the myth of ownership

the myth of ownership is a concept that challenges our conventional understanding of possessing property, wealth, or even personal identity. While society teaches us that ownership equals control and security, philosophers, economists, and legal experts have debated this notion for centuries. This article explores the foundations of the myth of ownership, examining historical perspectives, psychological factors, legal constructs, and economic realities. Readers will gain insights into why ownership is often more a social construct than an absolute truth, how it shapes our behaviors, and its implications for modern life. By unraveling these layers, we will reveal how the myth of ownership influences our choices, relationships, and worldviews. Continue reading to discover the hidden dimensions of ownership and why rethinking this concept matters in today’s rapidly changing world.

- Understanding the Myth of Ownership
- Historical Perspectives on Ownership
- The Psychological Foundations of Ownership
- Legal Constructs and the Illusion of Possession
- Economic Realities and Ownership
- Social and Cultural Implications
- Rethinking Ownership in the Modern World

Understanding the Myth of Ownership

The myth of ownership refers to the widely accepted belief that individuals can truly possess objects, assets, or even intangible entities. This foundational idea influences how we interact with property, wealth, and each other. Ownership is often perceived as absolute, granting full rights and control. However, experts argue that ownership is more a legal and social construct, shaped by laws, customs, and agreements rather than tangible reality. The boundaries of ownership are fluid, subject to change by external forces such as government regulations, market shifts, or societal values. By examining the myth of ownership, we uncover the complexities behind what it means to "own" something and how this belief impacts our lives and decision-making processes.

Historical Perspectives on Ownership

Ancient Concepts of Property

Throughout history, the idea of ownership has evolved alongside human civilization. In ancient societies, property was often communal, with land

and resources shared among tribes or clans. The myth of ownership was not prevalent, as survival depended on collective stewardship rather than individual possession. Over time, private property emerged, driven by agricultural development and the rise of city-states, leading to formalized systems of ownership and inheritance.

Philosophical Critiques of Ownership

Philosophers have long questioned the legitimacy and morality of ownership. Figures like Plato and Aristotle debated whether property should be private or communal, while later thinkers such as John Locke argued that ownership arises from labor and personal effort. Karl Marx critiqued ownership as a source of social inequality, viewing it as a product of class struggle. These philosophical debates highlight the myth of ownership as a contested concept, shaped by economic and political interests.

- Communal ownership in tribal societies
- Emergence of private property in agricultural cultures
- Philosophical debates on property rights and justice

The Psychological Foundations of Ownership

Attachment and Identity

Psychologically, ownership is closely tied to feelings of attachment and identity. People often associate possessions with self-worth, status, and security. The myth of ownership manifests in the belief that acquiring and controlling objects can bring happiness or fulfillment. This connection is reinforced by social norms and marketing, which encourage the pursuit of material goods as a measure of success.

The Illusion of Control

While ownership suggests control, psychological research reveals that this sense of control is often illusory. External factors such as market volatility, theft, or natural disasters can undermine our grip on possessions. The myth of ownership persists because it provides a comforting narrative, masking uncertainties and vulnerabilities inherent in life. Understanding these psychological underpinnings helps explain why people cling to the notion of ownership despite its limitations.

Legal Constructs and the Illusion of Possession

Property Rights and Legal Frameworks

Ownership is codified through legal systems that define property rights, responsibilities, and limitations. Laws determine who can possess, use, transfer, or inherit assets, creating a structured approach to ownership. However, these rights are not absolute; governments can impose restrictions through zoning, taxation, or eminent domain. The myth of ownership is sustained by legal constructs that grant the illusion of permanent control, while actual possession remains conditional and revocable.

Intellectual Property and Digital Assets

In the digital age, ownership extends to intangible assets like intellectual property and online content. Legal frameworks attempt to define and protect these forms of ownership, but challenges arise due to replication, piracy, and shifting technological landscapes. The myth of ownership is further complicated as digital goods blur boundaries between possession and access, questioning what it truly means to own something in a virtual environment.

1. Legal rights shape the boundaries of ownership
2. Government intervention can override private property
3. Digital assets challenge traditional definitions of possession

Economic Realities and Ownership

Wealth, Resources, and Access

Economics plays a central role in defining ownership. Wealth is often measured by the value of owned assets, such as real estate, investments, or intellectual property. However, economic forces like inflation, market crashes, or regulatory changes can erode the security of ownership. The myth of ownership is evident in the way access to resources and opportunities is dictated by systems beyond individual control, revealing the fragility of material possession.

Ownership versus Stewardship

Modern economic models increasingly emphasize stewardship over ownership. Concepts like sharing economies, leasing, and subscription services challenge the traditional notion of permanent possession. The myth of ownership is confronted by models that prioritize access, utility, and sustainability, encouraging individuals and companies to rethink their relationship with assets.

Social and Cultural Implications

Ownership and Social Status

Ownership has long been associated with social status and power. In many cultures, accumulating property and wealth signifies achievement and respectability. The myth of ownership is perpetuated by social norms, advertising, and cultural narratives that equate possession with success. However, this association can foster inequality, competition, and exclusion, prompting critical discussions about the social costs of ownership-driven societies.

Collective Ownership and Community Values

Some societies value collective ownership, emphasizing shared resources and community well-being. Cooperative models, communal land trusts, and mutual aid groups offer alternatives to individual ownership. These approaches challenge the myth of ownership by prioritizing collaboration, equity, and sustainability over personal gain.

Rethinking Ownership in the Modern World

Emerging Trends and Alternatives

Contemporary trends are reshaping our understanding of ownership. The rise of the sharing economy, digital platforms, and sustainable business models encourages access over possession. These developments prompt individuals and organizations to reconsider the value and impact of ownership, challenging established norms and the myth of ownership itself.

