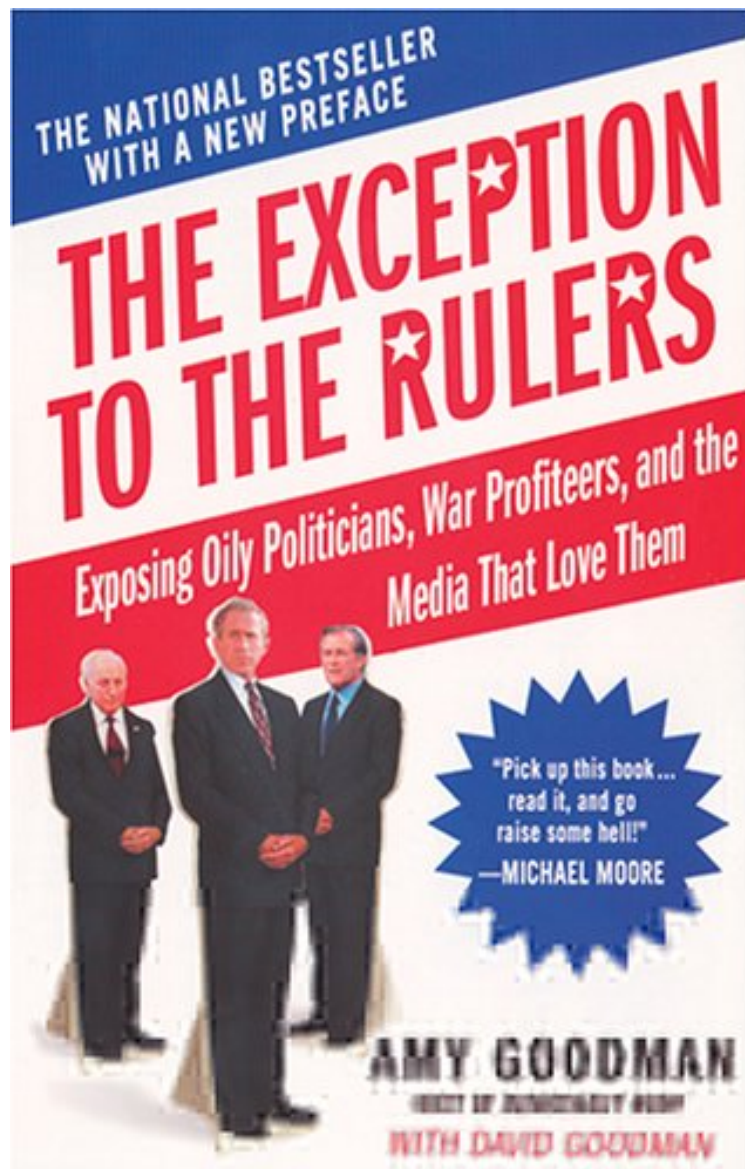


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The Exception to the Rulers: Exposing Oily Politicians, War Profiteers, and the Media That Love Them

Amy Goodman, David Goodman
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#1508344 in Books 2005-03-30 2005-03-30Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.00 x .0 x 5.19l, .65 #File Name: 140130799X368 pages | File size: 52.Mb

