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1 – PLEASE STOP HELPING US: HOW LIBERALS MAKE IT HARDER FOR BLACKS TO SUCCEED

by [Jason L. Riley](#)

FROM THE PUBLISHER'S DESCRIPTION:

In *Please Stop Helping Us*, Jason L. Riley examines how well-intentioned welfare programs are in fact holding black Americans back. Minimum-wage laws may lift earnings for people who are already employed, but they price a disproportionate number of blacks out of the labor force. Affirmative action in higher education is intended to address past discrimination, but the result is fewer black college graduates than would otherwise exist. And so it goes with everything from soft-on-crime laws, which make black neighborhoods more dangerous,

to policies that limit school choice out of a mistaken belief that charter schools and voucher programs harm the traditional public schools that most low-income students attend.

In theory these efforts are intended to help the poor – and poor minorities in particular. In practice they become massive barriers to moving forward.

Please Stop Helping Us lays bare these counterproductive results. People of goodwill want to see more black socioeconomic advancement, but in too many instances the current methods and approaches aren't working. Acknowledging this is an important first step.

2 – THE NEW CLASS CONFLICT

by [Joel Kotkin](#)

In ways not seen since the Gilded Age of the late nineteenth century, America is becoming a nation of increasingly sharply divided classes. Joel Kotkin's *The New Class Conflict* breaks down these new divisions for the first time, focusing on the ascendancy of two classes: the tech Oligarchy, based in Silicon Valley; and the Clerisy, which includes much of the nation's policy, media, and academic elites.

The New Class Conflict is written largely from the point of view of those who are, to date, the losers

in this class conflict: the middle class. This group, which Kotkin calls the Yeomanry, has been the traditional bulwark of American society, politics, and economy. Yet under pressure from the ascendant Oligarchs and ever more powerful Clerisy, their prospects have diminished the American dream of class mobility that has animated its history and sustained its global appeal.

This book is both a call to arms and a unique piece of analysis about the possible evolution of our society into an increasingly quasi-feudal order. Looking beyond the conventional views of both left and

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right, conservative and liberal, Kotkin provides a tough but evenhanded analysis of our evolving class system, and suggests some approaches that might restore the middle class to its proper role as the dominant group in the American future.

FROM CHAPTER ONE:

In the coming decades, the greatest existential threat facing America lies with the rise of a new class order that leaves diminished prospects for the vast majority. In this emergent society, wealth and power are concentrated in ever fewer hands and threaten to erode much of the traditional appeal of America, its institutions, and sense of promise. ...

3 – THE TYRANNY OF EXPERTS: ECONOMISTS, DICTATORS, AND THE FORGOTTEN RIGHTS OF THE POOR

by [William Easterly](#)

Over the last century, global poverty has largely been viewed as a technical problem that merely requires the right “expert” solutions. Yet all too often, experts recommend solutions that fix immediate problems without addressing the systemic political factors that created them in the first place. Further, they produce an accidental collusion with “benevolent autocrats,” leaving dictators with yet more power to violate the rights of the poor.

Presenting a wealth of cutting-edge economic research, Easterly argues that only a new model of development – one predicated on respect for the individual rights of people in developing countries, that understands that unchecked state power is the problem and not the solution – will be capable of ending global poverty once and for all.

FROM THE INTRODUCTION:

The conventional approach to economic development, to making poor countries rich, is based on a technocratic illusion: the belief that

The solution to the class crisis of the twenty-first century will differ from that of the twentieth. In the industrial era, centralized systems and bureaucracies were critical to overcome the entrenched power of large corporations and monopoly capital. But the digital age – if it can be wrestled from the control of the new Oligarchs – opens greater possibilities for decentralization. Today, centralized news sources, universities, and institutions no longer possess a monopoly on information and thought. Orthodoxies may have become easier to preserve, but at the same time it is proving more difficult to halt the spread of contrary ideas.

poverty is a purely technical problem amenable to such technical solutions as fertilizers, antibiotics, or nutritional supplements. The technocratic approach ignores what this book will establish as the real cause of poverty – the unchecked power of the state against poor people without rights.

By this technocratic illusion, the technical experts unintentionally confer new powers and legitimacy on the state as the entity that will implement the technical solutions. What used to be called the divine right of kings has in our time become the development right of dictators. The implicit vision in development today is that of well-intentioned autocrats advised by technical experts, what this book will call *authoritarian development*. The word *technocracy* (a synonym for authoritarian development) itself is an early twentieth-century coinage that means “rule by experts.”

The sleight of hand that focuses attention on technical solutions while covering up violations of the rights of real people is the moral tragedy of development today.