Implications for Personal and Societal Well-being

Rethinking ownership has broad implications for well-being. By recognizing the limitations and social constructs of ownership, people can shift their focus toward stewardship, access, and collective benefit. This mindset supports more resilient, equitable, and adaptive societies, better equipped to address global challenges and opportunities.

Frequently Asked Questions: The Myth of Ownership

Q: What does the myth of ownership mean?

A: The myth of ownership refers to the belief that individuals have absolute control and possession over property, assets, or even ideas. In reality, ownership is shaped by legal, social, and economic factors, making it more of a construct than a guaranteed right.

Q: Why is ownership considered a myth by some experts?

A: Ownership is considered a myth because external forces—such as laws, societal norms, economic changes, and natural events—can alter or remove our control over possessions. This challenges the notion that ownership is permanent or unconditional.

Q: How do legal systems affect our understanding of ownership?

A: Legal systems define and regulate ownership through property rights, contracts, and enforcement. However, these rights are conditional and can be restricted or revoked by laws, government action, or disputes, highlighting the limitations of ownership.

Q: What role does psychology play in the myth of ownership?

A: Psychology influences the myth of ownership by connecting possessions to identity, status, and self-worth. People often believe that owning more leads to happiness or security, even though this sense of control is often illusory.

Q: How does the myth of ownership impact society?

A: The myth of ownership affects society by shaping social status, economic inequality, and cultural values. It can foster competition and exclusion, but also inspire alternatives such as collective ownership and stewardship.

Q: Are digital assets truly owned?

A: Digital assets are subject to legal and technological limitations, making ownership less clear-cut. Intellectual property laws and platform policies often govern access and usage, challenging traditional notions of possession.

Q: What are alternatives to traditional ownership?

A: Alternatives include sharing economies, leasing, subscriptions, and collective ownership models. These approaches prioritize access, utility, and sustainability over permanent possession.

Q: Can ownership lead to inequality?

A: Yes, ownership can contribute to social and economic inequality by concentrating wealth and resources among certain groups, while excluding others from opportunities and benefits.

Q: How can individuals rethink their relationship with ownership?

A: Individuals can focus on stewardship, responsible usage, and collective benefit rather than accumulation. Embracing access and sharing models can lead to greater well-being and sustainability.

Q: What is the future of ownership in a changing world?

A: The future of ownership may involve more flexible, collaborative, and sustainable models, driven by technological innovation, shifting values, and global challenges. This evolution will continue to challenge the myth of ownership and redefine our relationship with possessions.

The Myth Of Ownership

The Myth of Ownership: Rethinking Our Relationship with Possessions

Introduction:

We live in a society obsessed with ownership. From the latest smartphone to our dream homes, the idea of possessing things defines a significant part of our identity and perceived success. But what if this deeply ingrained belief – the very notion of ownership – is a myth? This post delves into the complexities of possession, challenging our assumptions and exploring alternative perspectives that can lead to a more fulfilling and sustainable life. We'll examine the historical context of ownership, its psychological impact, and the increasingly relevant arguments for shifting towards a more mindful relationship with our possessions. Prepare to question everything you think you know about owning things.

H2: The Historical Illusion of Absolute Ownership

The concept of "ownership" isn't as absolute or timeless as we might believe. Throughout history, different cultures have held varying perspectives on property and possession. Early hunter-gatherer societies, for instance, had a far more communal approach to resources. The rise of private property coincided with the development of agriculture and the establishment of civilizations, creating systems of control and power tied to land and goods. Even within the framework of modern legal systems, "ownership" is a complex tapestry of rights and responsibilities, constantly negotiated and redefined. The seemingly simple act of owning something is, in reality, a complex social construct, not a fundamental truth.

H2: The Psychological Trap of Materialism

Our desire for ownership often stems from a deep-seated psychological need. We associate possessions with security, status, and self-worth. Marketing and advertising relentlessly exploit this, creating a cycle of consumerism where acquiring more things is presented as the path to happiness. This pursuit, however, often leads to dissatisfaction. The "hedonic treadmill" illustrates how quickly we adapt to new possessions, constantly needing more to maintain a feeling of satisfaction. The fleeting nature of this happiness highlights the illusory nature of believing that ownership equates to fulfillment.

H3: The Impact of Consumerism on Our Mental Well-being

The constant pressure to acquire more fuels anxiety, stress, and even depression. The relentless pursuit of material possessions diverts our attention from more meaningful aspects of life, such as relationships, personal growth, and contributing to society. Minimalism and intentional living movements are gaining traction as people recognize the detrimental effects of unchecked consumerism and the emptiness that often follows the acquisition of material wealth.

H2: Beyond Ownership: Exploring Alternatives

The myth of ownership can be challenged by embracing alternative perspectives on possessions. The sharing economy, for example, demonstrates a shift towards access over ownership. Platforms like Airbnb and Zipcar provide access to resources without the burdens of maintenance and long-term commitment. This model encourages a more sustainable and collaborative approach to consumption.

H3: The Rise of the Sharing Economy and Collaborative Consumption

The sharing economy isn't just a trend; it represents a fundamental shift in societal values. By prioritizing access and sharing, we reduce waste, lessen our environmental impact, and foster stronger community ties. This approach challenges the ingrained belief that owning something is the only way to enjoy its benefits.