Amy Goodman, David Goodman : The Exception to the Rulers: Exposing Oily Politicians, War Profiteers, and the Media That Love Them before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Exception to the Rulers: Exposing Oily Politicians, War Profiteers, and the Media That Love Them:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very important book to know about War Peace/ Life Death By samaritan Very important information watchers get from Democracy Now! every day. So this book. I learned many big names by this book: Mr. George Walker Bush, Mr. Salvador Allende, Mr. Henry Kissinger, Mr. Bob Kerry, Mr. Newt Gingrich, and so on. I strongly recommend you this book to know interesting/shocking information for our lives. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. and longer.. By John Chandler Long..... 13 of 15 people found the following review helpful. An Alternative Voice Worth Hearing By Andrew Malekoff Indian essayist and activist Arundhati Roy said in her book *An Ordinary Person's Guide to Empire* (2004, Cambridge, MA: South End Press) that, "We need to know the difference between what we know and what we are told...between what is concealed and what is revealed...and between the real world and the virtual world," (p. 96). In *Exception to the Rulers* Amy Goodman helps us to do just that by exposing the power elite's unholy alliance with corporate media and making the case for independent media of which she is a major proponent and practitioner in her role as host of Democracy Now. *The Exception to the Rulers* is divided into 18 chapters and an introduction entitled "The Silenced Majority," in which Goodman describes the responsibility of a journalist as "going to where the silence is: giving voice to the forgotten, forsaken, and beaten down by the powerful." She provides rich analysis and chilling illustrations of big government's collaboration with media conglomerates to deceive the public and create sanitizing images and information - "weapons of mass deception" - about the war in Iraq. Goodman makes a strong case for the need for alternative sources of information to counter a handful of major corporations that are raising our children through their stranglehold on the media. Recently at North Shore Child and Family Guidance Center, the children's mental health agency where I work, we surveyed over 1000 high school students across Long Island, NY. A vast majority said that television was their number one source of news and information and an almost equal number said that it was a most reliable source. Yet, over half said that they do not trust the government to do the right thing most of the time and see politicians as the group that they least admire. The survey results offer a window on the influence of television absent a deep understanding of who decides what airs in what manner and for what reasons. Goodman illustrates one deceptive strategy that she calls the "classic disinformation two-step." In this case it was used to justify the decision to wage war on Iraq. Here is how she describes it on pages 138-139: "The White House leaks a lie to the New York Times, the newspaper publishes it as an expose, then the White House conveniently masquerades behind the credibility of the Times..." On September 8, 2002, NY Times reporters Michael Gordon and Judith Miller reported, "Iraq stepped up its quest for nuclear weapons and had embarked on a worldwide search for material to make an atomic bomb." The day that the Times ran the story Vice President Cheney went on the TV talk circuit and said that "Iraq purchased aluminum tubes to make enriched uranium" and then attributed the story to the Times. Soon thereafter President Bush referred to this as a "first sign of a smoking gun." *The Exception to the Rulers* is an eye-opener. It offers a journalistic window that we are not accustomed to day-to-day. I recommend that you read this book. You may disagree with its analyses of domestic and world events. You may think that it is nothing more than some crackpot conspiracy theory. But, I think it will be hard to walk away from this book without a greater understanding of the need to have alternative sources of information to counter what we are spoon fed on a daily basis by corporate media.

Now in paperback, the national bestseller that challenges the corporate and political hypocrisy that has silenced America in *Exception to the Rulers*, award-winning journalist Amy Goodman exposes the lies, corruption, and crimes of the power elite - an elite that is bolstered by large media conglomerates who obscure the truth. Her goal is 'to go where the silence is, to give voice to the silenced majority,' and she is fond of quoting Margaret Mead: 'Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.' This book informs and empowers people to act on that principle.

From Publishers Weekly Journalist and radio host Goodman brings her hard-hitting, no-holds-barred brand of reporting to an array of human rights, government accountability and media responsibility issues, and the result is bracing and timely. Goodman isn't about to let anyone slide by with easy explanations, not even then President Clinton when he called in on her daily Pacifica news show. And she is fierce and tireless in her commitment to dig behind official versions of the facts to get to very different stories. Her analysis of Iraq War contracts won by certain key Bush campaign donors will open many eyes, not only with its neat comparison of donation amount with contract value but also with its bold presentation of "Crony Connections." A gadfly's life in these turbulent times is neither restful nor boring, and Goodman's perspective on events like genocidal massacres in East Timor and mainstream coverage of the Jessica Lynch rescue is both important and alarming. Instances in which newspapers like the New York Times and the Washington Post have published stories based on leaked reports from unnamed government sources only to have to retract the stories later as being unfounded allow Goodman to argue that sophisticated news management techniques of spin, disinformation and controlled access to sources are undermining the reliability of media reporting. How, she asks, could journalists "embedded" with U.S. troops in Iraq be objective reporters of all that was occurring there, and whose interests were being served? These and other provocative questions power Goodman's stirring call for a democratic media serving a democratic society. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc.

All rights reserved. From Booklist Goodman's high-octane blend of investigative journalism and political activism has been the force behind Pacifica radio's Democracy Now!, earning her praise and vitriol alike (not to mention nearly getting her killed by Indonesians in East Timor). Her first book, coauthored with her brother, David, recounts some of her most hard-hitting confrontations with corporate types and politicians of all persuasions, covering much of the same territory as other anti-Bush books and then some, at a compelling, breathless pace. Her real target, however, is not the oil-defense-politics Establishment, but their enablers, the media, which are cowed less by their corporate owners than by their own capacity for self-censorship in the guise of patriotism. NPR listeners, New York Times readers, you're not off the hook; Goodman is just as frustrated with your news outlets' silence when it comes to dead Iraqi civilians and antiwar viewpoints. Although her suggestions for how, exactly, to infuse media with integrity are perhaps quieter than her condemnations of hypocrisy, Goodman's vision for media's role in society is as vigorous as her confidence in the power of motivated communities. Brendan Driscoll Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved ...an important forum for people around the world who are engaged in social justice and social change. -- Danny Glover Goodman's vision for media's is as vigorous as her confidence in the power of motivated communities. -- Booklist fierce and tireless in her commitment to dig behind official versions of the facts to get to very different stories. -- Publishers Weekly, starred review