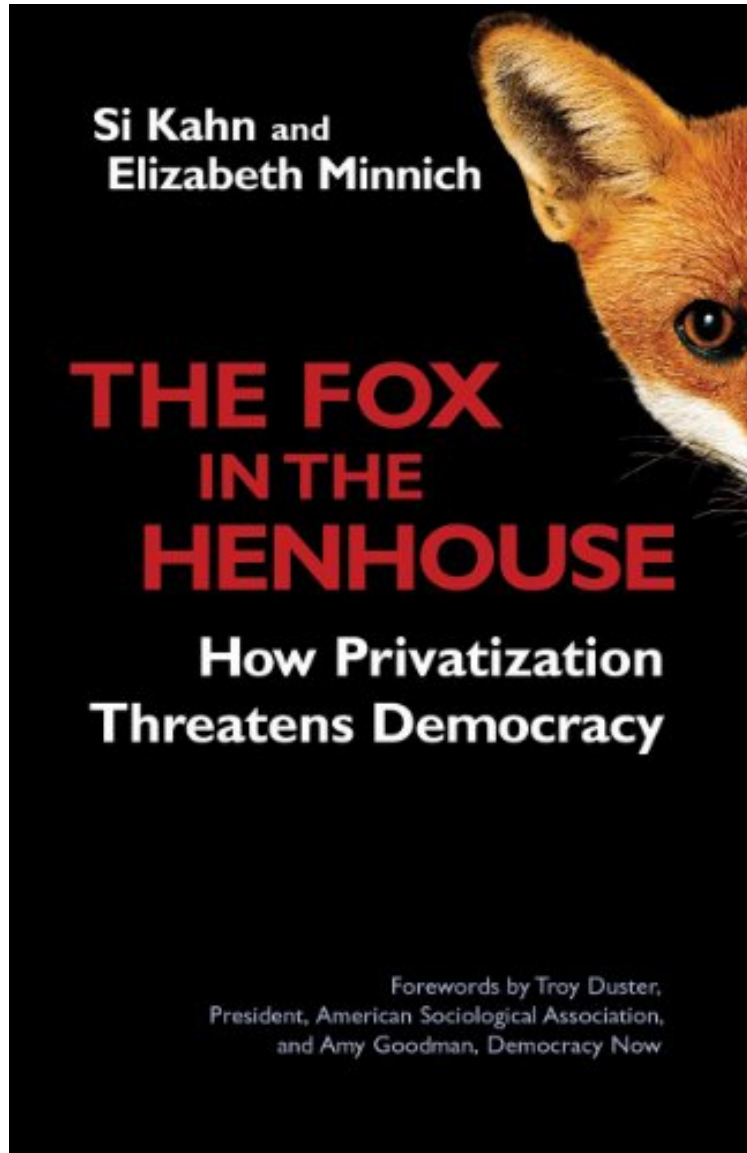


# The Fox in the Henhouse: How Privatization Threatens Democracy

*Si Kahn, Elizabeth Minnich*

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**Si Kahn, Elizabeth Minnich : The Fox in the Henhouse: How Privatization Threatens Democracy** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Fox in the Henhouse: How Privatization Threatens Democracy:

7 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Hear the foxes howlBy D. RobertsAt the outset, I must concede that I have a bit of a bias when it comes to the subject matter of this book. As a civil servant I've had to put up with the incessant drone of the Bush administration's propaganda machine as it extols the merits of A-76 studies. Every time I turn around I receive an e-mail @ work that tries to convince us how fair, just and blessed his privatization agenda

