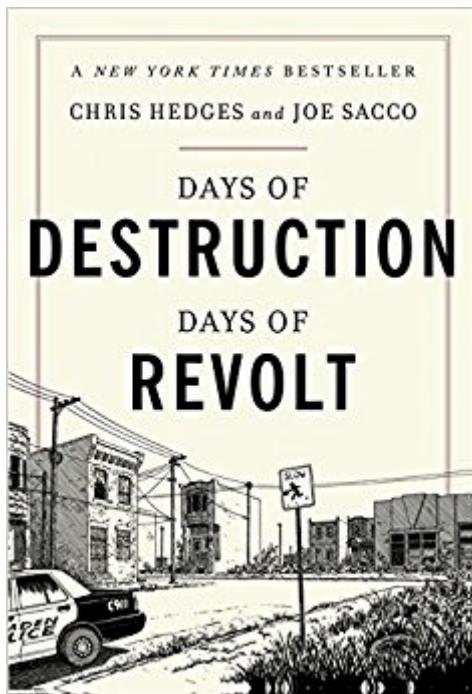


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Days Of Destruction, Days Of Revolt



Synopsis

Named a Best Book of the Year by .com and the Washington Post Three years ago, Pulitzer Prize–winner Chris Hedges and award-winning cartoonist and journalist Joe Sacco set out to take a look at the sacrifice zones, those areas in America that have been offered up for exploitation in the name of profit, progress, and technological advancement. They wanted to show in words and drawings what life looks like in places where the marketplace rules without constraints, where human beings and the natural world are used and then discarded to maximize profit. Days of Destruction, Days of Revolt is the searing account of their travels.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Best Books of the Month, June 2012: From the dusty plains of North Dakota to the coal-veined hills of West Virginia to the desolate and ravaged streets of Camden N.J., Pulitzer Prize winner Chris Hedges and award-winning cartoonist/journalist Joe Sacco introduce us to the nation's "sacrifice zones"--those regions where, in the authors' view, corporate greed has run wild, and the locals have suffered. A unique mashup of investigative journalism, man-on-the-street reportage, graphic novel, and anti-corporate manifesto, the result is a riveting and often chilling account of America's forgotten zones. The balance between Hedges' narrative nonfiction storytelling and Sacco's intimate and very human sketches is surprisingly effective. And the stark depictions (both written and visual) of abandoned coal mines and empty downtowns and crumbling houses are heartbreakingly, as are the stories of people struggling to survive. This is a special and important book. --Neal Thompson --This

text refers to the Digital edition.

“Days of Destruction, Days of Revolt is a journey through contemporary American misery and what can be done to change the course, interpreted through the eyes of two of today's most relevant literary journalists…. The graphics illustrate what words alone cannot, capturing a past as it's told, where there's no longer anything left to photograph.Ã¢ ¬Â•—Asbury Park Press“[T]he radical disjunction between how Hedges and Sacco approach their subjects is fascinating and instructive. Hedges is at ease with the grand, sweeping Howard Zinn–moments of matchbook history…. And if sweeping, historical connect-the-dots is your cup of tea, then you will find Hedges deeply moving. But if, like Sacco, you distrust all history that does not have a face, a name, and a voice behind it, you will find more to call you to action in the voices that speak from the decimated landscapes of America's deepest poverty, which we (like Dickens's “telescopic philanthropistsÃ¢ ¬Â•) know even less well than we do the sufferings of peoples halfway around the world. Together, Sacco and Hedges might just have created a form that can speak across divides unbridgeable without the supplement of graphic narrative.Ã¢ ¬Â•—Public Books“…a bleak, fist-shaking look at the effects of global capitalism in the United States.Ã¢ ¬Â•—Joe Gross, Austin

American-Statesman“Sacco's sections are uniformly brilliant. The tone is controlled, the writing smart, the narration neutral…. This is an important book.Ã¢ ¬Â•—New York Times Book Review“An unabashedly polemic, angry manifesto that is certain to open eyes, intensify outrage and incite argument about corporate greed…. Through immersion reportage and graphic narrative, the duo illuminate the human and environmental devastation in those communities, with the warning that no one is immune…. A call for a new American revolution, passionately proclaimed.Ã¢ ¬Â•—Kirkus (Starred Review)“[R]ead Days of Destruction, Days of Revolt to know what is happening in this country.Ã¢ ¬Â•—Caffeinated Muslim“… a scorching look at communities burned out not by foreign bombs but by American capitalism.Ã¢ ¬Â•—The Stranger (Seattle)“When their narrative culminates in Zucotti Park, readers will feel just as outraged as the protesters portrayed on the page.Ã¢ ¬Â•—Barnes and Noble Review“Days of Destruction, Days of Revolt examines how corruption and greed have shaped the history of the United States in an unfortunate way…. This is an excellent book for those who actually need a reason to revolt, and should be read by anyone seeking public office.Ã¢ ¬Â•—San Francisco/Sacramento Book Review “Be prepared for an emotional experience without a happy ending. Be prepared to be

