

# Who Owns America? Oligarchs Have Bought Up the American Dream

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Region: [USA](#)

Theme: [History](#)

*“The politicians are put there to give you the idea that you have freedom of choice.*

*You don’t. You have no choice. You have owners. They own you. They own everything.*

*They own all the important land. They own and control the corporations. They’ve long since bought and paid for the Senate, the Congress, the state houses, the city halls. They got the judges in their back pockets and they own all the big media companies, so they control just about all of the news and information you get to hear... They spend billions of dollars every year lobbying. Lobbying to get what they want. Well, we know what they want. They want more for themselves and less for everybody else... It’s called the American Dream, ‘cause you have to be asleep to believe it.”—George Carlin*

## **Who owns America?**

Is it the government? The politicians? The corporations? The foreign investors? The American people?

While the Deep State keeps the nation divided and distracted by a presidential election whose outcome is foregone (the police state’s stranglehold on power will ensure the continuation of endless wars and out-of-control spending, while disregarding the citizenry’s fundamental rights and the rule of law), *America is literally being bought and sold right out from under us.*

Consider the facts.

**We’re losing more and more of our land every year to corporations and foreign interests.** Foreign ownership of U.S. agricultural land has [increased by 66%](#) since 2010. In 2021, it was reported that [foreign investors owned approximately 40 million acres of U.S. agricultural land](#), which is more than the entire state of Iowa. By 2022 that number had grown to [43.4 million acres](#). The rate at which U.S. farmland is being bought up by foreign interests [grew by 2.2 million acres per year](#) from 2015 to 2021. The number of U.S. farm acres owned by foreign entities [grew more than 8%](#) (3.4 million acres) in 2022.

**We’re losing more and more of our businesses every year to foreign corporations and interests.** Although China owns a small fraction of foreign-owned U.S. land at 380,000 acres (less than the state of Rhode Island), [Chinese companies and investors are also buying up major food companies](#), commercial and residential [real estate](#), and other businesses. As *RetailWire* explains, “Currently, many brands started by early American pioneers now wave international flags. This revolution is a [direct result of globalization](#).” The growing list of once-notable American brands that have been sold to foreign corporations

includes: U.S. Steel (now Japanese-owned); General Electric (Chinese-owned); [Budweiser](#) (Belgium); Burger King (Canada); 7-Eleven (Japan); Jeep, Chrysler, and Dodge (Netherlands); and [IBM](#) (China).

**We're digging ourselves deeper and deeper into debt, both as a nation and as a populace.** Basically, the U.S. government is funding its existence with a credit card, spending money it doesn't have on programs it can't afford. The bulk of that debt has been [amassed over the past two decades](#), thanks in large part to the fiscal shenanigans of four presidents, 10 sessions of Congress and two wars. The [national debt](#) (the amount the federal government has borrowed over the years and must pay back) is more than [\\$34 trillion](#) and will grow another [\\$19 trillion by 2033](#). [Foreign ownership makes up 29% of the U.S. debt held by the public](#). Of that amount, reports the Peter G. Peterson Foundation, "52 percent was held by private foreign investors while [foreign governments held the remaining 48 percent](#)."

**The Fourth Estate has been taken over by media conglomerates that prioritize profit over principle.** Independent news agencies, which were supposed to act as bulwarks against government propaganda, have been subsumed by a global corporate takeover of newspapers, television and radio. Consequently, a handful of corporations now control most of the media industry and, thus, the information dished out to the public. Likewise, with Facebook and Google having appointed themselves the arbiters of disinformation, we now find ourselves grappling with new levels of corporate censorship by entities with a history of colluding with the government to keep the citizenry mindless, muzzled and in the dark.

**Most critically of all, however, the U.S. government, long ago sold to the highest bidders, has become little more than a shell company, a front for corporate interests.** Nowhere is this state of affairs more evident than in the manufactured spectacle that is the presidential election. As for members of Congress, long before they're elected, they are trained to dance to the tune of their wealthy benefactors, so much so that they spend [two-thirds of their time in office raising money](#). As Reuters reports, "It also means that [lawmakers often spend more time listening to the concerns of the wealthy](#) than anyone else."

In the oligarchy that is the American police state, it clearly doesn't matter who wins the White House, because they all work for the same boss: a Corporate State that has gone global.

So much for living the American dream.

"We the people" have become the new, permanent underclass in America.

We're being forced to shell out money for endless wars that are bleeding us dry; money for surveillance systems to track our movements; money to further militarize our already militarized police; money to allow the government to raid our homes and bank accounts; money to fund schools where our kids learn nothing about freedom and everything about how to comply; and on and on.

This is no way of life.

It's tempting to say that there's little we can do about it, except that's not quite accurate.

There are a few things we can do (demand transparency, reject cronyism and graft, insist on fair pricing and honest accounting methods, call a halt to incentive-driven government programs that prioritize profits over people), but it will require that “we the people” stop playing politics and stand united against the politicians and corporate interests who have turned our government and economy into a pay-to-play exercise in fascism.

Unfortunately, we’ve become so invested in identity politics that label us based on our political leanings that we’ve lost sight of the one label that unites us: we’re all Americans.

The powers-that-be want us to adopt an “us versus them” mindset that keeps us powerless and divided. Yet as I make clear in my book [Battlefield America: The War on the American People](#) and in its fictional counterpart [The Erik Blair Diaries](#), the only “us versus them” that matters is “we the people” against the Deep State.

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*This article was originally published on [The Rutherford Institute](#).*

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