

WE THE PEOPLE

BY THOM HARTMANN

A CALL TO TAKE BACK AMERICA

ILLUSTRATED BY NEIL COHN

Most Americans consider themselves neither right nor left, but independent and centrist.



LEFT

RIGHT

This is not a negative position, but is an emphatic statement that they don't buy into the extremist visions of either right or left.



Yet they know what they want, and have fought and died in wars from 1776 to the 20th century to preserve it.



They are the

LEFT

RADICAL MIDDLE

RIGHT



The founders of America explicitly defined the Radical Middle when they wrote in the Declaration of Independence:

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed."

This is the position of the Radical Middle:

That we, the people, don't want governments or corporations running our lives.



We don't want a corporate state...

...or a police state.

We want back our democratic institutions...

...a government again responsive to We the People...

...instead of today's government that has become captive to corporate special interests.

We want to live our lives in peace and security...

...but are neither willing to tolerate tyranny ...

...nor subject ourselves to a police state.

We want job security and safety in our old age...

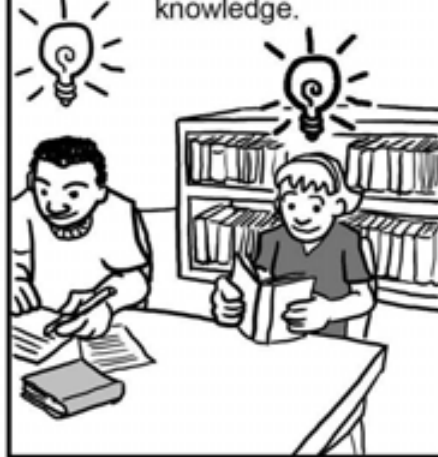
...and have clearly seen that transnational corporations don't give a hoot about either.



We want a clean environment...



...and schools that inspire and fill our children with a thirst for knowledge.



And, we realize that the modern corporate-controlled state has let profit be more important than clean air or water...



...and that taking the cheap way out and just throwing more tests at our children kills rather than kindles their enthusiasm for learning.



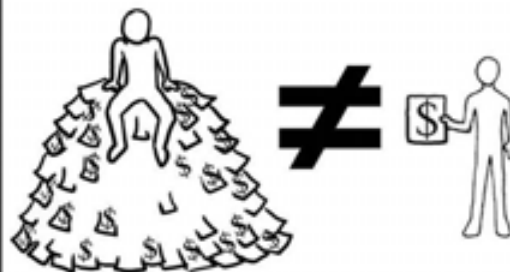
We don't want a government bureaucracy or a corporate bureaucracy telling us what doctors we can see, but we do believe that a single-payer system funded by our taxes and administered by our government can work for all Americans.



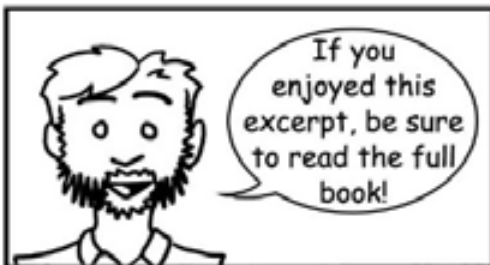
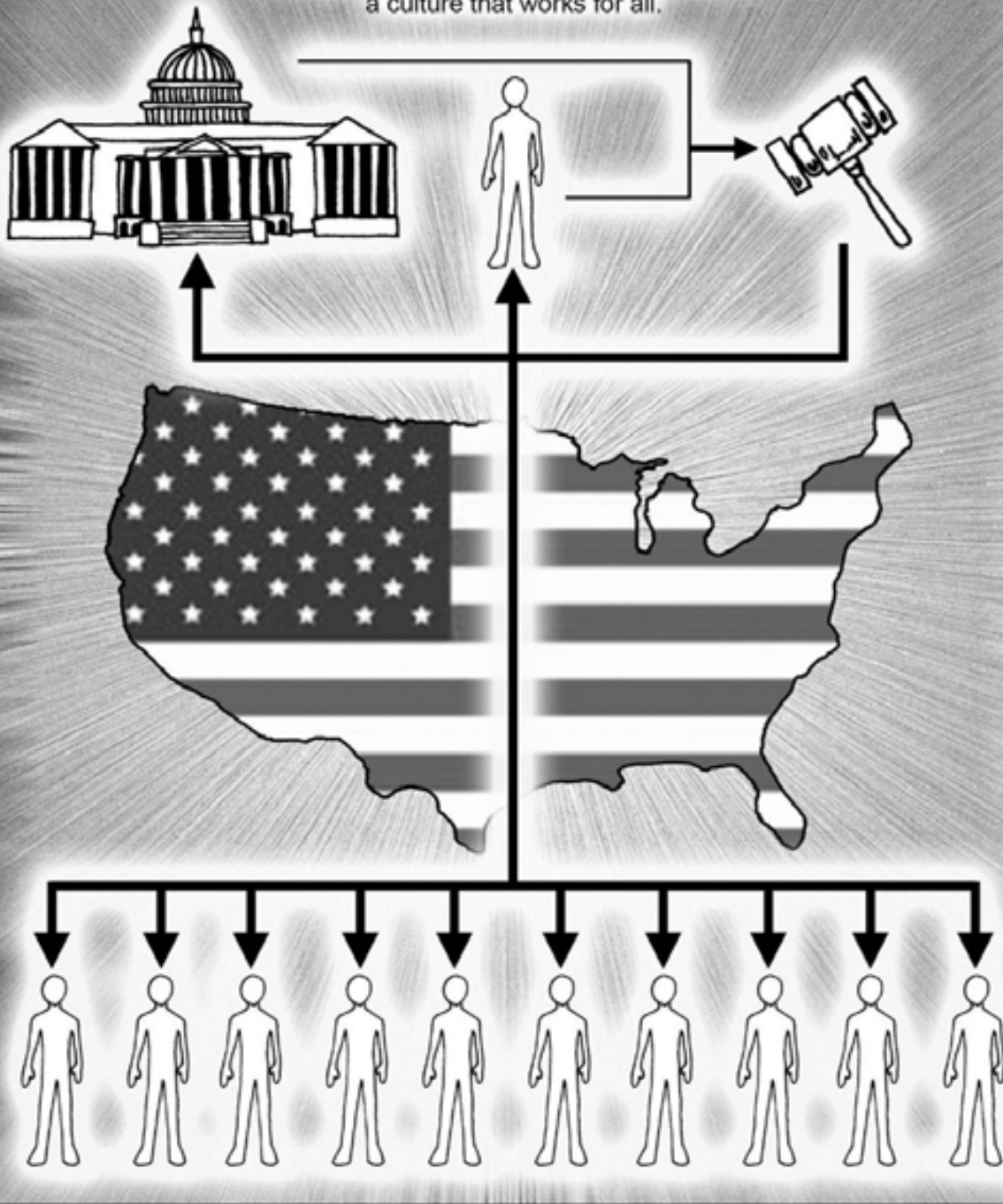
We don't want to pay excessive taxes but we are also fully willing to pay our share for the upkeep of the nation, for safe streets and communities, and for our nation's defense.



We also, however, think that somebody who spends half their income on food and shelter shouldn't pay as much in taxes as somebody who has such a high income that food and shelter only represent a tiny fraction of their income.



We in the Radical Middle are calling for nothing less than a restoration of democracy — a government of, by, and for the people in a culture that works for all.



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A TIME TO RESTORE DEMOCRACY