defensive. Be prepared to be angry. Be prepared to be ashamed…. [T]he book is accompanied by sections that are a graphic novel approach to the individual stories of the real people interviewed in these zones of despair. What is so overpowering, and discussable, in these biographies is that they read as much like a confessional as they do a history…. Can there be anything more important to discuss?Ã¢ ¬Ã•—Book Group Buzz, Booklist Online“This is indeed an extraordinary, must read book.Ã¢ ¬Ã•—OpEdNews.com“[Days of Destruction, Days of Revolt] is, without question, the most profoundly disquieting (and downright shocking) portrait of modern America in recent years, and one that is essential reading for anyone wanting to comprehend the quotidian struggle of what sociologists called ‘the underclass'. To describe the book as Dickensian in its horror-show reports of frontline industrial decrepitude and socio-economic dysfunction is to engage in understatement… Days of Destruction, Days of Revolt is unapologetically combative and profoundly J'accuse. And though many a conservative think-tanker could try to punch holes in its arguments no one can remain unmoved or unsettled by its brilliantly documented reportage from the precipice of a society that prefers to turn a blind eye to its nightmarish underside.Ã¢ ¬Ã•—The Times (Saturday Review)“[B]rilliant combination of prose and graphic comics."—Ralph Nader“Days of Destruction, Days of Revolt (Nation) is as moving a portrait of poverty and as compelling a call to action as Michael Harrington's ‘The Other America,' published in 1962.Ã¢ ¬Ã•—Boston Globe“Days of Destruction, Days of Revolt is a gripping and thoroughly researched polemic.Ã¢ ¬Ã•—Grantland“This searing indictment of our unsustainable society is unsettling. To keep our chance for dignity, we must do our part to champion the organizers and whistleblowers, committee members and protesters. Amen. Pass the word.Ã¢ ¬Ã•—Brooklyn Rail "[H]arrowing descriptions…. Hedges tells the story, not only of the people but of the town, and despite the differences in setting, certain similarities show through: poverty, addiction, violence; but more than that, a long series of broken promises and mounting despair. Sacco illustrates these chapters with his distinctive, careful line drawings…. [A]n excellent piece of journalism -- engaging, troubling, and in its own way, beautiful.Ã¢ ¬Ã•—TowardFreedom.com“As quixotic as the quest may seem, Days of Destruction brings the rhetoric and the reality into a nobler focus after a very disturbing tour.Ã¢ ¬Ã•—The Star-Ledger (New Jersey)"It's rare that a book carries so much courage and conviction, forcing reflection and an urge to immediately rectify the problems."—Bookslut“A powerful social and political exploration.Ã¢ ¬Ã•—Midwest Book Review/California Bookwatch“This is a book that should warm the hearts of political activists such as Naomi Klein or the nonagenarian Pete Seeger. And cause apoplexy among the

Tea Party and its fellow travellers…. Sure, it's a polemic, but it's a polemic with a human face.Ã¢â€”Globe and Mail (Canada)“Days of Destruction, Days of Revolt is a harrowing account of the exploited American underclass…. It is their stories that shape Days of Destruction, Days of Revolt to be a mesmeric indictment of an America that has failed its populace…. From the title alone it is evident that neither Hedges nor Sacco remain objective or shy away from the palpable condemnation of capitalism and the American government. Regardless, they develop an accurate account of the despondency that plagues and divides American culture. This is an imperative read in an era where widespread economic depression and grief reign supreme…. Days of Destruction, Days of Revolt

