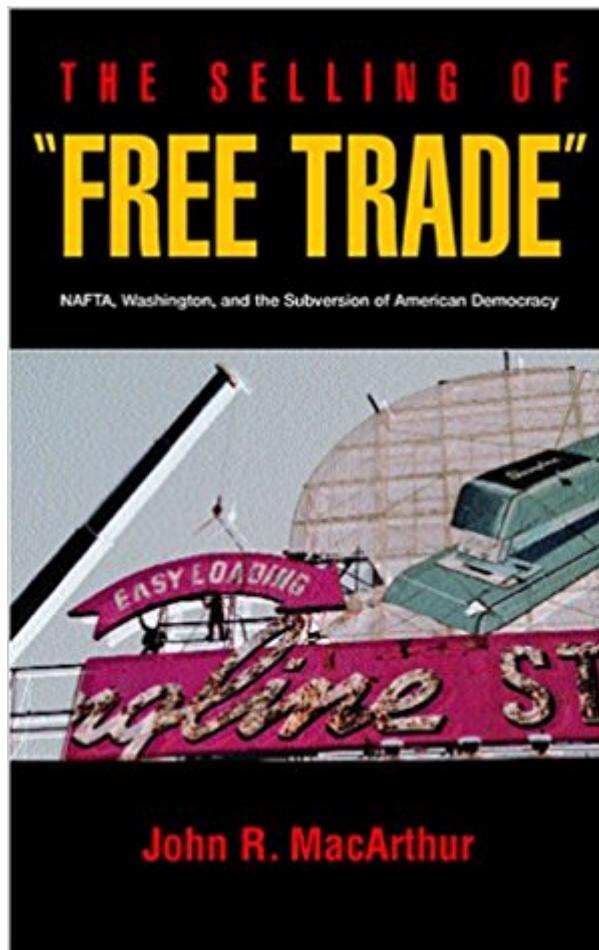


The book was found

# The Selling Of "Free Trade": NAFTA, Washington, And The Subversion Of American Democracy



## Synopsis

The Selling of "Free Trade" shows how Washington works to accomplish political or economic goals, even when confronted with widespread popular opposition. John R. MacArthur chronicles the brutal and expensive campaign in 1993 that led to passage of the poorly understood, highly controversial law creating the North American Free Trade Agreement.

## Book Information

Paperback: 412 pages

Publisher: University of California Press; First Edition, With a New Afterword edition (2001)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0520231783

ISBN-13: 978-0520231788

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 1 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ  (18 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #782,902 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #78 inÂ  Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > International & World Politics > Treaties #119 inÂ  Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > International & World Politics > Canadian #543 inÂ  Books > History > Americas > Canada

## Customer Reviews

MacArthur begins his book from the venerable Swingline Staple Company of Queens, NY, with profiles of employees, union activists, owners over the last 30 years. Not so long a period, but starting at a time when a lattice of low technology manufacturing still ringed the great metropolis and bustled in the lower regions of Manhattan. They provided a modest but sustaining salary and a route to the ladders of American society for generations of immigrants. By the end of that period those societal understandings had given way to a much different order. Swingline moved its operations to the dollar an hour wages and shanty towns of Nogales, Mexico, channeling back product to an American market they were no longer willing to support with their payroll. The author exposes the shell (or shill) game that took over the debate of North American Free Trade. Politicians as diverse as Ronald Reagan and Bill Clinton cynically assured the electorate that open trade heralded an era of unequaled prosperity and opportunity, propelled by such vacant aphorisms as the 'information economy' or the 'new realities' of global business. The agenda was marketed as 'inevitable'. The neoliberal lobby managed to bamboozle a skeptical public and buy the political establishment. By

1994 this well financed machine had bribed or bullied its way to passage of NAFTA in all three countries. A full-scale reorganization of continental industry ensued, with an attendant labour disenfranchisement, deindustrialization and currency sabotage. The corrupt Salinas regime exemplified the motives of the Free Traders. Mexico's acceptance of their wealthy northern neighbors' largesse of 'investment' was extorted in part by their inability to pay the usurious loans of the IMF and foreign banks.

This book had no recommendations, no dust jacket, and no introduction to the qualifications of the author. The only reason I picked it up out of the library was because I am currently a student of International Business and Global Economics. Our group assignment is to pursue a debate upon free trade in general, for the opposition. For its treatment of trade theory, especially Smith and Ricardo, I thought MacArthur picked up a salient point...why in the modern world of technology and global trade are thinking individuals (for example...academics?) silently allowing a group of self-interested multi-national corporations to devour and destroy what took western societies, not just capitalists, hundreds of years to attain? Namely, a worker-protected environment, minimum wage laws, and government regulations to prevent exploitation of labour? Vanishing due to greed. The same old greed that could be scientifically theorized upon more than two hundred years ago, during the ages of mercantilism and comparative advantage. Why no new theories on how to maintain worker rights? MacArthur identifies the players in American politics, the benefits assumed and trade among all dealers in the free trade debate, and spends as much time as is necessary to capture the attention of the reader. Canada and Mexico are mere pawns here in a game the Americans play much better than many nations. Thus clear causes and effects of the support of free trade in these other nations should be reviewed in numerous other texts. The points he picks up the best include the clauses in chapter eleven preventing privatisation of Mexican-held American assets, the collusion of the mass media, the deification of Salinas, etc.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The Selling of "Free Trade": NAFTA, Washington, and the Subversion of American Democracy  
Selling on eBay: 44 Killer Profitable Items To Sell on eBay From Garage Sales, Thrift Stores, Flea Markets and More! (selling on ebay, ebay, ebay selling, ... ebay marketing, ebay selling made easy,) The Making of NAFTA: How the Deal Was Done A History Lover's Guide to Washington, D.C.: Designed for Democracy (History & Guide) Free Trade, Free World: The Advent of GATT (Luther Hartwell Hodges Series on Business, Society, and the State) Latino Images in Film: Stereotypes, Subversion, and Resistance (Texas Film and Media Studies Series) Bodies of Subversion: A Secret

History of Women and Tattoo, 3rd Edition The Devil's Pleasure Palace: The Cult of Critical Theory and the Subversion of the West The Subversion of Politics: European Autonomous Social Movements and the Decolonization of Everyday Life Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity (Routledge Classics) The Golden Age of Pantomime: Slapstick, Spectacle and Subversion in Victorian England Golden Age of Pantomime, The: Slapstick, Spectacle and Subversion in Victorian England Geek Feminist Revolution: Essays on Subversion, Tactical Profanity, and the Power of Media Our Lost Constitution: The Willful Subversion of America's Founding Document The 'Conspiracy' of Free Trade: The Anglo-American Struggle over Empire and Economic Globalisation, 1846-1896 Washington on Foot, Fifth Edition: 24 Walking Tours and Maps of Washington, DC, Old Town Alexandria, and Takoma Park The Washington Manual® Pediatrics Survival Guide (The Washington Manual® Survival Guide Series) The Complete Guide to Option Selling: How Selling Options Can Lead to Stellar Returns in Bull and Bear Markets, 3rd Edition eBay: Find All You Need To Sell on eBay and Build a Profitable Business From Scratch, Step-By-Step (eBay, eBay Selling, eBay Business, Dropshipping, eBay Buying, Selling on eBay) Jewelry Making & Etsy Business Box Set: Jewelry Making Instructions and Useful Tips to Guide You Through How to Start Your Etsy Business (Jewelry Making ... Selling Etsy, Esty Selling Success)

[Dmca](#)