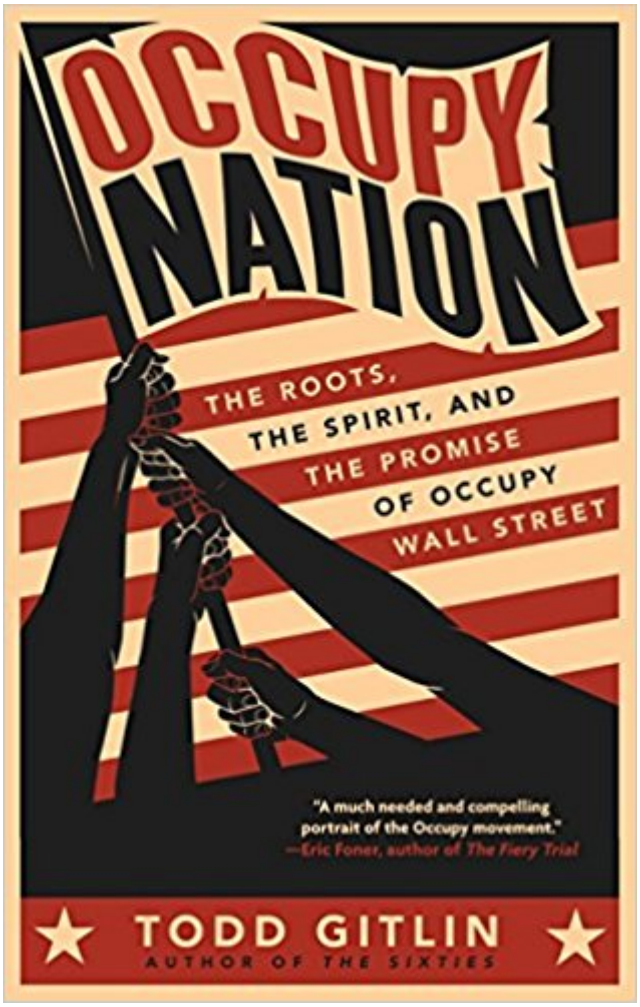
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Occupy Nation: The Roots, The Spirit, And The Promise Of Occupy Wall Street



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Synopsis

Ã¢â ¬Å“[A] much needed bookÃ¢â ¬Â¦a compelling portrait of the Occupy movementÃ¢â ¬Â¦that capture[s] the spirit of the people involved, the crisis that gave Occupy birth, and the possibility of genuine change it represents.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Eric Foner, author of The Fiery Trial: Abraham Lincoln and American SlaveryThe Occupy Wall Street movement arose out of a widespread desire of ordinary Americans to change a political system in which the moneyed Ã¢â ¬Å“1%Ã¢â ¬Â• of the nation controls the workings of the government. In Occupy Nation, social historian Todd GitlinÃ¢â ¬â •a former leader of the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) who stood at the forefront of the birth of the New Left and the student protests of the 1960s and Ã¢â ¬â„¢70sÃ¢â ¬â •offers a unique overview of one of the most rapidly growing yet misunderstood social revolutions in modern history. Occupy Nation is a concise and incisive look at the Occupy movement at its pivotal moment, as it weighs its unexpected power and grapples with its future mission.

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Customer Reviews

Ã¢â ¬Å“In this much needed book, Todd Gitlin, a veteran of the 1960s and an astute commentator on social movements offers a compelling portrait of the Occupy movement that captures the spirit of the people involved, the crisis that gave Occupy birth, and the possibility of genuine change it represents.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Eric Foner, author of THE FIERY TRIAL: Abraham Lincoln and American Slavery)Ã¢â ¬Å“Balancing lyrical wit and eloquent analysis, Gitlin captures the compelling story of

OWS . . . and provides a gift of clear-headed, balanced thinking about [its] future.Ã¢â ¬Â• (The Rumpus)

Occupy Wall Street is the most dynamic phenomenon in progressive politics in more than forty years. Its followers across the country transformed the national debate, galvanizing millions with its clarion call for economic justice: "We are the 99 percent." In Occupy Nation, bestselling social historian Todd Gitlin offers the first narrative survey of the movementÃ¢â ¬â •from its historic inspirations, to its inner tensions, to its prospects in the months and years to come. He offers a fascinating account of this remarkable phenomenon while casting an informed look at its continuing evolutionÃ¢â ¬â •and how it needs to proceed to truly make an impact. Informed by Gitlin's own history in the 60s protest movementÃ¢â ¬â •but written with both eyes aimed at the futureÃ¢â ¬â •Occupy Nation is the key book for anyone looking to understand the revolution playing out before our eyes.