H2: Redefining Value: Experiences over Possessions

Research consistently shows that experiences, rather than material possessions, contribute more significantly to long-term happiness. Investing in travel, learning new skills, or spending quality time with loved ones creates lasting memories and contributes to a more fulfilling life than accumulating more "stuff." Shifting our focus from material acquisition to enriching experiences allows us to break free from the cycle of consumerism and find true contentment.

H2: The Environmental Imperative: Consuming Consciously

The environmental impact of our consumption habits is undeniable. The production, distribution, and disposal of goods contribute significantly to pollution, resource depletion, and climate change. Challenging the myth of ownership encourages a more mindful approach to consumption, prompting us to consider the lifecycle of products and to reduce our ecological footprint. Buying less, buying secondhand, and supporting sustainable businesses are all crucial steps in this direction.

Conclusion:

The myth of ownership isn't about rejecting all possessions; it's about re-evaluating our relationship with them. By understanding the historical, psychological, and environmental implications of our consumer habits, we can consciously choose a more mindful path. Embracing experiences over material possessions, supporting collaborative consumption, and prioritizing sustainability are essential steps toward a more fulfilling and responsible life, one less defined by the illusion of absolute ownership.

FAQs:

1. Isn't owning a home essential for security and stability? While homeownership provides a sense of security for many, renting or participating in co-housing models can offer similar stability with less financial burden and environmental impact.

2. How can I overcome the urge to buy things I don't need? Practicing mindfulness, delaying purchases, and focusing on experiences instead of material goods can significantly reduce impulsive buying.

3. What are some practical steps towards a less consumerist lifestyle? Start by decluttering your home, repairing items instead of replacing them, and prioritizing experiences over material possessions.

4. Isn't the sharing economy only feasible for certain types of goods? While some goods are better suited for sharing than others, the principles of collaborative consumption can be applied in numerous ways, fostering innovation and changing our perception of ownership.

5. How can I contribute to a more sustainable consumption model? Support businesses committed to ethical and sustainable practices, buy second-hand whenever possible, and reduce your overall consumption by making conscious choices.

the myth of ownership: The Myth of Ownership Liam Murphy, Thomas Nagel, 2002-04-11 In a capitalist economy, taxes are the most important instrument by which the political system puts into practice a conception of economic and distributive justice. Taxes arouse strong passions, fueled not only by conflicts of economic self-interest, but by conflicting ideas of fairness. Taking as a guiding principle the conventional nature of private property, Murphy and Nagel show how taxes can only be evaluated as part of the overall system of property rights that they help to create. Justice or injustice in taxation, they argue, can only mean justice or injustice in the system of property rights and entitlements that result from a particular regime. Taking up ethical issues about individual liberty, interpersonal obligation, and both collective and personal responsibility, Murphy and Nagel force us to reconsider how our tax policy shapes our system of property rights.

the myth of ownership: Moral Demands in Nonideal Theory Liam B. Murphy, 2003-11-20 Is there a limit to the legitimate demands of morality? In particular, is there a limit to people's responsibility to promote the well-being of others, either directly or via social institutions? Utilitarianism admits no such limit, and is for that reason often said to be an unacceptably demanding moral and political view. In this original new study, Murphy argues that the charge of excessive demands amounts to little more than an affirmation of the status quo. The real problem with utilitarianism is that it makes unfair demands on people who comply with it in our world of nonideal compliance. Murphy shows that this unfairness does not arise on a collective understanding of our responsibility for others' well being. Thus, according to Murphy, while there is no general problem to be raised about the extent of moral demands, there is a pressing need to acknowledge the collective nature of the demands of beneficence.

the myth of ownership: The Myth of Property John Christman, 1994-07-14 The Myth of Property is the first book-length study to focus directly on the variable and complex structure of ownership. It critically analyzes what it means to own something, and it takes familiar debates about distributive justice and recasts them into discussions of the structure of ownership. The traditional notion of private property assumed by both defenders and opponents of that system is criticized and exposed as a myth. The book then puts forward a new theory of what it means to own something, one that will be important for any theory of distributive justice. This new approach more adequately reveals the disparate social and individual values that property ownership serves to promote. The study has importance for understanding the reform of capitalist and welfare state systems, as well as the institution of market economies in former socialist states, for the view developed here makes the traditional dichotomy between private ownership capitalism and public ownership socialism obsolete. This new approach to ownership also places egalitarian principles of distributive justice in a new light and challenges critics to clarify aspects of property ownership worth protecting against calls for greater equality. The book closes by showing how defenders of egalitarianism can make use of some of the ideas and values that traditionally made private property appear to be such a pervasive human institution.

the myth of ownership: *Taxation* Martin O'Neill, Shepley Orr, 2018-07-19 This is the first book to give a collective treatment of philosophical issues relating to tax. The tax system is central to the operation of states and to the ways in which states interact with individual citizens. Taxes are used by states to fund the provision of public goods and public services, to engage in direct or indirect forms of redistribution, and to mould the behaviour of individual citizens. As the contributors to this volume show, there are a number of pressing and thorny philosophical issues relating to the tax system, and these issues often connect in fascinating ways with foundational questions regarding property rights, public justification, democracy, state neutrality, stability, political psychology, and other moral and political issues. Many of these deep and fascinating philosophical questions about tax have not received as much sustained attention as they clearly merit. The aim of advancing the debate about tax in political philosophy has both general and more specific aspects, ranging across both over-arching issues regarding the tax system as a whole and more specific issues relating to particular forms of tax policy. Thinking clearly about tax is not an easy task, as much that is of central importance is missed if one proceeds at too great a level of abstraction, and issues of conceptual and normative importance often only come sharply into focus when viewed against real-world questions of implementation and feasibility. Serious philosophical work on the tax system will often therefore need to be interdisciplinary, and so the discussion in this book includes a number of scholars whose expertise spans across neighbouring disciplines to philosophy, including political science, economics, public policy, and law.

