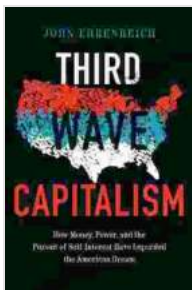


# How Money, Power, and the Pursuit of Self-Interest Have Imperiled the American Dream

The American Dream is a powerful idea. It is the belief that anyone, regardless of their background, can achieve success in America if they work hard and play by the rules. This dream has inspired generations of immigrants to come to America and build a better life for themselves and their families. It has also been a driving force behind the American economy, as people have strived to improve their lives and achieve their dreams.



## Third Wave Capitalism: How Money, Power, and the Pursuit of Self-Interest Have Imperiled the American Dream

by John Ehrenreich

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 1090 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 257 pages



However, the American Dream is in jeopardy. Money, power, and the pursuit of self-interest have corrupted our political system and made it impossible for ordinary Americans to achieve economic success. The gap between the rich and the poor is growing wider, and the middle class is

shrinking. Poverty is on the rise, and millions of Americans are struggling to make ends meet.

This is not the America that our founders envisioned. They believed that all Americans should have the opportunity to succeed, regardless of their wealth or social status. They created a government that was designed to protect the rights of all citizens, and they established a system of checks and balances to prevent any one person or group from gaining too much power.

But over time, the system has been corrupted. Money has become the dominant force in politics, and the wealthy have gained an unfair advantage over the rest of us. They have used their money to influence elections, buy politicians, and pass laws that benefit themselves at the expense of everyone else.

The pursuit of self-interest has also eroded the American Dream. Too many people are only interested in looking out for themselves, and they are willing to do whatever it takes to get ahead, even if it means hurting others. This has led to a decline in civic engagement and a loss of trust in our institutions.

The result of all of this is a society that is increasingly divided. The rich are getting richer, and the poor are getting poorer. The middle class is shrinking, and the American Dream is becoming increasingly out of reach for most people.

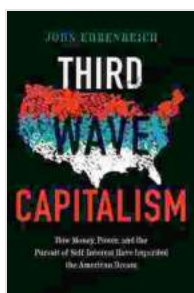
This is not the America that we want. We need to restore the American Dream for all, and we need to do it now. We need to create a fairer economy, a more just political system, and a more compassionate society.

Here are some specific steps that we can take to restore the American Dream:

- **Increase the minimum wage.** The minimum wage has not been raised in over a decade, and it is no longer a living wage. We need to raise the minimum wage to a level that allows workers to support themselves and their families.
- **Make college more affordable.** The cost of college has skyrocketed in recent years, making it unaffordable for many students. We need to make college more affordable so that everyone has the opportunity to get a higher education.
- **Provide affordable housing.** The cost of housing is also rising, making it difficult for many people to afford a place to live. We need to provide affordable housing so that everyone has a safe and decent place to live.
- **Strengthen unions.** Unions help workers to bargain for better wages and working conditions. We need to strengthen unions so that workers have a stronger voice in the economy.
- **Reform the tax code.** The tax code is unfair to the middle class and the poor. We need to reform the tax code so that everyone pays their fair share.
- **Reduce the influence of money in politics.** Money has too much influence in our political system. We need to reduce the influence of money in politics so that our government represents the interests of all Americans, not just the wealthy.

These are just a few of the steps that we can take to restore the American Dream. We need to work together to create a fairer economy, a more just political system, and a more compassionate society. We need to make sure that everyone has the opportunity to succeed, regardless of their background or circumstances.

The American Dream is worth fighting for. Let's work together to make it a reality for all.



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