Todd Gitlin is professor of journalism at Columbia University, and has also written books such asÃ Â The Sixties: Years of Hope, Days of Rage,The Whole World Is Watching: Mass Media in the Making and Unmaking of the New Left, With a New Preface, etc.Of the "Occupiers," he observes, "Some, having campaigned for Barack Obama or John Edwards in 2008, might have been occupying Wall Street in 2009 had they not held back, giving Obama the benefit of the doubt, or dazed by disappointment. Their patience has finally worn out..." (Pg. 27) He notes that "They were inspired, above all, by the so-called Arab Spring, the previous winter's gift to the global idea of popular power overthrowning dictators." (Pg. 71)He admits, "in the third month of Occupy, life in the encampments grew more agitated and dangerous. Homeless people, untethered by political discipline, were conspicuous. Violence against women was reported." (Pg. 43) He also concedes, "what was truly impossible to find in the vast reaches of the Occupy movement---for more than three months---was a single demand, or a distinct package of them, or, indeed, any specific demands endorsed by the Occupy Wall Street General Assembly ... the absence of demands was taken by mainstream media as a deficiency, a sign of unseriousness." (Pg. 109)He suggests that "One test of the Occupy movement is whether it will continue to inspire questions like these: If I have a degree in physics or mathematics or, for that matter, economics, do I want to go to work for Goldman Sachs? Can I put my online knowhow to work organizing antieviction squads? If I am an architect, do I want to design buildings for the 1 percent?" (Pg. 229)This is one of the best books about the Occupy movement.

This is a valuable book for anyone who is wondering if anything has or can be achieved through the movement.

Todd Gitlin wrote an exceptional yet disturbing narrative about the Occupy Wall Street movement, which left me feeling disenchanted after reading it. Gitlin points out that the movement is literally leaderless and has no sense of direction. The way I ascertain it, the movement is trying to make a political statement that Wall Street and the Government are disenfranchising us (the 99%) but unfortunately it doesn't get involved politically, which in itself is paradoxical, leaving the movement virtually ineffective.It is awe-inspiring that millions of Americans are willing to protest the 1% plutocracy that is economically terrorizing us, but now is the time for the movement to engage unions and to lobby congress. The movement has to embrace leadership. The bottom line is benevolent anarchy isn't a viable solution at this time. It will only result in the movement being ignored even further, or result in more vitriolic media attacks from the extreme right.If the Occupy Wall Street movement is going to remain relevant it has to somehow infiltrate and assimilate itself into the Democratic Party in the same fashion the Heritage Foundation's fascist Tea Party movement usurped the Republican Party.Furthermore, Occupy views unions, Move On.org and politicians such as Elizabeth Warren (who support their positions) as enemies, demonstrating that the Occupy Movement are trying to be purist, which is a destructive stance to take. They need to learn how to maneuver through the system in the hopes of effecting change.Gitlin also points out how local, state and federal governments are ignoring the Occupier's First Amendment rights to assemble and their right to a redress of grievances, while making comparisons to the Civil Rights Movement and the Vietnam protests.The facts are made quite clear within the last 12 years we've experienced (so-called) terrorist attacks on 9/11, which led to the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. We also had mass foreclosures on people's homes, inflated college tuitions, banker bailouts, the exportation of American jobs through NAFTA and Southeast Asia, Tax Cut for the 1%, the Citizens United decision and now we are dealing with the Fiscal Cliff, which is threatening to create higher taxes and raise the cost of living for every American making less than $250,000 a year. And in spite of all this the Occupy Movement is fighting desperately for change on behalf of 99% of the population. However, the Occupy Movement needs to realize that this is a socioeconomic war that revolves solely on class distinctions and it has to be fought inside the confines of government if we (the 99%) are going to prevail. In other words they have to form a coalition and become a lobby.We must have economic justice at all cost. The Plutocrats are becoming wealthier by the day, while the

American people suffer for it with low (stagnate) wages and inflation running off the charts.I'll reiterate, Gitlin wrote a fine narrative about a time in our history that is still current, which hasn't resulted in a positive outcome yet. Hopefully, this umbra over our republic will dissipate and we'll be able to gaze up and see the light at the end of all this.Other Books that should be read:Nomi Prins: "It Takes a Pillage"John Perkins: "Hoodwinked"Noam Chomsky: "Profit Over People"James S. Henry: "The Blood Bankers"

May Day 2012 marked the beginning of the next political season. Last winter, the innovative phenomenon of Occupy was forcibly removed from public view by coordinated police actions across the country. With the warmer season, the question is whether Occupy will reappear, in what form and to what ends. In particular, how will it relate--or not--to the presidential campaign? For instance, will Obama be able to co-opt the anti-establishment movement to garner the disaffected youth vote that he may need to win, as he did last time.On May Day, Todd Gitlin released his e-book, "Occupy Nation", to address these important and confusing questions. The book is a sound and thoughtful analysis of last year's Occupy Wall Street movement and of the complex of issues it faces if it is to reappear as an effective force. Gitlin has been a perceptive analyst of radical American politics for 50 years, since he helped to form the New Left in the early 1960s. It is from this deeply relevant perspective that he describes the innovative nature of Occupy, its roots, its spirit and its potential.Respectful of the Occupy movement's right to continue to define itself, Gitlin refrains from proscribing to it, except to warn clearly about the temptations to detour from nonviolence--a major lesson of the 60s. In the end, Gitlin returns to the New Left mantra, the political is personal. The point is not to ask what Occupy should do now, but to question what I should do, what we should do, to make the coming season the beginning of a new beginning."Occupy Nation" is available from in Kindle format, which can be read on any computer from the Cloud Reader. It is a great read, full of insights and never bogs down. I read it carefully in about a day.

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