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the myth of ownership: The Oxford Handbook of Political Philosophy David Estlund, 2012-07-19 This volume includes 22 new pieces by leading political philosophers, on traditional issues (such as authority and equality) and emerging issues (such as race, and money in politics). The pieces are clear and accessible will interest both students and scholars working in philosophy, political science, law, economics, and more.

the myth of ownership: The Myth of Chinese Capitalism Dexter Roberts, 2020-03-10 The “vivid, provocative” untold story of how restrictive policies are preventing China from becoming the world’s largest economy (Evan Osnos). Dexter Roberts lived in Beijing for two decades working as a reporter on economics, business and politics for Bloomberg Businessweek. In The Myth of Chinese Capitalism, Roberts explores the reality behind today’s financially-ascendant China and pulls the curtain back on how the Chinese manufacturing machine is actually powered. He focuses on two places: the village of Binghuacun in the province of Guizhou, one of China’s poorest regions that sends the highest proportion of its youth away to become migrants; and Dongguan, China’s most infamous factory town located in Guangdong, home to both the largest number of migrant workers and the country’s biggest manufacturing base. Within these two towns and the people that move between them, Roberts focuses on the story of the Mo family, former farmers-turned-migrant-workers who are struggling to make a living in a fast-changing country that relegates one-half of its people to second-class status via household registration, land tenure policies and inequality in education and health care systems. In The Myth of Chinese Capitalism, Dexter Roberts brings to life the problems that China and its people face today as they attempt to overcome a divisive system that poses a serious challenge to the country’s future development. In so doing, Roberts paints a boots-on-the-ground cautionary picture of China for a world now held in its financial thrall. Praise for The Myth of Chinese Capitalism “A gimlet-eyed look at an economic miracle that may not be so miraculous after all.” —Kirkus Reviews “A clearheaded and persuasive counter-narrative to the notion that the Chinese economic model is set to take over the world. Readers looking for an informed and nuanced perspective on modern China will find it here.” —Publishers Weekly “A sophisticated and readable take of China’s triumphs and crises. . . . A first-hand witness to China’s transformation over the past quarter century, Roberts credibly challenges the myth of China’s inevitable rise and global dominance.” —Ian Johnson, Pulitzer Prize–winning author and Beijing-based correspondent “A potent mix of personal stories and deft analysis, The Myth of Chinese Capitalism takes a hard look at China’s migrants and rural people.” —Mei Fong, Pulitzer Prize–winning journalist and author of One Child: The Story of China’s Most RadicalExperiment

the myth of ownership: Owning Our Future Marjorie Kelly, 2012-07-04 A collection of company profiles that “succeeds in demonstrating how more sustainable business ventures can function in practice” (Publishers Weekly). As long as businesses are set up to focus exclusively on maximizing financial income for the few, our economy will be locked into endless growth and widening inequality. But now people are experimenting with new forms of ownership, which

Marjorie Kelly calls generative: aimed at creating the conditions for life for many generations to come. These designs may hold the key to the deep transformation our civilization needs. To understand these emerging alternatives, Kelly reports from all over the world, visiting a community-owned wind facility in Massachusetts, a lobster cooperative in Maine, a multibillion-dollar employee-owned department-store chain in London, a foundation-owned pharmaceutical company in Denmark, a farmer-owned dairy in Wisconsin, and other places where a hopeful new economy is being built. Along the way, she finds the five essential patterns of ownership design that make these models work. “This magnificent book is a kind of recipe for how civilization might cope with its too-big-to-fail problem. It’s a hardheaded, clear-eyed, and therefore completely moving account of what a different world might look like—what it already does look like in enough places that you will emerge from its pages inspired to get involved.” —Bill McKibben, author of Deep Economy

the myth of ownership: The Triumph of Injustice: How the Rich Dodge Taxes and How to Make Them Pay Emmanuel Saez, Gabriel Zucman, 2019-10-15 “The most important book on government policy that I’ve read in a long time.” —David Leonhardt, New York Times Even as they have become fabulously wealthy, the ultra-rich have seen their taxes collapse to levels last seen in the 1920s. Meanwhile, working-class Americans have been asked to pay more. The Triumph of Injustice presents a forensic investigation into this dramatic transformation, written by two economists who have revolutionized the study of inequality. Blending history and cutting-edge economic analysis, Emmanuel Saez and Gabriel Zucman offer a comprehensive view of America’s tax system alongside a visionary, democratic, and practical reinvention of taxes.

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the myth of ownership: *Corporate Power and Ownership in Contemporary Capitalism* Susanne Soederberg, 2009-09-14 This book examines neoliberal corporate power within the context of the American political economy and its relationship to emerging market economies in order to understand the global dimensions of the corporate-financial binary.