- Market and industry analysis
- Strategic business direction
- Growth dynamics

- Trend identification and analysis
- Keynotes and presentations
- Proprietary research and reports

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4 – TO MAKE AND KEEP PEACE AMONG OURSELVES AND WITH ALL NATIONS

by [Angelo M. Codevilla](#)

FROM THE PUBLISHER'S DESCRIPTION:

Author Angelo Codevilla asks, *What is to be America's peace? How is it to be won and preserved in our time?* He notes that our government's increasingly unlimited powers flow in part from our statesmen's inability to stay out of wars or to win them and that our statesmen and academics have ceased to think about such things. The purpose of this book is to rekindle such thoughts. The author reestablishes early American statecraft's understanding of peace – what it takes to make it and what it takes to keep it. He reminds

Americans why our founding generation placed the pursuit of peace ahead of all other objectives; he shows how they tried to keep the peace by drawing sharp lines between America's business and that of others, as well as between peace and war. He shows how our 20th-century statesmen confused peace and war as well as America's affairs with that of mankind's. The result, he shows, has been endless war abroad and spiraling strife among Americans. Codevilla provides intellectual guidelines for recovering the pursuit of peace as the guiding principle by which the American people and statesmen may navigate domestic as well as international affairs.

5 – THE RULE OF NOBODY: SAVING AMERICA FROM DEAD LAWS AND BROKEN GOVERNMENT

by [Philip K. Howard](#)

FROM THE PREFACE:

The US is now ranked below a dozen or more countries in terms of ease of doing business and effective governance. These are our competitors in global markets.

Reforms, often embodied in hundreds of pages of new regulations, are tried constantly. But they only seem to make the problems worse. Political debate is so predictable that it's barely worth listening to, offering ideology without practicality.

The missing element in American government could hardly be more basic: No official has authority to make a decision. Law has crowded out the ability to be practical or fair. Mindless rigidity has descended upon the land, from the school house to the White House to, sometimes, your house. Nothing much works, because no one is free to make things work.

It's a progressive disease: As law grows to fill the vacuum, the wheels of government go slower

every year. It's not hard to imagine a different way of organizing government. Nothing will get fixed until we give back to officials the authority that goes along with their responsibility. This requires more than reform. It requires remaking our structure of government – toward radically simplified structures with room for humans in charge to accomplish public goals.

America must embrace again its founding values of individual responsibility and accountability. This requires abandoning the utopian dream of automatic government and giving responsible officials – real people – the authority to make practical choices.

America is at a dangerous place. Big change will happen, whether you want it or not, because the current structure is not sustainable. The impetus for overhaul will not be a miraculous moment of political harmony, but a crisis. But what should the change look like? That's the question addressed in this book.

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6 – THE VANISHING NEIGHBOR: THE TRANSFORMATION OF AMERICAN COMMUNITY

by [Marc J. Dunkelman](#)

FROM THE PUBLISHER'S DESCRIPTION:

Americans today find themselves mired in an era of uncertainty and frustration. The nation's safety net is pulling apart under its own weight; political compromise is viewed as a form of defeat; and our faith in the enduring concept of American exceptionalism appears increasingly outdated.

But the American Age may not be ending. In *The Vanishing Neighbor*, Marc J. Dunkelman identifies an epochal shift in the structure of American life – a shift unnoticed by many. Routines that once put doctors and lawyers in touch with grocers and plumbers – interactions that encouraged debate and cultivated compromise – have changed dramatically since the postwar era. Both technology and the new routines of everyday life connect tight-knit circles and expand the breadth of our social landscapes, but they've sapped the

commonplace, incidental interactions that for centuries have built local communities and fostered healthy debate.

The disappearance of these once-central relationships – between people who are familiar but not close, or friendly but not intimate – lies at the root of America's economic woes and political gridlock. The institutions that were erected to support what Tocqueville called the "township" – that unique locus of the power of citizens – are failing because they haven't yet been molded to the realities of the new American community.

The good news is that the very transformation at the heart of our current anxiety holds the promise of more hope and prosperity than would have been possible under the old order. *The Vanishing Neighbor* argues persuasively that to win the future we need to adapt yesterday's institutions to the realities of the twenty-first-century American community.

7 – THE OPPORTUNITY EQUATION: HOW CITIZEN TEACHERS ARE COMBATING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP IN AMERICA'S SCHOOLS

by [Eric Schwarz](#), [Lawrence H. Summers](#)

Parental wealth now predicts adult success more than at any point in the last hundred years. And yet as debates about education rage on, and wealth-based achievement gaps grow, too many people fix the blame on one of two convenient scapegoats: poverty or our public schools. But in fact, low-income kids are learning more now than ever before. The real culprit for rising inequality, Eric Schwarz argues in *The Opportunity Equation*, is that wealthier kids are learning much, much more – mostly outside of school. In summer camps, robotics competitions, sessions with private tutors, and conversations around the dinner table, children from more affluent families build the skills and social networks that propel them to success.

In *The Opportunity Equation*, Schwarz tells the story of how he founded the pioneering Citizen Schools program to combat rising inequality by bringing these same opportunities to children who don't have access to them. By increasing learning time in schools and harnessing the power of an army of volunteers with various skills and professional backgrounds – lawyers, engineers, carpenters, journalists, nonprofit leaders, and grandmothers who sew – Citizen Schools offers after-school apprenticeships that provide the building blocks for adult success.

At a time when many stakeholders in the education debates are looking for new, silver-bullet shortcuts to educational excellence, Schwarz shows that the best solution is human-centered, rooted in the American tradition of citizen voluntarism, and, most important, achievable.