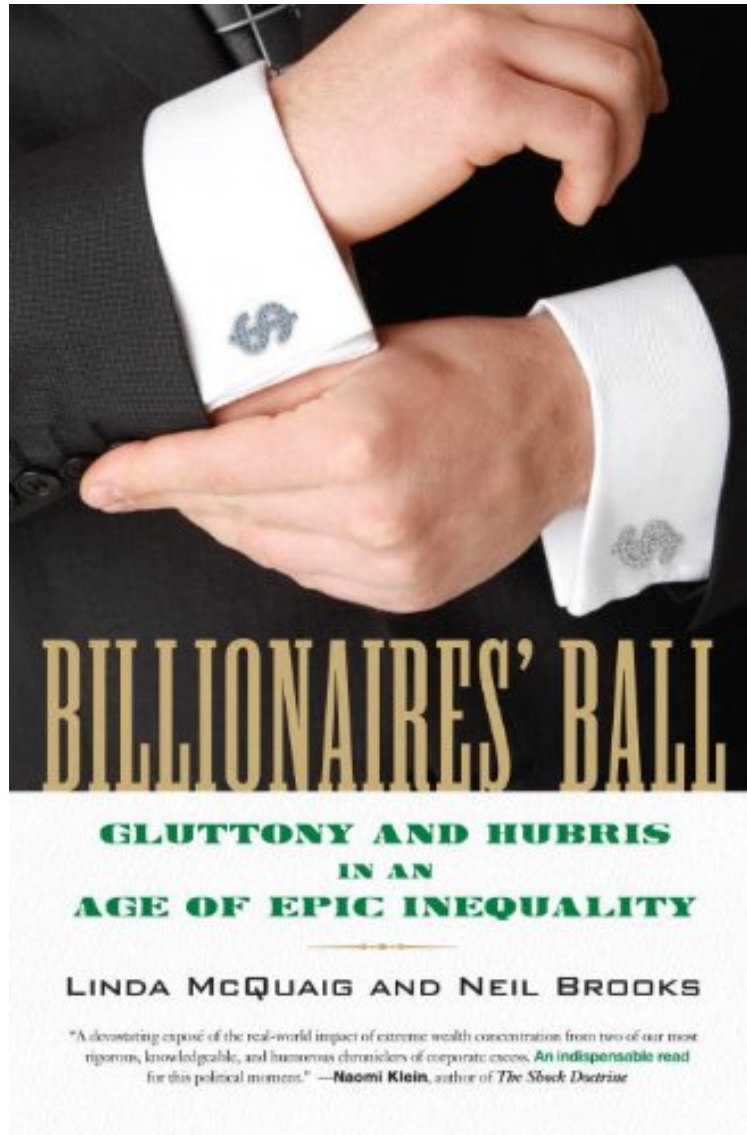


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Billionaires' Ball: Gluttony and Hubris in an Age of Epic Inequality

Linda McQuaig, Neil Brooks

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Linda McQuaig, Neil Brooks : Billionaires' Ball: Gluttony and Hubris in an Age of Epic Inequality before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Billionaires' Ball: Gluttony and Hubris in an Age of Epic Inequality:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Powerful Examination of Inequality in America By B. A. Anderson I bought this book after hearing Linda McQuaig interviewed by Robert McChesney on Media Matters. Although Bob McChesney's enthusiasm for the book gave me high expectations, the book was even better than I'd expected. I've been recommending that all my friends read Billionaires' Ball because of the book's thorough

examination of inequality in the US. I found especially helpful the authors' summary of Kate Pickett and Richard Wilkinson's book *The Spirit Level: Why Greater Equality Makes Societies Stronger*, which links inequality with poor health outcomes.³ of 3 people found the following review helpful. a good read for understanding where the power is
By Diane VanHerken
An in depth look at the power of the super elite. The elected people in the United States have very little say in how the Country is governed and for all the talk of looking after the middle class or the poor, both political parties are busy looking after the super elite.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Extreme wealth excess for the few
By Ms B
Very honest look at what is chipping away at global economy--economic gluttony of super rich and epic inequality of the working class. Great read that should be required reading in schools.

The concentration of wealth today in such a small number of hands inevitably created a dynamic that led to freewheeling financial speculation—a dynamic that produced similarly disastrous results in the last great age of inequality, in the 1920s. Such concentrated economic power reverberates throughout society, threatening the quality of life and the very functioning of democracy. As McQuaig and Brooks illustrate, it's no accident that the United States claims the most billionaires but suffers from among the highest rates of infant mortality and crime, the shortest life expectancy, and the lowest rates of social mobility and electoral political participation in the developed world. In *Billionaires' Ball*, McQuaig and Brooks take us back in history to the political decisions that helped birth our billionaires, then move us forward to the cutting-edge research into the dangers that concentrated wealth poses. Via vivid profiles of billionaires—ranging from philanthropic capitalists such as Bill Gates to hedge fund king John Paulson and the infamous band of Koch brothers—*Billionaires' Ball* illustrates why we hold dearly to the belief that they "earned" and "deserve" their grand fortunes, when such wealth is really a by-product of a legal and economic infrastructure that's become deeply flawed.