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the myth of ownership: *The Myth of Capitalism* Jonathan Tepper, 2023-04-25 The Myth of Capitalism tells the story of how America has gone from an open, competitive marketplace to an economy where a few very powerful companies dominate key industries that affect our daily lives. Digital monopolies like Google, Facebook and Amazon act as gatekeepers to the digital world. Amazon is capturing almost all online shopping dollars. We have the illusion of choice, but for most critical decisions, we have only one or two companies, when it comes to high speed Internet, health insurance, medical care, mortgage title insurance, social networks, Internet searches, or even consumer goods like toothpaste. Every day, the average American transfers a little of their pay check to monopolists and oligopolists. The solution is vigorous anti-trust enforcement to return America to a period where competition created higher economic growth, more jobs, higher wages and a level playing field for all. The Myth of Capitalism is the story of industrial concentration, but it matters to everyone, because the stakes could not be higher. It tackles the big questions of: why is the US becoming a more unequal society, why is economic growth anemic despite trillions of dollars of federal debt and money printing, why the number of start-ups has declined, and why are workers losing out.

the myth of ownership: The Routledge Handbook of Libertarianism Jason Brennan, Bas van der Vossen, David Schmidtz, 2017-08-18 Libertarians often bill their theory as an alternative to both the traditional Left and Right. The Routledge Handbook of Libertarianism helps readers fully examine this alternative without preaching it to them, exploring the contours of libertarian (sometimes also called classical liberal) thinking on justice, institutions, interpersonal ethics, government, and political economy. The 31 chapters--all written specifically for this volume--are organized into five parts. Part I asks, what should libertarianism learn from other theories of justice, and what should defenders of other theories of justice learn from libertarianism? Part II asks, what are some of the deepest problems facing libertarian theories? Part III asks, what is the right way to think about property rights and the market? Part IV asks, how should we think about the state? Finally, part V asks, how well (or badly) can libertarianism deal with some of the major policy challenges of our day, such as immigration, trade, religion in politics, and paternalism in a free market. Among the Handbook's chapters are those from critics who write about what they believe libertarians get right as well as others from leading libertarian theorists who identify what they think libertarians get wrong. As a whole, the Handbook provides a comprehensive, clear-eyed look at what libertarianism has been and could be, and why it matters.

the myth of ownership: Amartya Sen Lawrence Hamilton, 2019-06-10 Amartya Sen is one of the world's best-known voices for the poor, the destitute and the downtrodden and an inspiration for policy makers and activists across the globe. He has also contributed almost without peer to the study of economics, philosophy and politics, transforming social choice theory, development economics, ethics, political philosophy and Indian political economy, to list but a few. This book offers a much-needed introduction to Amartya Sen's extraordinary variety of ideas. Lawrence Hamilton provides an excellent, accessible guide to the full range of Sen's writings, contextualizing his ideas and summarizing the associated debates. In elegant prose, Hamilton reconstructs Sen's critiques of the major philosophies of his time, assesses his now famous concern for capabilities as an alternative for thinking about poverty, inequality, gender discrimination, development, democracy and justice, and unearths some overlooked gems. Throughout, these major theoretical and philosophical achievements are subjected to rigorous scrutiny. Amartya Sen is a major work on one of the most influential economists and philosophers of the last couple of centuries. It will be invaluable to students and scholars across the humanities and social sciences and an excellent guide for policy makers, legislators and global activists.

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the myth of ownership: You Are Not Your Own Alan Noble, 2021-10-12 Modern life tells us that it's up to us to forge our own identities and to make our lives significant. But the Christian gospel offers a strikingly different vision—one that reframes the way we understand ourselves, our families, our society, and God. Contrasting these two visions of life, Alan Noble invites us into a better understanding of who we are and to whom we belong.

the myth of ownership: The Myth of Liberal Individualism Colin Bird, 1999-05-13 This book challenges us to look at liberal political ideas in a fresh way. Colin Bird examines the assumption, held both by liberals and by their strongest critics, that the values and ideals of the liberal political tradition cohere around a distinctively 'individualist' conception of the relation between individuals, society and the state. He concludes that the formula of 'liberal individualism' conceals fundamental conflicts between liberal views of these relations, conflicts that neither liberals nor their critics have adequately recognized. His interesting and provocative study develops a powerful criticism of the libertarian forms of 'liberal individualism' which have risen to prominence, and suggests that by taking this term for granted, theorists have exaggerated the unity and integrity of liberal political ideals and limited our perception of the issues they raise.

the myth of ownership: Property And Freedom Richard Pipes, 2010-09-30 One of the most enduring dreams is of a Utopian society in which all possessions are held in common ownership, and there is never a quarrel over mine and thine. As Professor Pipes argues in this book, such a dream has never been translated into reality in the secular world, despite the best efforts of socialist and communist ideologues. Acquisitiveness is deeply ingrained in all living creatures and all societies for both economic and psychological reasons. Where there are no guarantees of property there are no limits to state authority and no regulatory bodies of law, and hence no guarantee of individual liberty, or civil rights. Herein lies the crux of the author's argument.

the myth of ownership: On Global Justice Mathias Risse, 2012-09-16 Debates about global justice have traditionally fallen into two camps. Statists believe that principles of justice can only be held among those who share a state. Those who fall outside this realm are merely owed charity. Cosmopolitans, on the other hand, believe that justice applies equally among all human beings. On Global Justice shifts the terms of this debate and shows how both views are unsatisfactory. Stressing humanity's collective ownership of the earth, Mathias Risse offers a new theory of global distributive justice--what he calls pluralist internationalism--where in different contexts, different principles of justice apply. Arguing that statists and cosmopolitans seek overarching answers to problems that vary too widely for one single justice relationship, Risse explores who should have how much of what we all need and care about, ranging from income and rights to spaces and resources of the earth. He acknowledges that especially demanding redistributive principles apply among those who share a country, but those who share a country also have obligations of justice to those who do not because of a universal humanity, common political and economic orders, and a linked global trading system. Risse's inquiries about ownership of the earth give insights into immigration, obligations to future generations, and obligations arising from climate change. He considers issues such as fairness in trade, responsibilities of the WTO, intellectual property rights, labor rights, whether there ought to be states at all, and global inequality, and he develops a new foundational theory of human rights.