is. The problem is, I've seen myriad A-76 disasters; bait switch tactics by contractors, egregious amounts of money being spent on useless studies, government workers being shafted no matter what happens, companies going bankrupt after receiving the contract and (most likely to happen) the contractor falling well short of what it promised in the original agreement. I do NOT need some bureaucrat in Washington telling me I didn't really see what I already saw!! All the while, I kept thinking that surely someone out there must see the same waste / fraud / abuse in government contracting that I did. Thankfully, for once in my life, I was correct. Enter Minnich and Kahn. This book details many of the problems I already knew existed, but goes further in-depth than I have been able. Some may be offended that the book portrays Republicans and corporate executives as voracious wolves who would eat their own young to turn a buck. The most surprising thing about this assessment is that it's accurate. Whether it's politically correct to call something what it already is, is entirely irrelevant. George W. Bush is likely the most privatization-friendly president in history. He has nothing but contempt for government workers, and the sooner we're all outsourced, the better. The company line is that outsourcing is a fabulous deal for everyone, and people who work for the private sector are intrinsically more intelligent and operate with greater efficiency than those who work for the government. In the end, if the government is privatized, it helps the "free market" economy and the government "releases itself" from being a burden to progress. The sixty-thousand-dollar question, of course, is this: can this be categorically said to be true? If you answered "no," you are correct. If you're not convinced that no is the right answer, read the horror stories from this book they will promptly change your mind. For all those who would claim that this book is nothing but a whimsical book written by bed-wetting liberals, I say this: for ONCE in your life exercise your aptitude for critical thinking and USE it when you read what Minnich Kahn have to say!! For those who are skeptical of privatizing the government, this book will reinforce your reasons for being skeptical. Some who are naive enough to believe that Dubya actually has the well-being of this countries' citizens in mind when he makes his decisions will be stunned by the revelations contained herein. However, to grow as a country sometimes demands painful steps be made. Stopping the arbitrary onslaught of privatization is one of them. Read this book and you will peer into what is REALLY "behind the curtain" of the privatization agenda. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An excellent overview of challenges that we as a people need ...By Thomas E. Reed An excellent overview of challenges that we as a people need to understand. This book could be titled, "Who is stealing America"? 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Politicians, Prisons, Privatization Profit - Progress? By W. Powell I've read many books and articles that point to lead causes of problems in our society today. Violence, Healthcare, Unemployment, Education War are constant topics of concern in our daily media. This book centers its target on Privatization and is concerned with those who'd like to see it replace Government Public Service and Public Sector Management of our Free Democracy. America needs books like this if for no other reason than to show that conspiracy theorists aren't always crazed persons out of touch with society. Its a well written, to the point lesson on how our country has changed for the worse and who's behind it. It does what good research information should incite any reader to do; more research. For those who think Corporations are unfairly being given a free pass to run our country on a profit loss grid, here's a bit of proof that gives credence to your claim. For others who feel profit-first Corporations stimulate the economy while improving the American way of life, wait until you've lost some of that temporary economic privilege that comes with Corporate Privatization, then read this book. You may still disagree with its contents, but you won't continue to deny its devastating existence. Somewhere in the universe George Orwell is saying, "I Warned You."

Privatization has been on the right-wing agenda for years, but now it has the power of the Bush administration behind it. Health care, schools, Social Security, public lands, the military, prisons--all are considered fair game. But does privatization really serve the public good? Or is it a payoff to powerful corporations intent on replacing the government with a Ograve;private profit culture,Oacute; in which there is no meaningful public accountability and the bottom line rules all? In this powerful book, legendary activist Si Kahn and public philosopher Elizabeth Minnich argue that privatization is a threat whose seriousness few appreciate. Kahn and Minnich expose the damage privatization has done in several specific areas of society, as well as to society as a whole. They argue that corporations are, by their very nature, unable to effectively fulfill what have traditionally been the responsibilities of government. Some things that are worth doing simply canOtilde;t, indeed shouldnOtilde;t, be done purely for profit. Unless there is a balance between the public and private sectors, vulnerable populations will be chronically underserved and critical public functions will be under-funded to the point of virtual elimination. Privatization is usually dealt with in dry economic terms, but Kahn and Minnich take an unusual and lively approach to the issue. Combining stories, analysis, impassioned argument, and even song lyrics, they discuss how the concept of privatization has evolved and look at the different forces that work for and against it, emphasizing the extreme anti-government ideology motivating many privatization advocates. And they outline principles and practices for combating privatization and its proponents. The Fox in the Henhouse makes a powerful case that the market is not the

measure of all things, and that a vital public sector is an indispensable component of a healthy democracy.