

A Short List of Must-Read Books and Periodicals on Social Transformation

Selected and Described by Gene Marshall 10/1/02

Webs of Power: Notes from the Global Uprising by Starhawk is a book written from on-site experience of the protests against the WTO and other corporation-controlled global bodies. The last third of the book spells out a positive vision for the future written with thoroughly bioregional values. (New Society Publishers: 2002)

Globalization from Below: The Power of Solidarity by Jeremy Brecher, Tim Costello, and Brendan Smith. On the topic of social transformation, this is the book I would like to give every social activist. It is an easy-to-read 122 pages available in paper back for \$13.00. It is challenging reading, but only because of the depth of the social transformation it is calling for. It has boiled down a vast assortment of wisdom into a brief well-ordered form. It is not a retreat from global realities, but an entirely different approach to all these unavoidable issues. (South End Press: 2000)

The Great Work: Our Way into the Future by Thomas Berry is worth reading carefully and many times. Berry provides a clear picture of our overall ecological crisis as well as its economic, political, and cultural components. Berry pushes all these topics to a depth level, and he provides a competent history of how we got into our current mess. (Bell Tower: 1999)

When Corporations Rule the World by David Korten is excellent for enabling us to deeply and clearly understand the fallacies and illusions of modern economic theory and the tragedies of the global economy. (Berrett-Koehler Publishers & Kumarian Press: 1995)

The Post-Corporate World by David Korten is a sequel to his earlier book. It is particularly helpful as a detailed and encouraging vision of the next economy and how we might get there. (Berrett-Koehler Publishers & Kumarian Press: 1999).

Eco-Economy: Building an Economy for the Earth by Lester Brown, widely known as the founder and former president of Worldwatch Institute. This book pulls together a vast amount of carefully selected data and visionary possibilities for our future. (W.W. Norton & Co.: 2001)

The Universe Story by Brian Swimme and Thomas Berry is a must read for developing our overall story of human history within the context of natural history. (HarperSanFrancisco: 1992)

The Eternal Frontier: An Ecological History of North America and Its People by Tim Flannery. This book reads like a novel, and yet it has told me more about my continent than any other book I have read. Its story begins 65 million years ago when the asteroid crashed into the Gulf of Mexico. Flannery, an Australian with a keen eye, has written a book that can significantly enrich your view of who you are as resident of this continent. (Atlantic Monthly Press: 2001)

And here are a couple of periodicals I highly recommend;

Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives Monitor

web site: <http://www.policyalternatives.ca>

address: CCPA National Office; 410-75 Albert St.; Ottawa, ON K1P 5E7 CANADA

This journal can be counted on for sharp critical commentary unfiltered by the screens of the mainline US. media.

The Hightower Lowdown

address: P.O. Box 20596; New York, NY

Every month I read all four pages of this humorous and insightful rag. Jim Hightower, former Texas Secretary of Agriculture, is a political comic, satirist and all round thoughtful guy that more people should know.