the myth of ownership: The Entrepreneurial State Mariana Mazzucato, 2018-03-22 10TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION: UPDATED WITH A NEW PREFACE 'Superb ... At a time when government action of any kind is ideologically suspect, and entrepreneurship is unquestioningly lionized, the book's importance cannot be understated' Guardian According to conventional wisdom, innovation is best left to the dynamic entrepreneurs of the private sector, and government should get out of the way. But what if all this was wrong? What if, from Silicon Valley to medical breakthroughs, the public sector has been the boldest and most valuable risk-taker of all? 'A brilliant book' Martin Wolf, Financial Times 'One of the most incisive economic books in years' Jeff Madrick, New York Review of Books 'Mazzucato is right to argue that the state has played a central role in producing game-changing breakthroughs' Economist 'Read her book. It will challenge your thinking' Forbes

the myth of ownership: The Myth of Consensus Harriet Jones, Michael D. Kandiah, 1996-11-12 This groundbreaking collection of essays challenges the notion that early postwar Britain was characterised by a consensus between the major political parties arising out of the experiences of the wartime coalition government. The volume collects for the first time the views of the revisionist historians who argue that fundamental differences between and within the parties continued to characterise British politics after 1945. Covering topics as diverse as industrial relations and decolonisation, the volume provides a welcome contrast to orthodox interpretations of contemporary Britain.

the myth of ownership: Abortion Politics Ziad Munson, 2018-05-21 Abortion has remained one of the most volatile and polarizing issues in the United States for over four decades. Americans are more divided today than ever over abortion, and this debate colors the political, economic, and social dynamics of the country. This book provides a balanced, clear-eyed overview of the abortion debate, including the perspectives of both the pro-life and pro-choice movements. It covers the history of the debate from colonial times to the present, the mobilization of mass movements around the issue, the ways it is understood by ordinary Americans, the impact it has had on US political development, and the differences between the abortion conflict in the US and the rest of the world. Throughout these discussions, Ziad Munson demonstrates how the meaning of abortion has shifted to reflect the changing anxieties and cultural divides which it has come to represent. Abortion Politics is an invaluable companion for exploring the abortion issue and what it has to say about American society, as well as the dramatic changes in public understanding of women’s rights, medicine, religion, and partisanship.

the myth of ownership: Why We Can't Afford the Rich Andrew Sayer, 2015-11-11 Even as inequalities widen, the effects of austerity deepen, and the consequences of recession linger, in many countries the wealth of the rich has soared. Why We Can't Afford the Rich exposes the unjust and dysfunctional mechanisms that allow the top 1% to siphon off wealth produced by others through the control of property and money. Leading social scientist Andrew Sayer shows how over the past three decades the rich worldwide have increased their ability to hide their wealth, create indebtedness, and expand their political influence. Aimed at all engaged citizens, this important and accessible book uses simple distinctions to burst the myth of the rich as especially talented wealth creators. But more than this, as the risk of runaway climate change grows, it shows how the rich are threatening the planet by banking on unsustainable growth. Forcefully arguing that the crises of economy and climate can only be resolved by radical change, Sayer makes clear that we must make economies sustainable, fair, and conducive to well being for all.

the myth of ownership: *Crisis and Inequality* Mattias Vermeiren, 2021-02-11 Spiralling inequality since the 1970s and the global financial crisis of 2008 have been the two most important challenges to democratic capitalism since the Great Depression. To understand the political economy of contemporary Europe and America we must, therefore, put inequality and crisis at the heart of the picture. In this innovative new textbook Mattias Vermeiren does just this, demonstrating that both the global financial crisis and the European sovereign debt crisis resulted from a mutually reinforcing but ultimately unsustainable relationship between countries with debt-led and export-led growth models, models fundamentally shaped by soaring income and wealth inequality. He traces the emergence of these two growth models by giving a comprehensive overview, deeply informed by the comparative and international political economy literature, of recent developments in the four key domains that have shaped the dynamics of crisis and inequality: macroeconomic policy, social policy, corporate governance and financial policy. He goes on to assess the prospects for the emergence of a more egalitarian and sustainable form of democratic capitalism. This fresh and insightful overview of contemporary Western capitalism will be essential reading for all students and scholars of international and comparative political economy.

the myth of ownership: The Myth of Mondragon Sharryn Kasmir, 1996-01-01 This is the first critical account of the internationally renowned Mondragon cooperatives of the Basque region of Spain. The Mondragon cooperatives are seen as the leading alternative model to standard industrial organization; they are considered to be the most successful example of democratic decision making and worker ownership. However, the author argues that the vast scholarly and popular literature on Mondragon idealizes the cooperatives by falsely portraying them as apolitical institutions and by ignoring the experiences of shop floor workers. She shows how this creation of an idealized image of the cooperatives is part of a new global ideology that promotes cooperative labor-management relations in order to discredit labor unions and working-class organizations; this constitutes what she calls the myth of Mondragon.

the myth of ownership: *Property Rights, Indigenous People and the Developing World* David Lea, 2008 This work offers an analysis of the Western formal system of private property and its moral justification and explains the relevance of the institution to particular current issues that face aboriginal peoples and the developing world. The subjects under study include broadly: aboriginal land claims; third world development; intellectual property rights and the relatively recent TRIPs agreement (Trade related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights). Within these broad areas we highlight the following concerns: the maintenance of cultural integrity; group autonomy; economic benefit; access to health care; biodiversity; biopiracy and even the independence of the recently emerged third world nation states. Despite certain apparent advantages from embracing the Western institution of private ownership, the text explains that the Western institution of private property is undergoing a fundamental redefinition through the expansion.

