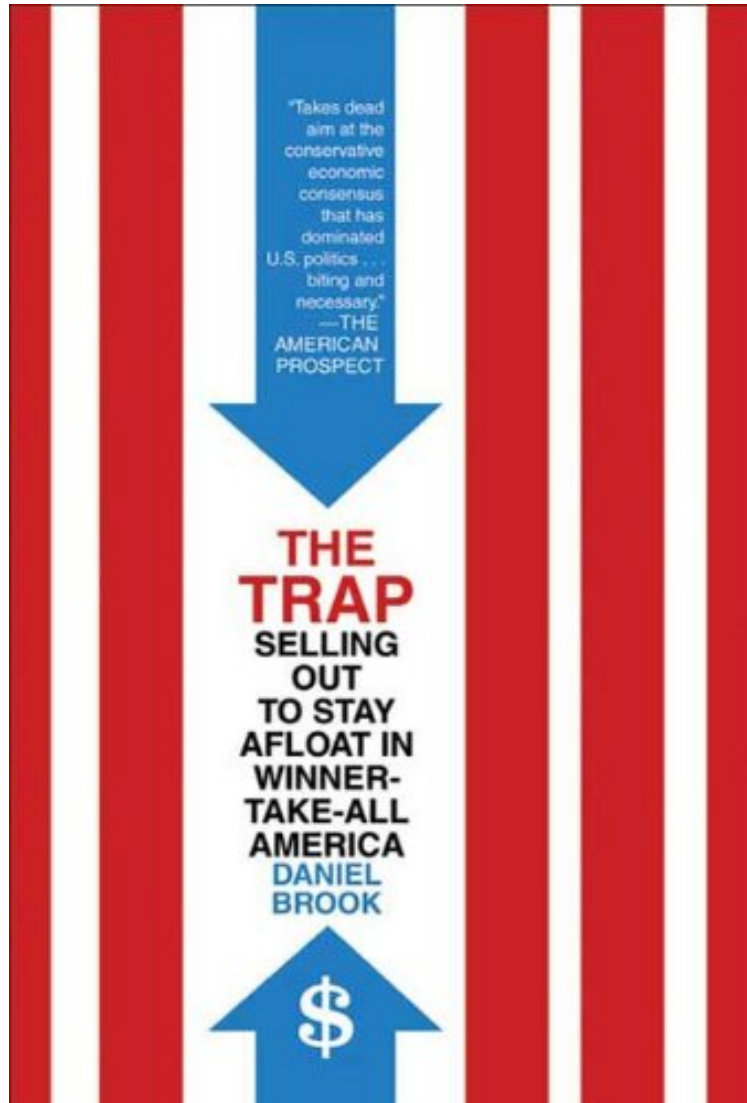


[Download] The Trap: Selling Out to Stay Afloat in Winner-Take-All America

# The Trap: Selling Out to Stay Afloat in Winner-Take-All America

*Daniel Brook*

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**Daniel Brook : The Trap: Selling Out to Stay Afloat in Winner-Take-All America** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Trap: Selling Out to Stay Afloat in Winner-Take-All America:

25 of 25 people found the following review helpful. Better to have a permanent income than to be fascinating...By hbSo said Oscar Wilde and such is the moral of this book.In many ways, its touching - there are still people who'd like to teach kids, care for the sick or probe the secrets of the universe. But the burgeoning corporate elite with their astronomical salaries are driving the price of quality education, housing and healthcare sky high. So indulge yourself helping humanity and your kids will be lucky to afford community college. Welcome to a system where the best minds

of our generation are trawling the tax code for loopholes, while we import math teachers from India. But - I hear you cry - surely day-traders benefit society too, filling the supermarket shelves with inexpensive paper doilies and fat-free lard, 'lobbying' politicians and betting on Pork Belly futures? Brook wouldn't deny it - his point is that the pay disparity is hurting everybody else. Brook's book is punchy and witty and uncomfortable and validating. His ideas for restoring the balance don't require a Marxist revolution. Read it and send it anonymously to a friend. Everybody will recognize a part of their own history in this book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Puts a finger on one of the pressures on the youth of the USA By Alexander Feinman Full disclosure: Daniel is a childhood friend. But I hadn't heard anything from him in ages, and was shocked to discover he was a published author. More shock: a compelling and insightful one. In this book Dan carefully builds the case that the youth of America are trapped in a system that forces them to stay afloat by compromising principles, health, and well-being to earn their way out of debt. It's prophetic given the economic collapse that has happened since this was written, and given our increasing awareness of the shackles of educational debt. In anecdotes and data he explores the thesis very thoroughly. Worth a read, but be warn that if like me you get frustrated with this state of affairs, you may find this book quite upsetting indeed. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Right Wing Reactionary Reprobate Retrogressives KneeJerk Attacks By W. Franklin Just read the book. The idiots who scorned it did so with tired, old and regularly muffed rightwing garbage and drivel. As one commenter before indicated, this smacks of a campaign by the witless Social and Economic Darwinist trolls who hide under the bridge and emerge in the night to prey on others and who having no understanding of their own concerning life, endlessly recite the nonsense propaganda produced by right wing (and worse) so-called think tanks. Nothing is immutable - any system can be changed to operate in the manner its people choose. Unfortunately at the present the marketist and their christocrat allies still have the megaphone, and will until people of good will rebuke them forcefully, even violently if need be. Worse yet, we will have to experience a world threatening crisis before their "screw you, I got mine" philosophies, to which they are wedded religiously and fanatically can be eliminated or suppressed. Ignore these jerks and give Brooks a shot - you will be glad you did.

