

Faculti Summary

<https://staging.faculti.net/the-corporation/>

This video reflects on the impact of the film and book "The Corporation" and its follow-up, "The New Corporation." The original work gained global popularity, being translated into multiple languages and widely used in law courses. The central premise is that corporations, legally compelled to act in their own self-interest, can be viewed as psychopathic institutions, as evidenced by their potential to prioritize profit over ethical considerations.

The author, who has a background in psychology, draws parallels between corporate behavior and psychopathy, emphasizing that while corporations may occasionally act for good, they often do so only when it aligns with their self-interest. This video creates a limitation on their capacity for genuine positive action, leading to situations like greenwashing.

Documentary filmmaking emerged as an accidental path for the author, who adapted their academic insights into more accessible narratives. Both the original film and its sequel interrogate the institutional structures that drive corporate behavior, questioning their role in exacerbating social and environmental issues.

The sequel, which was directed and co-written by the author, addresses the apparent contradiction of corporations claiming to be socially responsible while continuing harmful practices. It argues that the perception of "good corporations" undermines democracy by reducing the need for regulation and allowing corporations to take over essential public services.

Overall, the text critiques the notion that corporations can be trusted to govern themselves or act in the public interest, warning that the charm of seemingly benevolent corporations can mask their inherent self-serving nature.