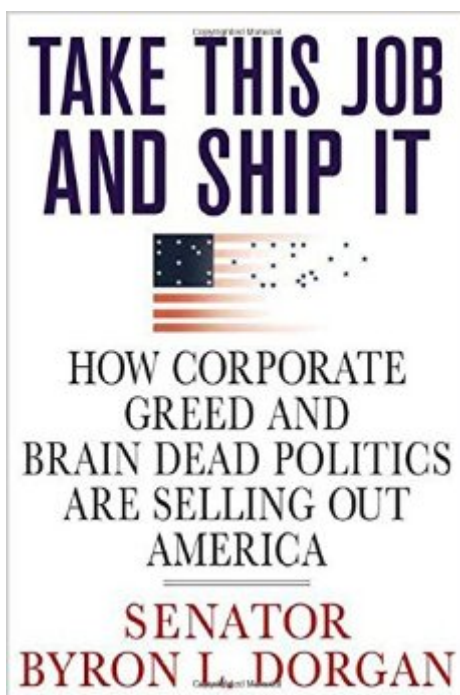


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Take This Job And Ship It: How Corporate Greed And Brain-Dead Politics Are Selling Out America



Synopsis

Our trade deficit increases by \$2 billion a day. Pharmaceutical companies and their lobbyists have such influence in Washington that Medicare, by current law, is not allowed to negotiate lower drug prices. We import oil on an ever-increasing scale, putting ourselves into debt with the Saudis, the Kuwaitis, and other Middle Eastern nations. With their windfall profits, they continue to buy American assets. China's booming economy and abundance of cheap labor are threatening our economic survival. We have mortgaged our fortunes, our principles, and our way of life.

In this comprehensive look at the real, human toll of America's unsound trade policy, Senator Byron Dorgan exposes the myth of "free trade." Indeed, free trade is not free; it is something that is slowly but surely draining away American prosperity. Sure, Chinese labor can drive down prices at Wal-Mart; at the same time, however, those saved wages--dollars that would have gone to buy these cheaper goods--are gone. Too soon, it will all come crashing down. Major U.S. corporations continue to ship jobs overseas by the millions and, because of their influence in Washington, avoid paying a king's ransom in taxes. Many billions of dollars that these companies fleece from the government and the American people go overwhelmingly to investments in expanding production capabilities overseas. In short, our government is in the grip of corporate and foreign interests, and the American worker has borne the brunt of this culture of corruption. How can we stem the tide of outsourcing? Why has the White House done nothing? Will the middle class survive? From describing corporate profiteering to calling to action a lethargic, inactive government, Byron Dorgan exposes the truth about the destructive relationship between corporations and Congress and proposes strategies for what can really be done to preserve America's preeminence in the world. "Written with poignant stories, persuasive logic and superb factual support, this book is a wake up call for every American who cares about U.S. policy on trade and jobs. One doesn't have to agree with all that Senator Dorgan writes in this book to find it remarkably compelling." --Senator Tom Daschle "If you're tired of seeing good American jobs shipped overseas in search of cheap labor, you're going to appreciate this book. Senator Dorgan and I have joined forces in the Senate to fight the trade policies of a weakening America. His book offers real solutions that can strengthen our country." --Senator Lindsay Graham "If you think that no one in Washington gives a damn about about corporate greed and the decimation of America's middle class, you haven't met Senator Byron Dorgan. In TAKE THIS JOB AND SHIP IT," this modern day Prairie Populist pops the greedhead right in their snouts, using both facts and a stinging sense of humor. Byron's book is both a rallying cry and a blueprint for action. If you believe America is headed in the wrong

direction and you want to do something about it read this book, then help us elect more Byron Dorgans." --Jim Hightower "Senator Byron Dorgan is one of the few elected official of either party who ahs consistently and unwaveringly defended the interests of American working men and women and their families. His commitment to our country and the truth is inspiring. His book is a trenchant and timely examination of America's so-called free trade policies and the exorbitant cost to our middle class and our nation." --Lou Dobbs "I watched Senator Dorgan take on the powerful interests in the U.S. Senate, and this book shows that he is still at it. Our country's trade policies are a scandal, and Dorgan has the guts to expose it and name names. He also tells us how to put our country back on track. This is an important book that might finally call our country to action to protect good jobs and our way of life." -Senator Fritz Hollings

