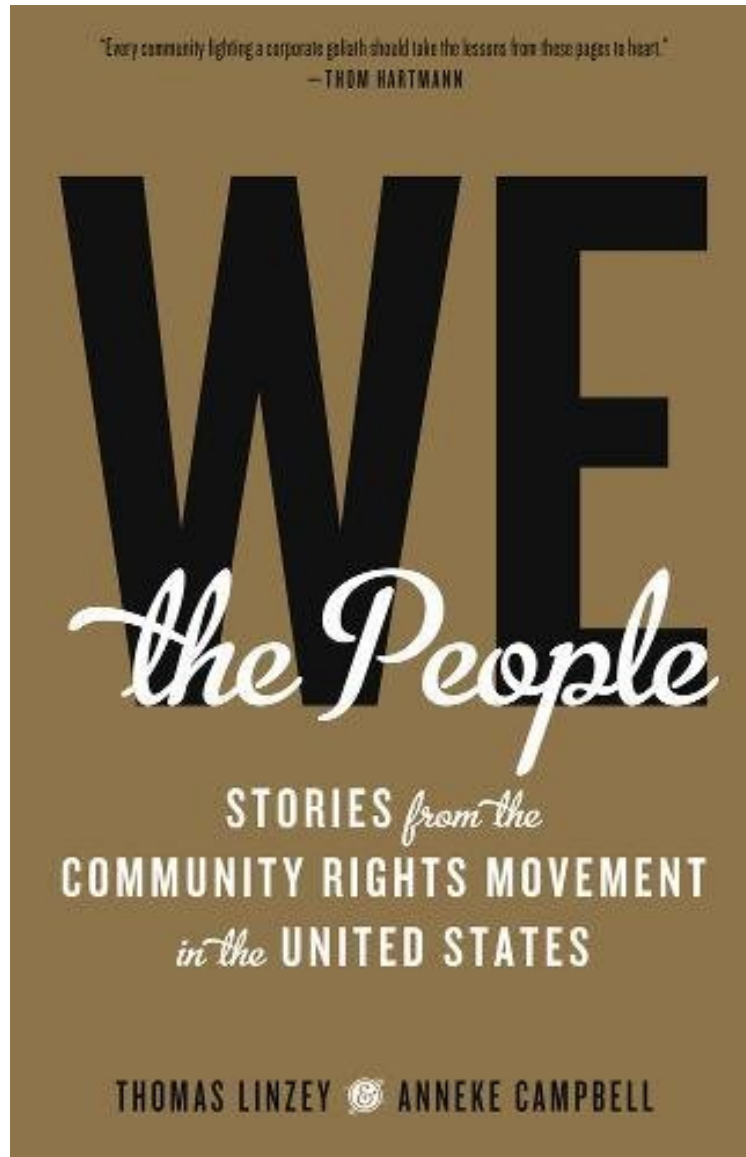


(Free pdf) We the People: Stories from the Community Rights Movement in the United States

We the People: Stories from the Community Rights Movement in the United States

Anneke Campbell, Thomas Linzey

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Anneke Campbell, Thomas Linzey : We the People: Stories from the Community Rights Movement in the United States before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised We the People: Stories from the Community Rights Movement in the United States:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. RecommendedBy JJ Amaworo WilsonThis book describes the ways

in which towns in the U.S. have tried to protect their rights and their land from rapacious corporations. The scenario repeats like a stuck record: small community has natural resources; large company arrives and plans to start asset-stripping; local people realize their way of life is at stake; community leaders try to organize; their friends and family are cowed by the power of corporations; they get no support from municipal boards dazzled by big bucks promised by Big Business. What happens next? The activists turn to the nonprofit law firm Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund (CELDF), run by Thomas Linzey, co-author of this book. CELDF holds Democracy Schools, designed to educate local people in the processes involved in protecting their rights. The book, then, offers some hope, some sliver of resistance. To paraphrase Antonio Gramsci, one has to remain optimistic, even if its only optimism of the will and pessimism of the intellect.³ of 3 people found the following review helpful. This book is full of stories about courageous citizens that've ...By Huby7This book is full of stories about courageous citizens that've given up on protecting their communities from corporate harms by using our current system of law. They've realized that fighting these battles one corporate harm at a time is a sure path to burnout, cynicism, passive-aggressive behavior, victim hood, and contributing to the horizontal hostility that's so prevalent in movement culture today. They've empowered themselves by asking one simple question. One, as a matter of fact, that led to the American Revolution. Why don't We The People at the local level have the right to enact and enforce laws that protect the health, safety, and welfare of our communities? It's from there the journey and adventure towards the democracy we all thought we had but don't have starts. My copy still comes off the shelf when I'm looking for inspiration. This book is well worth the time and money.¹ of 1 people found the following review helpful. A book that offers hope for American democracyBy CustomerBoth rural and urban communities alike have something to learn from the stories in this book. If we hope to pull ourselves out of environmental cataclysm, the way must be led by ordinary people in their own communities. A must read for everyone.

We the People offers powerful portraits of communities across the United States that have faced threats from environmentally destructive corporate projects and responded by successfully banning those projects at a local level. We hear the inspiring voices of ordinary citizens and activists practicing a cutting-edge form of organizing developed by the nonprofit law firm, the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund (CELDF). Their methodology is an answer for the frustrations of untold numbers of activists who have been defeated time and again by corporate political power and legal entitlement. Instead of fighting against what we don't want, this book can teach us to create from the ground up what we do want, basing our vision in local control and law. This work is about finishing the American Revolution by giving up the illusion of democracy and forging a system of true self-governance. In addition, this is about recognizing in law, for the first time in history, that nature possesses legally enforceable rights of its own.

These stories from the front lines of the community rights movement remind us of how corporate 'rights' supersede the rights of 'we the people' at the local level, and how we can never build the democracy we want unless a grassroots rebellion arises from below to challenge corporate supremacy. Every community fighting a corporate goliath should take the lessons from these pages to heart. Thom Hartmann, author, host, The Thom Hartmann Program