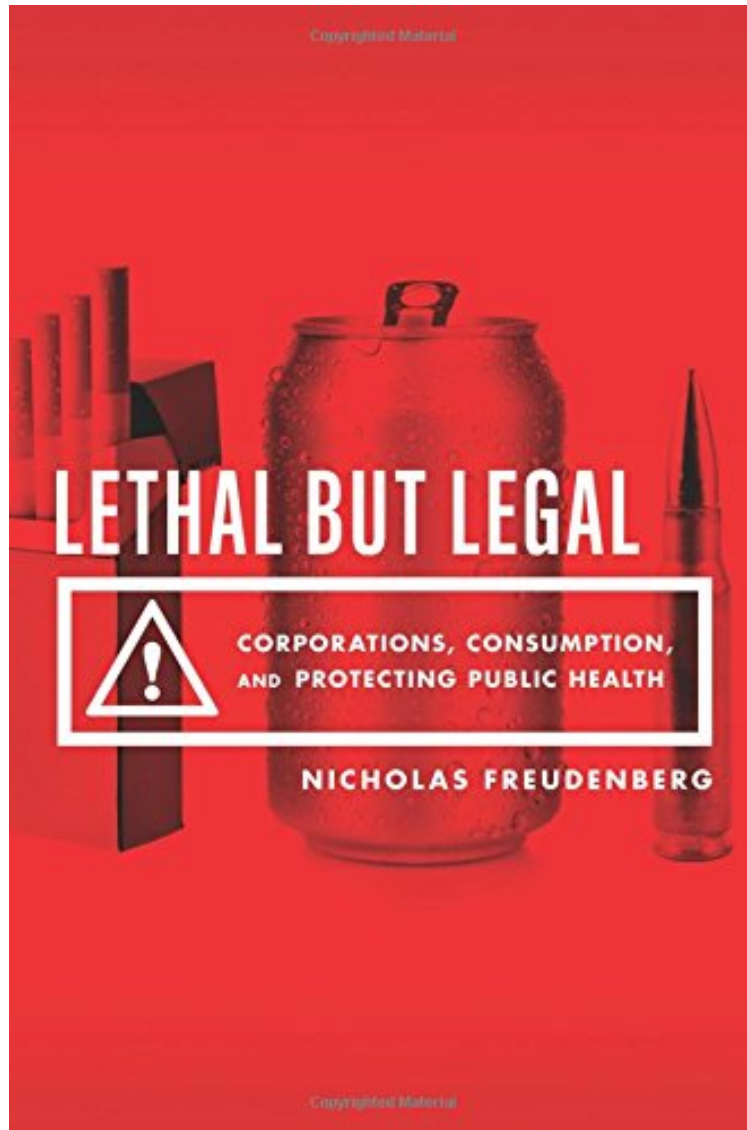


Lethal But Legal: Corporations, Consumption, and Protecting Public Health

Nicholas Freudenberg
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#963097 in Books Freudenberg Nicholas 2016-03-10 2016-04-07Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 6.10 x 1.30 x 9.20l, .0 #File Name: 0190495375360 pagesLethal But Legal Corporations Consumption and Protecting Public Health | File size: 71.Mb

Nicholas Freudenberg : Lethal But Legal: Corporations, Consumption, and Protecting Public Health before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Lethal But Legal: Corporations, Consumption, and Protecting Public Health:

9 of 10 people found the following review helpful. An important bookBy Fred MusanteFor anyone interested in the

affect of major corporations' business practices on public health in the U.S., Europe and around the world, this is an important book. I even cited it as a reference in a paper for one of my MPH classes. Like a prosecutor representing the people, Nicholas Freudenberg lays out the case against the "corporate consumption complex," a term chosen to liken it to the "military-industrial complex" that President Dwight Eisenhower warned us against. The corporate consumption complex is the alliance of big, multinational corporations, industry associations and public officials, who mutually benefit by sharing the profits gained from the promotion of the corporate consumption ideology into expanded markets. He focuses on six industries, automobiles, guns, pharmaceuticals, food and beverages, alcohol and tobacco, and explores how each has built its political influence in order to prevent governments from protecting their citizens. The tobacco industry alone was responsible for 100 million premature deaths in the 20th Century, and is on track to better than tenfold in the 21st. A well informed person probably will have heard some of the material in this book before, but not all of it. And one of Freudenberg's strong points is how well he explains the context of corporate consumptionism. For instance, most people know that unions, public interest groups and environmentalists oppose NAFTA and other recent multinational trade treaties, such as the TPP that is currently under negotiation. In a few pages, Freudenberg explains why these are bad, how they hurt public health in the U.S. and its trading partners alike, and how big corporations use their financial might to get government leaders to go along with them. And you might have heard that the National Rifle Association represents the corporate interests of gun manufacturers and dealers, not the personal interests of gun owners. Freudenberg explains how this came to be.