the myth of ownership: Good to Great James Charles Collins, 2001 Can a good company become a great one and, if so, how?After a five-year research project, Collins concludes that good to great can and does happen. In this book, he uncovers the underlying variables that enable any type of organization to

the myth of ownership: Common As Air Lewis Hyde, 2012-03-01 In 1963, Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his famous ‘ I Have a Dream’ speech. Thirty years later his son registered the words ‘ I Have a Dream’ as a trademark and successfully blocked attempts to reproduce these four words. Unlike the Gettysburg Address and other famous speeches, ‘ I Have a Dream’ is now private property, even though some the speech is comprised of words written by Thomas Jefferson, a man who very much believed that the corporate land grab of knowledge was at odds with the development of civil society. Exploring the complex intersection between creativity and commerce, Hyde raises the question of how our shared store of art and knowledge might be made compatible with our desire to copyright everything, and questions whether the fruits of creative labour can – or should – be privately owned, especially in the digital age. ‘ In what sense,’ he writes, ‘ can someone own, and therefore control other people’ s access to, a work of fiction or a public speech or the ideas behind a drug?’ Moving deftly between literary analysis, history and biography (from Benjamin Franklin’ s reluctance to patent his inventions to Bob Dylan’ s admission that his early method of songwriting was largely comprised of ‘ rearranging verses to old blues ballads, adding an original line here or there… slapping a title on it’), Common As Air is a stirring call-to-arms about how we might concretely legislate for a cultural commons that would simultaneously allow for financial reward and protection from monopoly. Rigorous, informative and riveting, this is a book for anyone who is interested in the creative process.

the myth of ownership: The Myth of Media Globalization Kai Hafez, 2013-07-08 The ongoing interconnection of the world through modern mass media is generally considered to be one of the major developments underpinning globalization. This important book considers anew the globalization phenomenon in the media sphere. Rather than heralding globalization or warning of its dangers, as in many other books, Kai Hafez analyses the degree to which media globalization is really taking place. Do we have enough evidence to show that there is a linear and accelerated move towards transnationalization in the media? All too often the empirical data presented seems rather more anecdotal than representative. Many transborder media phenomena are overestimated and taken out of the context of locally and nationally oriented mainstream media processes all over the world. The inherent danger is that a central paradigm of the social sciences, rather than bearing scholarly substance, will turn out to be a myth and even a sometimes dangerously ideological tool. Based on a theoretical debate of media globalization, the work discusses most major fields of media development, including foreign reporting, satellite TV, film, internet, foreign broadcasting, media and migration, media policy and media economy. As an important new contribution to timely debates, The Myth of Media Globalization will be essential and provocative reading for students and scholars alike.

the myth of ownership: *Time and Social Theory* Barbara Adam, 2013-03-01 Time is at the forefront of contemporary scholarly inquiry across the natural sciences and the humanities. Yet the social sciences have remained substantially isolated from time-related concerns. This book argues that time should be a key part of social theory and focuses concern upon issues which have emerged as central to an understanding of today's social world. Through her analysis of time Barbara Adam shows that our contemporary social theories are firmly embedded in Newtonian science and classical dualistic philosophy. She exposes these classical frameworks of thought as inadequate to the task of conceptualizing our contemporary world of standardized time, computers, nuclear power and global telecommunications.

the myth of ownership: Who Owns the Media? Benjamin M. Compaine, Douglas Gomery, 2000-07-13 This thorough update to Benjamin Compaine's original 1979 benchmark and 1982 revisit of media ownership tackles the question of media ownership, providing a detailed examination of the current state of the media industry. Retaining the wealth of data of the earlier volumes, Compaine and his co-author Douglas Gomery chronicle the myriad changes in the media industry and the factors contributing to these changes. They also examine how the media industry is being reshaped by technological forces in all segments, as well as by social and cultural reactions to these forces. This third edition of Who Owns the Media? has been reorganized and expanded, reflecting the evolution of the media industry structure. Looking beyond conventional wisdom and expectations, Compaine and Gomery examine the characteristics of competition in the media marketplace, present alternative positions on the meanings of concentration, and ultimately urge readers to draw their own conclusions on an issue that is neither black nor white. Appropriate for media practitioners and sociologists, historians, and economists studying mass media, this volume can also be used for advanced courses in broadcasting, journalism, mass communication, telecommunications, and media education. As a new benchmark for the current state of media ownership, it is invaluable to anyone needing to understand who controls the media and thus the information and entertainment messages received by media consumers.

the myth of ownership: The Myth of Silent Spring Chad Montrie, 2018-01-26 Since its publication in 1962, Rachel Carson’s book Silent Spring has often been celebrated as the catalyst that sparked an American environmental movement. Yet environmental consciousness and environmental protest in some regions of the United States date back to the nineteenth century, with the advent of industrial manufacturing and the consequent growth of cities. As these changes transformed people's lives, ordinary Americans came to recognize the connections between economic exploitation, social inequality, and environmental problems. As the modern age dawned, they turned to labor unions, sportsmen’s clubs, racial and ethnic organizations, and community groups to respond to such threats accordingly. The Myth of Silent Spring tells this story. By challenging the canonical “songbirds and suburbs” interpretation associated with Carson and her work, the book gives readers a more accurate sense of the past and better prepares them for thinking and acting in the present.

the myth of ownership: Who Owns England?: How We Lost Our Land and How to Take It Back Guy Shrubsole, 2020 Who own's England? Behind this simple question lies this country's oldest and darkest secret. This is the history of how England's elite came to own our land - from aristocrats and the church to businessmen and corporations - and an inspiring manifesto for how we can take control back.

