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# This Changes Everything: Occupy Wall Street And The 99% Movement



## Synopsis

We Are the 99% The Occupy Wall Street movement named the core issue of our time: the overwhelming power of Wall Street and large corporations – something the political establishment and most media have long ignored. But the movement goes far beyond this critique. This Changes Everything shows how the movement is shifting the way people view themselves and the world, the kind of society they believe is possible, and their own involvement in creating a society that works for the 99% rather than just the 1%. Attempts to pigeonhole this decentralized, fast-evolving movement have led to confusion and misperception. In this volume, the editors of YES! Magazine bring together voices from inside and outside the protests to convey the issues, possibilities, and personalities associated with the Occupy Wall Street movement. This book features contributions from Naomi Klein, David Korten, Rebecca Solnit, Ralph Nader, and others, as well as Occupy activists who were there from the beginning, such as David Graeber, Marina Sitrin and Hena Ashraf. It offers insights for those actively protesting or expressing support for the movement – and for the millions more who sympathize with the goal of a more equitable and democratic future. [Â](#)

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Very lively, forward-looking, and filled with interesting insights. (Ralph Nader [CommonDreams.org](#))

Since their founding in 1996, YES! Magazine and [YesMagazine.org](#) have been showing how powerful ideas fused with practical actions can drive profound change toward a more just,

sustainable, and compassionate world. Project Censored calls YES! the standard for solutions journalism. • Democracy Now's Amy Goodman calls YES! a vital voice of independent journalism. • The Utne Independent Press Awards have repeatedly recognized YES! Magazine. YES! Magazine is donating royalties from the print edition of this book to support the Occupy Wall Street/99% movement. Sarah van Gelder is co-founder and executive editor of YES! Magazine and YesMagazine.org. She is a frequent guest on radio and television, commenting on current affairs. Â

The Foreword to this 2011 book states that YES! magazine decided to publish a book about the OWS movement, because "We found most media reports on the Occupy movement confusing or dismissive... we felt we could help the growing number of people interested in this movement understand its import." Sarah van Gelder (executive editor of YES! magazine) assembled articles to "1) feature voices from inside and outside the movement, 2) spotlight changes capable of shifting our society's wealth back to the 99%, and 3) show the power of social movements to bring about change." The first essay notes that "we are not to blame for a weak economy, for a subprime mortgage meltdown, or for a tax system that favors the wealthy but bankrupts the government." (Pg. 2) It asserts that "Today's economy redistributes wealth from the poor and middle class to those at the top," since the income of the top 1% grew 275% between 1979 and 2007, while the income of the bottom 20% grew just 18%. (Pg. 3) Explaining why OWS has presented no "list of demands," the same essayist notes that "A list of specific demands would make it easier to ... divide the movement... Occupy Wall Street is ... developing consensus statements at its own pace." (Pg. 7) In the "Declaration" of the NYC movement, however, issues such as housing foreclosures; corporate bailouts of banks giving their executives huge bonuses; huge student debts; outsourcing of labor, etc. (Pg. 36-38) This book---along with others such asÂ TIME What is Occupy?: Inside the Global Movement, Occupy!: Scenes from Occupied America, andÂ Voices From the 99 Percent: An Oral History of the Occupy Wall Street Movement---is an excellent one for anyone interested in learning more about the OWS movement.

Wish more people would read it. It is sad how greedy the world has become. People love to waste money on things. Much to the detriment of the environment

The only fault I found with this account of the Occupy movement is that it doesn't cover the hows and whys of the violent, nationally-coordinated police suppression of the movement. (This from

someone near Oakland, Calif, where the suppression was especially brutal, and the City has still not apologized.

This book was very informative and I was very glad I got it to read. You won't be disappointed either if you want to know about the grass roots of this fabulous movement!

I've spent about 25 days in five different occupied territories, have covered Occupy protests, had in depth conversations and interviews with many occupiers, attended training sessions on General assemblies, attended many general assemblies, and I STILL learned a lot of very valuable information from this book. If you're new to occupy and want to get an overview, this is a great book, but it's also excellent with background, explanations, details and descriptions by people who helped make occupy happen. I was amazed at how much new information I discovered.

This book is a series of articles from Yes! Magazine. It is a good source of first hand information directly from Occupy Wall Street protestors. Each chapter is an article written by a protestor and published in Yes! Magazine. Although the overarching theme of the book is to provide readers information about the protest, there is no clear connection of one article to another. The articles seem to have been randomly selected and ordered in this book. This may be due to the fact that Yes! Magazine attempted to distribute this publication as quickly as possible. I read this book because I wanted to learn more about the Occupy Wall Street movement specifically their grievances and demands. This book illustrates many of their grievances but there are no clear demands. In fact, one of the authors states that there is no list of demands because the system is broken in countless ways. Furthermore, there is no way to compile a list because the problems appear differently from multiple perspectives. The only issue that all of the authors seem to agree on is the fact that they are unhappy and frustrated at their current situations. The authors go on to complain about various entities at which they are furious including but not limited to the government, big banks, Wall Street, the one percent and the media. In fact, the protestors blame the media for inaccurate portrayal of the movement. Additionally, some of the items that the protestors complain about in this book include world trade, oil consumption, failure to develop alternative energies, not protecting the environment, the cost of higher education, practices of mortgage companies and health insurance. Albeit the protestors have a myriad of complaints but they do not have any suggestions for change or long-term plans. If you are interested in learning more about the Occupy Wall Street movement, this book is a good starting point as it only begins to scratch the surface. It

does provide ample perspectives about the movement. It is important to note that the articles in this publication come directly from protestors. This book is probably the best source of first hand information available on the Occupy Wall Street movement. It is a quick and easy read. Yes! Magazine did fulfill its goal of distributing this publication in a short time and conveying the grievances of protestors.

This book is not that good, but some of the indications made about the world are astute and make sense. We do have challenges, but tearing apart everything makes no sense. I liked the book *American SÃ©ance* was much better because it gave examples of what should be done instead and why. It had some good ideas. This book seemed to just want anarchy and that doesn't work. What would you do instead is what I like to hear.

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