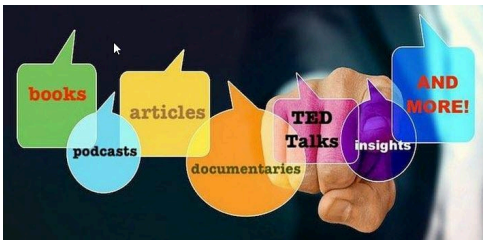
Synopsis360º
July 6, 2021
Study Guide



We, the Corporations By Adam Winkler

Our country is complex and bound up with legal and financial implications. Yet it seems we want something simple. We critique decisions made by government leaders often without a clear understanding of the intricacies that were involved. In this session, we will explore how decisions are made at the macro level, starting with the Founders

A key element of our government is how decisions are made. As a democracy, we tend to think that citizens (people) vote to elect their representatives who then make policy decisions. The legal process then kicks in to clarify, expand, cancel or adjust. What has been sneaking up on us, however, is the idea that citizens may not just mean you and me – citizens can mean corporations who, over the centuries of case law, have gained some of the same rights as individuals to influence how decisions are made.
Adam Winkler's book is a fascinating journey from the Founders through current times. Says the NY Times book review: [An] elegant stitching together of 400 years of diverse cases, allowing us to feel the sweep and flow of history and the constantly shifting legal approaches to understanding this unusual entity...[the] 'artificial person.'

Join Synopsis 360º to explore the growth of corporations as citizens.

To prepare…and if your time is limited:

If you find this topic fascinating, read We, The Corporations, by Adam Winkler. If you want to gain a little insight before the session on July 6, but don't have time to read the book, here are three different articles to provide some context:

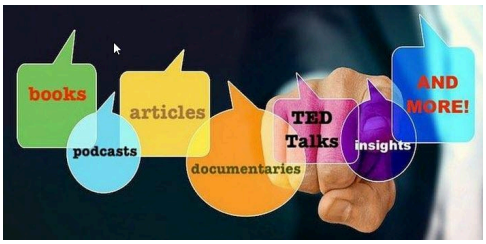
Setting the stage for the complexity of our country: https://www.bizcatalyst360.com/hamilton/

The Introduction and Chapter 2 of Winkler's book:
https://lowellmilkeninstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/A.-Winkler-WE-THE-CORPORATIONS-Excerpts.pdf

A Wikipedia article describing the landmark Citizens United case that changed the way the government operates: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Citizens_United_v._FEC

A July 2021 NYT article about corporate taxation:
https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/07/07/opinion/minimum-corporate-tax.html?referringSource=articleShare

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Questions to consider:

1. The Citizens United decision went over my head in 2010. Today I wish I had spent the time to understand? Does the basic premise of the book (and maybe less so the articles above) – ring true, that corporations seem to have powers that influence our elected representatives?

2. What are the implications for our individual votes when corporations can influence government decisions?

3. As individuals, what can we do to better understand our government's decision-making process?