the myth of ownership: In Defense of Housing Peter Marcuse, David Madden, 2024-08-27 In every major city in the world there is a housing crisis. How did this happen and what can we do about it? Everyone needs and deserves housing. But today our homes are being transformed into commodities, making the inequalities of the city ever more acute. Profit has become more important than social need. The poor are forced to pay more for worse housing. Communities are faced with the violence of displacement and gentrification. And the benefits of decent housing are only available for those who can afford it. In Defense of Housing is the definitive statement on this crisis from leading urban planner Peter Marcuse and sociologist David Madden. They look at the causes and consequences of the housing problem and detail the need for progressive alternatives. The housing crisis cannot be solved by minor policy shifts, they argue. Rather, the housing crisis has deep political and economic roots—and therefore requires a radical response.

the myth of ownership: Communities in Action National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, Health and Medicine Division, Board on Population Health and Public Health Practice, Committee on Community-Based Solutions to Promote Health Equity in the United States, 2017-04-27 In the United States, some populations suffer from far greater disparities in health than others. Those disparities are caused not only by fundamental differences in health status across segments of the population, but also because of inequities in factors that impact health status, so-called determinants of health. Only part of an individual's health status depends on his or her behavior and choice; community-wide problems like poverty, unemployment, poor education, inadequate housing, poor public transportation, interpersonal violence, and decaying neighborhoods also contribute to health inequities, as well as the historic and ongoing interplay of structures, policies, and norms that shape lives. When these factors are not optimal in a community, it does not mean they are intractable: such inequities can be mitigated by social policies that can shape health in powerful ways. Communities in Action: Pathways to Health Equity seeks to delineate the causes of and the solutions to health inequities in the United States. This report focuses on what communities can do to promote health equity, what actions are needed by the many and varied stakeholders that are part of communities or support them, as well as the root causes and structural barriers that need to be overcome.

the myth of ownership: *Myth of Liberal Ascendancy* G. Williams Domhoff, 2015-11-17 Based on new archival research, G. Williams Domhoff challenges popular conceptions of the 1930's New Deal. Arguing instead that this period was one of increasing corporate dominance in government affairs, affecting the fate of American workers up to the present day. While FDR's New Deal brought sweeping legislation, the tide turned quickly after 1938. From that year onward nearly every major new economic law passed by Congress showed the mark of corporate dominance. Domhoff accessibly portrays documents of the Committee's vital influence in the halls of government, supported by his interviews with several of its key employees and trustees. Domhoff concludes that in terms of economic influence, liberalism was on a long steady decline, despite two decades of post-war growing equality, and that ironically, it was the successes of the civil rights, feminist, environmental, and gay-lesbian movements-not a new corporate mobilisation-that led to the final defeat of the liberal-labour alliance after 1968.

the myth of ownership: Troy Stephen Fry, 2020-10-29 AN EPIC BATTLE THAT LASTED TEN YEARS. A LEGENDARY STORY THAT HAS SURVIVED THOUSANDS. 'An inimitable retelling of the siege of Troy . . . Fry's narrative, artfully humorous and rich in detail, breathes life and contemporary relevance into these ancient tales' OBSERVER 'Stephen Fry has done it again. Well written and super storytelling' 5***** READER REVIEW ________ 'Troy. The most marvellous kingdom in all the world. The Jewel of the Aegean. Glittering Ilion, the city that rose and fell not once but twice . . .' When Helen, the beautiful Greek queen, is kidnapped by the Trojan prince Paris, the most legendary war of all time begins. Watch in awe as a thousand ships are launched against the great city of Troy. Feel the fury of the battleground as the Trojans stand resolutely against Greek might for an entire decade. And witness the epic climax - the wooden horse, delivered to the city of Troy in a masterclass of deception by the Greeks . . . In Stephen Fry's exceptional retelling of our greatest story, TROY will transport you to the depths of ancient Greece and beyond. ________ 'A fun romp through the world's greatest story. Fry's knowledge of the world - ancient and modern - bursts through' Daily Telegraph 'An excellent retelling . . . told with compassion and wit' 5***** Reader Review 'Hugely successful, graceful' The Times 'If you want to read about TROY, this book is a must over any other' 5***** Reader Review 'Fluent, crisp, nuanced, begins with a bang' The Times Literary Supplement 'The characters . . . are brilliantly brought to life' 5***** Reader Review PRAISE FOR STEPHEN FRY'S GREEK SERIES: 'A romp through the lives of ancient Greek gods. Fry is at his story-telling best . . . the gods will be pleased' Times 'A head-spinning marathon of legends'

Guardian 'An Olympian feat. The gods seem to be smiling on Fry - his myths are definitely a hit' Evening Standard 'An odyssey through Greek mythology. Brilliant . . . all hail Stephen Fry' Daily Mail 'A rollicking good read' Independent

the myth of ownership: Can Liberal States Accommodate Indigenous Peoples? Duncan Ivison, 2020-01-13 The original – and often continuing – sin of countries with a settler colonial past is their brutal treatment of indigenous peoples. This challenging legacy continues to confront modern liberal democracies ranging from the USA and Canada to Australia, New Zealand and beyond. Duncan Ivison’s book considers how these states can justly accommodate indigenous populations today. He shows how indigenous movements have gained prominence in the past decade, driving both domestic and international campaigns for change. He examines how the claims made by these movements challenge liberal conceptions of the state, rights, political community, identity and legitimacy. Interweaving a lucid introduction to the debates with his own original argument, he contends that we need to move beyond complaints about the ‘politics of identity’ and towards a more historically and theoretically nuanced liberalism better suited to our times. This book will be a key resource for students and scholars interested in political theory, historic injustice, Indigenous studies and the history of political thought.