There are some people in America the 1% who don't know what a life in poverty is like living in daily desperation to survive well I dedicate this book review to those of you who have never had to taste the bitterness of being poor in America. I am going to focus my attention on chapter 2 "Camden, New Jersey" as an African-American man aged 58 I have seen and lived through the triumph and failure of the civil-rights movement as for this movement's failure on the bottom of page 64-65 "The United States is home to almost twenty-five percent of the world's prison inmates. One out of every three African American males go to prison. More African Americans today are subject to the coercive forces of correctional control through prisons, probation, or parole than were enslaved a decade before the Civil War. The days of segregated buses and lunch counters may be over, but integration never became a reality except for a few middle class blacks. Integration would mean new taxes to lift African-Americans out of their internal colonies, new schools to educate the poor and give them a chance, and making sure there were jobs available with living wages. The civil rights movement was a legal victory, not an economic one. And the economic barriers remain rigid and impenetrable for the bottom two-thirds of African-Americans whose lives today are worse than when King marched in Selma. The violence of overt segregation ended. The violence of poverty remains. Wealth was never redistributed. And when cities were deserted by whites, who took with them the jobs and tax base to keep those cities alive, who made it plain by their departure that they would not live with or allow their children to be educated with blacks, city halls were turned over to compliant black elites whose loyalty rarely extended beyond their own corrupt inner circle. White power hid, as in any colony, behind black faces." On the middle of page 65 an excellent description is given of where us poor people live "Camden sits on the edge of the Delaware River facing the Philadelphia skyline. A multilane highway, a savage concrete laceration, slices through the heart of the city. It allows commuters to pass overhead, in and out of Philadelphia, without seeing the human

misery below. We keep those trapped in our internal colonies, our national sacrifice zones, invisible."One important aspect of poverty is the unhealthy diet of us poor people as stated on the bottom of page 75 "Camden, like many poor pockets in the United States, is a food desert. Camden is dominated by Church's chicken- where nearly everything on the menu, from Jalapeno Cheese Bombers to the Double Chicken N Cheese, is fried- and doughnut shops. Grease and sugar. Decay and crime. Despair and poverty. Cities and manufacturing hubs across the country suffered similar assaults, but in Camden the breakdown was total, and the city, at least as a self-sustaining community, was obliterated." The monstrous specter of economic segregation reared its ugly head once again as stated in the middle of page 76 "Economic segregation is the new, acceptable form of segregation. And it turned New Jersey into one of the most segregated states in the nation. Mount Laurel, seized by developers, became a haven for whites fleeing urban decay. Its original inhabitants could no longer afford to live there. The blacks were driven from their land, forced into squalid internal colonies such as Camden." The American Flag is not in my apartment and never will be until us poor people the 99% will be able to live like decent human beings with dignity rather than having to wallow in dire poverty. This book should be read by all those 1% who don't know what it is like to be poor in the good old U.S. of A.

I was asked to "vet" this book for a professor of sociology & political science. The illustrated book examines 4 communities in the USA that have been ravaged & changed forever by corporate greed (Pine Ridge Indian reservation which represents the role of resource greed in this county's earliest growth; Camden NJ, pillaged by crooked politicians and abandoned after the steel industry collapsed; a West Virginia town ruined by mountain topping coal extraction; and a Florida town that is central to the migrant picking fruit and vegetable trade). Initially I thought, "This is just too grim, the information is so relentlessly depressing." While you read the heartbreakng stories of people who live in these communities it just feels that "the fix is in," corporate power is just too entrenched to ever be regulated to be more humane and fair. But after the profiles Hedges writes an extremely eloquent summary of why it's important to care about these issues and speak out against them even in the face of what seem like impossible odds. I don't have the book with me anymore; I gave it to a nephew who teaches. But he wrote something to the effect of the importance of standing for the side of good, standing up against greed and human exploitation. He cited examples of many corrupt periods and places that reached the tipping point and changed. He said many of the people who protested in places over the years were marginalized and lonely and never saw the results of their actions. However, their actions resonated with younger people and planted the seeds of

change. The illustrations start with sketches of the community itself in each section, then with a portrait of one person they speak to, and finally, one of their interviews turns into an 8- or ten-page comic strip of someone's story of their life in that community. All of these have the effect of humanizing the tough information being chronicled. They literally put a face on corporate excess and exploitation. So while it was very tough information, it was translated very succinctly into how corporate excesses affect families and communities. I felt it was an important read, and recommended it highly as a college textbook. I will also give it as gifts to many young people I know who care about the state of the world and are civically engaged.

Hedges describes how the capitalist system has grown through various waves of victimization and exploitation of minority groups within America. He describes the plight of the slave, the theft of Indian lands by vested interest groups from the majority, and the exploitation of the south east U. S. coal miner and impact on their health and their communities. It is a book with a philosophy and a purpose and clearly reflects both. I would recommend this book be read by a mature reader, who can put it into perspective, recognize the injustices and have compassion and understanding for the victims and commit themselves through their understanding to never support abusive behaviour towards any class of people anywhere for the purpose of material benefit.

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