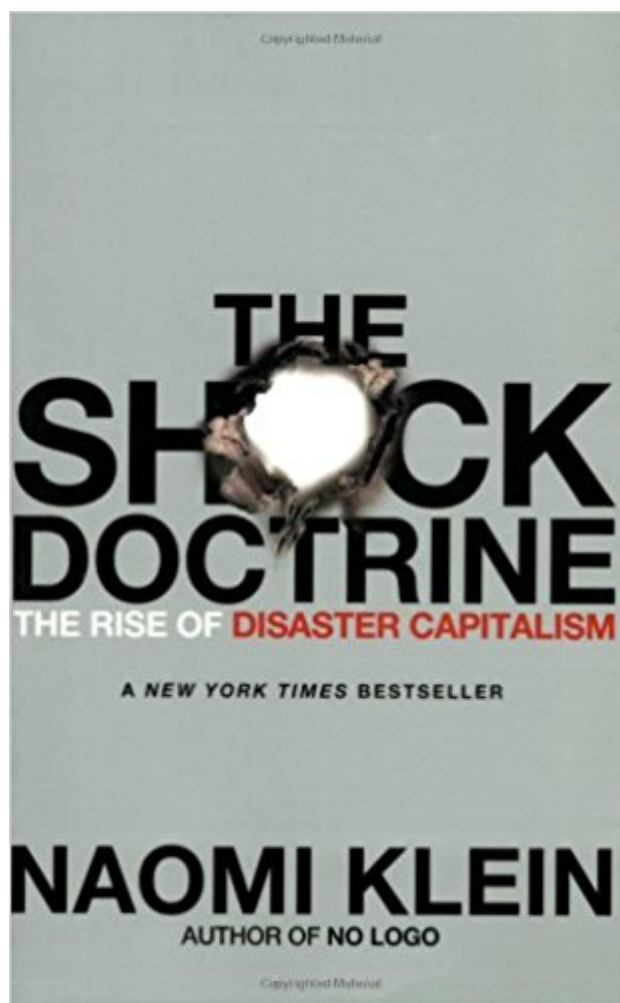


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# The Shock Doctrine: The Rise Of Disaster Capitalism



## Synopsis

In this groundbreaking alternative history of the most dominant ideology of our time, Milton Friedman's free-market economic revolution, Naomi Klein challenges the popular myth of this movement's peaceful global victory. From Chile in 1973 to Iraq today, Klein shows how Friedman and his followers have repeatedly harnessed terrible shocks and violence to implement their radical policies. As John Gray wrote in *The Guardian*, "There are very few books that really help us understand the present. *The Shock Doctrine* is one of those books."

## Book Information

Paperback: 720 pages

Publisher: Picador; 1st edition (June 24, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0312427999

ISBN-13: 978-0312427993

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 1.3 x 8.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 850 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #7,332 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #1 in [Books > Business & Money > Processes & Infrastructure > Government & Business](#) #4 in [Books > Business & Money > Economics > Free Enterprise](#) #5 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > International & World Politics > Middle Eastern](#)

## Customer Reviews

Naomi Klein's *The Shock Doctrine* advances a truly unnerving argument: historically, while people were reeling from natural disasters, wars and economic upheavals, savvy politicians and industry leaders nefariously implemented policies that would never have passed during less muddled times. As Klein demonstrates, this reprehensible game of bait-and-switch isn't just some relic from the bad old days. It's alive and well in contemporary society, and coming soon to a disaster area near you. "At the most chaotic juncture in Iraq's civil war, a new law is unveiled that will allow Shell and BP to claim the country's vast oil reserves"; Immediately following September 11, the Bush Administration quietly outsources the running of the 'War on Terror' to Halliburton and Blackwater; After a tsunami wipes out the coasts of Southeast Asia, the pristine beaches are auctioned off to tourist resorts; New Orleans residents, scattered from Hurricane Katrina, discover that their public housing, hospitals and schools will never be re-opened." Klein not only

