



# Rich Media, Poor Democracy: Communication Politics in Dubious Times

*Robert W. McChesney*

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**Rich Media, Poor Democracy: Communication Politics in Dubious Times** Robert W. McChesney  
Winner of Harvard's Goldsmith Book Prize as well as the Kappa Tau Alpha Research Award, *Rich Media, Poor Democracy* destroys the assumption that a society drenched in commercial information "choices" is a democratic one. Robert McChesney, whom Marc Crispin Miller calls "the greatest of our media historians," maintains that the major beneficiaries of the so-called Information Age are no more than a handful of enormous corporations, and that this concentrated corporate control is disastrous for any notion of participatory democracy.

In a book that Noam Chomsky hails as a "rich, penetrating study," McChesney combines historical sweep and unprecedented detail on current events as he chronicles the recent waves of media mergers and acquisitions, as well as the corrupt and secretive enactment of public policies surrounding the Internet, digital television, and public broadcasting. He also addresses the gradual and ominous adaptation of the First Amendment as a means of shielding corporate media power, and debunks the myth that the market compels media firms to "give the people what they want."

## Rich Media, Poor Democracy: Communication Politics in Dubious Times Details

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# **From Reader Review Rich Media, Poor Democracy: Communication Politics in Dubious Times for online ebook**

## **Sarah says**

This was the 'textbook' for a class I took called Politics in Mass Media. COMPLETELY opened my eyes to conglomeration and the truth of how the entertainment industry has bias and the history of politics in media.

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## **Lenore says**

mc chesney is ubiquitous! i have my undergrads read excerpts of this, and then they see him in both Outfoxed and Merchants of Cool. Smart and sometimes snarky, McChesney is an important read if you're doing media studies.

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## **Margot says**

This book rocked my limited world view. It taught me to challenge what I read and to always be critical and analytical of what the media throws out there. Seriously good stuff.

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## **J. Dunn says**

The book to read if you want to know about how and why corporate media consolidation happened, and what deleterious effects this process has had on democracy and public discourse here and abroad. This is solid left-centrist scholarship with no radical Chomsky-esque tendentiousness or axes to grind.

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## **Paul says**

This was one of the first books i ever read that was critical of a large section of America's social and economic make up. It was also published months before GW and co. started running wild over the constitution, other countries etc. This is an important notion i think since most books critical of gov. policy these days are really just polemics and reading them feels like having someone angrily shouting into one's ear.

Anyhoo. A must read for anyone interested in media and its relationship to business and society. It's also one of those tipping point books that turn a person from a vaguely liberal post-collegiate into a raving pinko commy. Cheers! ;-)

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**aisha says**

a must read.

it outlines and gives solid evidence to the many, many reasons we should all be perpetually worried about the state of our media.

i'm especially drawn to the history of the media - during the late 20's and early 30's when media laws (namely radio) were being debated between communities/educational institutions and adversiting/commercial (eg dept stores)/media companies - you guess who won.

it's completely fascinating and quite directly affected and, to some extent, shaped the next 75 years of media issues.

i'm a media studies major, so it's a really good thing that i'm interested in this stuff, but if you can pick up this book and read a chapter, or read some of his essays, i'd highly recommend it.

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**Ron Christiansen says**

Read it in Tom Huckin's Discourse Analysis course--a great course, a solid book.

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**sologdin says**

a standard of lefty critique of journalism, up there with bagdikian's The Media Monopoly and Chomsky's Manufacturing Consent.

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**Jack says**

Brilliant. And as relevant in 2014 as when it was published.

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