What is lost when the best and the brightest are corralled into corporate America, in the debut of a searing, rousing social critic In this provocative, witty, and revealing polemic, Daniel Brook argues that the exploding income gap is a product of the conservative ascendancy; is systematically dismantling the American dream, as debt-laden, well-educated young people are torn between their passions and the pressure to earn six-figure incomes. Rising education, housing, and health-care costs have made it virtually impossible for all but the corporate elite to enjoy what were once considered middle-class comforts. Thousands are afflicted with a wrenching choice: take up residence on America's financial and social margins or sell out. And it's not just impoverished teachers and social workers, struggling to pay their rent, who are hurt. From the activist who works to give others a living wage but isn't paid one himself, to the universal health-care advocate who becomes a management consultant for Big Pharma, Brook presents a damning indictment of the economic and political landscape that traps young Americans. When the best and the brightest cannot afford to serve the public good, Brook asks, what are we selling out: an individual's career, or the very promise of American democracy?

From Publishers Weekly Twenty-something journalist Brook sees the best minds of his generation scrivening away as corporate lawyers and accountants, and he's furious about it. His fresh and striking pay-gap polemic laments the plight of "educated, idealistic young people" who must choose whether "to be a sellout or a saint" - that is, whether to take a lucrative corporate job or to eke out a pauper's existence in creative or nonprofit work. "The new economic realities," Brook writes, "are shaping people's lives, closing off certain career and lifestyle options. They are reducing freedom." Brook marshals facts and interviews to make his case for "more egalitarian economic policies." Decrying recent economic shifts that have widened the chasm between private and public sector employment, he skewers centrist "New Democrats" as well as usual-suspects such as William F. Buckley and Ronald Reagan. Brook preaches too narrowly to the choir (proclaiming that "as is plain to see, the conservative philosophy is wrong"), and his solutions are limited to calling for "truly progressive taxation" and insisting that "the public sector should pay its professionals more." Still, many readers will wince in recognition of their work/life compromises. "Corporate America is riddled with secret dissenters," Brook notes; he does a real service asking why it must be this way. (June 1) Copyright copy; Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Selling out in order to make big bucks used to be viewed with contempt, but, Brook argues, in today's aggressive society, it has become ever more acceptable, even mundane. For many people the choice comes down to sticking to one's ideological guns or living a comfortable life, but for "boomerang kids" - college grads so far in debt that they have to move back in with their folks - selling out is the only way to escape childhood. The rising sticker price of the American Dream, to use Brook's catchy phrase, forces all sorts of compromises, like the anti-Bush activist who earns a very good living doing PR work for Bush supporters. But, Brook shows convincingly, falling into "the Trap" can take a serious toll on a person's mental well-being. An exploration not only of the economics of compromise but also of the frustration that comes in the wake of putting material concerns ahead of personal beliefs. David Pitt Copyright copy;

American Library Association. All rights reserved "Daniel Brook has written a searing indictment of an unequal America in which anxiety rules and even idealists sell their souls to the highest bidder. This book is funny, smart, and compulsively readable, but most of all it is terrifying."--David Callahan, author of *The Cheating Culture and The Moral Center*; "The Trap shows how the decimation of the middle class is making the most meaningful kind of work unsustainable. When jobs that are altruistic and creative are a sure ticket to penury, the whole society loses. This is an incisive, important, consciousness-raising book that should inspire professionals to understand their financial insecurity as the system's failure, not their own--and to demand change."--Michelle Goldberg, author of *Kingdom Coming: The Rise of Christian Nationalism*; "Daniel Brook makes a truly powerful case against the hyperindividualism rotting away at the foundations of our society. He shows, with data and also with one story after another, what a tough time it is to be coming up in America. If you know someone (maybe yourself) who feels trapped in a job that doesn't really reflect their hopes and dreams, then this book will help explain how it happened, and how, together, we might be able to change it."--Bill McKibben, author of *Deep Economy: The Wealth of Communities and the Durable Future*