kicks butt, she names names, notably economist Milton Friedman and his radical Chicago School of the 1950s and 60s which she notes "produced many of the leading neo-conservative and neo-liberal thinkers whose influence is still profound in Washington today." Stand up and take a bow, Donald Rumsfeld. There's little doubt Klein's book--which arrived to enormous attention and fanfare thanks to her previous missive, the best-selling No Logo, will stir the ire of the right and corporate America. It's also true that Klein's assertions are coherent, comprehensively researched and footnoted, and she makes a very credible case. Even if the world isn't going to hell in a hand-basket just yet, it's nice to know a sharp customer like Klein is bearing witness to the backroom machinations of government and industry in times of turmoil. --Kim Hughes --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The neo-liberal economic policies--privatization, free trade, slashed social spending--that the Chicago School and the economist Milton Friedman have foisted on the world are catastrophic in two senses, argues this vigorous polemic. Because their results are disastrous--depressions, mass poverty, private corporations looting public wealth, by the author's accounting--their means must be cataclysmic, dependent on political upheavals and natural disasters as coercive pretexts for free-market reforms the public would normally reject. Journalist Klein (No Logo) chronicles decades of such disasters, including the Chicago School makeovers launched by South American coups; the corrupt sale of Russia's state economy to oligarchs following the collapse of the Soviet Union; the privatization of New Orleans's public schools after Katrina; and the seizure of wrecked fishing villages by resort developers after the Asian tsunami. Klein's economic and political analyses are not always meticulous. Likening free-market shock therapies to electroshock torture, she conflates every misdeed of right-wing dictatorships with their economic programs and paints a too simplistic picture of the Iraq conflict as a struggle over American-imposed neo-liberalism. Still, much of her critique hits home, as she demonstrates how free-market ideologues welcome, and provoke, the collapse of other people's economies. The result is a powerful populist indictment of economic orthodoxy. (Sept.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

4.5 stars This book covers essential issues in great compelling prose style similar to NPR (if NPR were hard-hitting and wasn't such intelligentsia-washing PR for corporatism/ALEC/"Globalism"). The underlying thesis is a little tenuous or 'infotainment'-y, but makes a great vehicle for narrative. Also

seems to \*mostly\* transcend or side-step partisanship (essential for understanding the real world these days, and not being played like a chump).

I recommend all Americans to read Klein's history of the Milton Friedman Chicago School of Economics. It opened my eyes to how the American government has been able to exploit nations in order to secure trade relations and placement of multinational corporations. It is scary to see how the government has been able to manipulate the media in order to create support for these "war interventions" that America has been using as a disguise since before the cold war. I urge anyone who is reading this review and questioning whether to read the book or not- read it! You won't regret it.

An eye-opening, well written, and well thought out explanation of how the monied class takes advantage of natural disasters (or initiates financial ones) to change the socio/economic landscape. Naomi Klein is a luminary. I don't say this often, but I consider this a must-read for anyone interested in understanding current events and the recent past.

I've read this book twice. It has changed the way I see the political debate. It really helps to see through the lies and the nonsense. Ms. Klein is occasionally heavy handed about her metaphor of electroshock therapy and our foreign interventions but that is just editing. In every other way this book is an important and worthwhile read. Regretably, I also think that the information presented in this book will remain relevant for many years to come.

Good price. Recommendation from my sister, the political science professor. Can't wait to read. Thank you.

It blew my mind! I didn't realize how devastating Milton Friedman and his Chicago boys' economic policies of 'Free Trade' could have such tragic consequences under the guise of democratic politics directed toward improving struggling governments. A real eye opener on how the current financial system of unmitigated greed shapes our social structures. Heaven help us for our corporate leaders and elected officials won't, especially the financial community.

I am a historian, and must admit that the very best book on modern world history (the last 60 years or so) is by a journalist. Naomi Klein's "Shock Doctrine" is so well-written, so thoroughly-researched,

and so deeply and disturbingly well-thought-out, that it leaves all other historical, political, and economic writings in the dust. Klein's analyses of what really runs today's world are succinct, cogent, and bracingly enjoyable to read. Every chapter had at least one spot where I had to put the book down, and exclaim "Wow! Why didn't I think of that?" If you have any interest in the present state of the world, and how it got that way, you must read this book.

This is one of the most important books ever written on modern American history. Naomi Klein spent many years of her life doing research for the book; it is heavily sourced. She has taught me to never trust anyone who refers to themselves as an "economist."

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