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Customer Reviews

"Moving jobs to China and running profits through the Cayman Islands to avoid taxes undermines American workers and threatens our future" - so begins Senator Dorgan's "Take This Job and Ship It." Our trade deficit now increases by \$2 billion/day, and our total deficit (federal government and trade) is \$1.2 trillion/year. In 1970 the biggest U.S. corporation was G.M. - for most employees, it was a ticket to lifetime employment, and for all it provided good wages, pensions, and health care. Today it is Wal-Mart, with an average salary of \$18,000, 70% turnover the first year, and large numbers without benefits. About three million have already lost their jobs to out-sourcing, and Alan Blinder, former vice chairman of the Federal Reserve Board estimates 42-56 million jobs could be

sent abroad, while many of those remaining will be competing with those paid much less in foreign lands. Dorgan goes on to assert that about 750,000 U.S. jobs have been lost via NAFTA, and the three largest imports from Mexico are autos, auto parts, and electronic - displacing high-skilled American jobs, contrary to pre-implementation projections. Even Fig Newtons are now imported from Mexico. We have gone from a \$1.3 billion surplus with Mexico in 1994 to a \$45 billion deficit. Meanwhile, the U.S. poverty rate increased for the fourth straight year (to 12.7%) in 2005. The problem is no longer limited to blue-collar workers. Senior software engineer salaries have been driven down by outsourcing from \$130,000 to \$100,000 in a few years (IF one is still employed). Airline maintenance has also been exported. Meanwhile, while corporations make record profits through outsourcing, their tax payments dwindle.

From the very beginning, Senator Dorgan, the author, speaks from his heart and soul about what is wrong with America, and what can be done about it. You can sense his strong sense of duty and the obligation he feels toward his fellow Americans, and the frustration he feels in being thwarted by a republican-dominated congress. (This book was finished before the recent congressional election that gave congress back to democrats.) Senator Dorgan laments the exodus of jobs to countries that have broken their trade agreements with us, and have made our trade deficit soar. This exodus has not only caused three million Americans to lose their jobs, but it has also compromised our national security. Parts for our bombs and planes are made in foreign countries. It has allowed countries to flood ours with their imports while keeping ours out by tariffs. Mexico is exporting contaminated and decayed meat that is lining our meat counters. And Dorgan attacks the now familiar Walmart because they pay their workers so poorly and a health care plan that costs so much, they must use public assistance. He is concerned about a congress that represents corporations rather than their constituents. He is concerned about a congress that allows them to export jobs and commodities and then charge them a low tax rate of only 5.4 percent to bring the money back into the country. He is angry that pharmaceuticals are allowed to export their products where they are sold at less than half the price charged to Americans. He is also angry that they claim the cost is for research when they are spending so much on marketing. (Anyone ever see a commercial with two people in separate bathtubs--when the moment is right?) This book is well-written.

Byron Dorgan really hits the nail on the head with this book. It should appeal to everybody whether or not they are "blue" or "red". Why? What good is having a political point of view if there are no good jobs? I will admit that this review is very biased on the subject. I live in Michigan. This state

leads the nation in job losses. There seems to be a conspiracy of Democrats, Republicans, and business leaders in this state to ship jobs to any place but here. I've seen the towns of Flint, Saginaw, and Detroit turn into hopeless areas with no jobs. Is this the future of America? This reviewer hopes not! I was lucky enough to run across this book at my local book store. I sat down and read it all in one evening. This book reminds me of an economics argument I got into with a professor. He said jobs should go to where people are willing to work for little money. I retorted "that's pretty big talk for a government worker who has college tenure". Sheeze, I agree with this book. There is no reason to have trade with China if all they are going to do is sell us second rate goods and loan us money to for our deficits. There is no reason to have total free trade with many nations because they don't have environmental laws, employment rights laws, and many other job protections that the citizens of this nation spent years building. Last, lots of businesses, like GM, love to run overseas for cheap labor. However, they forget the danger of nationalism. The large corporations of America lost millions of dollars when industries were nationalized by Cuba in the early 1960s. The trouble is if some company lost a factory to nationalization then they would expect corporate welfare to bail them out. America is in a perfect storm for losing jobs.

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