3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Excellent addition to the literature on corporate power and its consequences
By Fred Curtis
This well-written and exhaustively researched book is a major addition to the literature on the negative impacts of corporations. Exploring the "corporate consumption complex", Freudenberg brings the concerns of public health to the discussion of the for-profit corporation. Drawing on the literature about corporate power and rights, he lays out a comprehensive analysis of the corporate system and its pernicious effects. He focuses on six industries: food and beverage, alcohol, tobacco, guns (non-military), automobiles and pharmaceuticals. Beyond looking at the damaging impacts of corporations in these industries on health, he has a systemic analysis of corporate power and consumption ideology, as well as two excellent chapters on previous successful efforts to rein in corporate health injuries and a vision of how to create a broader movement that would have more long-lasting effects in creating a healthy and sustainable future by restoring democratic values and influence over corporations. This book is a welcome addition to the literature on corporate malfeasance, including Jeffrey Clements, *Corporations are not People*, Ted Nace, *Gangs of America*, and Marie-Monique Robin, *The World According to Monsanto*. This is a much more successful treatment of the issues addressed than the earlier *It Ain't Right but It's Legal: Harmful Social Consequences of Legal Industries*. While I would have liked some greater depth in a few of the case studies and missed the inclusion of energy corporations, the book is well-focused and brings an important and previously missing public health focus to the debate about corporate power and its consequences.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars
By Kimberly N. great

Decisions made by the food, tobacco, alcohol, pharmaceutical, gun, and automobile industries have a greater impact on today's health than the decisions of scientists and policymakers. As the collective influence of corporations has grown, governments around the world have stepped back from their responsibility to protect public health by privatizing key services, weakening regulations, and cutting funding for consumer and environmental protection. Today's corporations are increasingly free to make decisions that benefit their bottom line at the expense of public health. *Lethal but Legal* examines how corporations have impacted -- and plagued -- public health over the last century, first in industrialized countries and now in developing regions. It is both a current history of corporations' antagonism towards health and an analysis of the emerging movements that are challenging these industries' dangerous practices. The reforms outlined here aim to strike a healthier balance between large companies' right to make a profit and governments' responsibility to protect their populations. While other books have addressed parts of this story, *Lethal but Legal* is the first to connect the dots between unhealthy products, business-dominated politics, and the growing burdens of disease and health care costs. By identifying the common causes of all these problems, then situating them in the context of other health challenges that societies have overcome in the past, this book provides readers with the insights they need to take practical and effective action to restore consumers' right to health.

From Booklist
In a nutshell, public-health professor Freudenberg finds that the greatest threat to the health and well-being of humanity is an upside-down health system. He contends that, rather than a political-economic system that supports the health of the general population, public health is compromised to support the well-being of our current political-economic system. He refers to what he calls a "corporate consumption complex"; a disproportionately small group of business and political interests, as if it is an entity that thrives on "hyperconsumption"; by a mass populace whose good health is being sacrificed in the name of profit. He makes his case via examples of both blatant and unintentional disregard for public health within the food, alcohol, tobacco, pharmaceutical, gun, and automobile industries, which value profit over consumer health. His argument is so strong, passionate, and laced with intemperate phrases that it is clear that Freudenberg's intention is less a call to

reason than a rallying cry for an army of Davids against a systemic Goliath. --Donna Chavez "Freudenberg details how six industries -- food and beverage, tobacco, alcohol, firearms, pharmaceutical, and automotive -- use pretty much the same playbook to defend the sales of health-threatening products. This playbook, largely developed by the tobacco industry, disregards human health and poses greater threats to our existence than any communicable disease you can name." --New York Times "A reservoir of constructive indignation that can arouse all Americans who adhere to basic human values." --Ralph Nader "Freudenberg lays out the labyrinth of connections between corporate misbehavior and the health of the world, then and gives a roadmap to fix it. I love this book." --Cheryl G. Heaton, Director, NYU Global Institute of Public Health; former President and CEO, American Legacy Foundation "After documenting how multinational corporations manipulate us into hyperconsumption, this book goes on to identify the strategies we can, together, use to liberate ourselves." --Richard Wilkinson, Emeritus Professor of Social Epidemiology, University of Nottingham "Freudenberg brings clarity to our understanding of these fundamental determinants of population health in a way that no one else has." --Sandro Galea, Dean, Boston University School of Public Health "A richly detailed account of how corporate power has been used to corrupt health and well-being, along with excellent advice on what readers can do about it." --Kirkus "An exceptionally detailed and thought-provoking historical profile of how corporations have risen to power and maintained their influence in the shaping of our societies." --The Lancet "Provides an advocate's perspective on how industry shapes health, and in Freudenberg's words, 'This is something not only to think about, but to rant about.'" --Health Affairs "This book may well make you angry and inconsolable. You will ask yourself how a few industries--food, tobacco, alcohol, pharmaceutical, gun, and auto--have managed to act with virtual impunity and enrich themselves at the expense of our health and the health of the planet... This is a comprehensive, gutsy, and absorbing book that tells a compelling story of the major vectors of 21st century diseases... It should be required reading." --American Journal of Public Health "The text offers compelling evidence that an audience beyond academia could benefit from reading this book." -World Medicine and Health Policy

About the Author
Nicholas Freudenberg, PhD, MPH, is Distinguished Professor of Public Health at the City University of New York School of Public Health at Hunter College and founder and director of Corporations and Health Watch (www.corporationsandhealth.org), an international network of activists and researchers that monitors the business practices of the alcohol, automobile, firearms, food and beverage, pharmaceutical, and tobacco industries.