

1- Allan Gregg in conversation with Chris Hedges on TVO video aired originally on March 19, 2010 27:01 minutes
<<http://www.tvo.org/TVO/WebObjects/TVO.woa?videoid?73201869001>> [Last accessed 08. August 2010 11:50]

Notes from watching the original TVO broadcast:

1.1- To the question of what the title of the book refers to, Chris Hedges replied that it refers to "... the fact that the American empire is completely disconnected from reality, of what it is, what it has become and where it's headed."

1.2- Hedges also talked about:

1. Magical thinking
2. Clinging to fantasy
3. Christian right
4. Necessity for the common good
5. Pornified society
6. Withering of the humanities e.g., in education
7. Challenging assumptions/ structures
8. Educators are teaching skills versus wisdom
9. Speculators
10. Barack Obama is a "brand"
11. Image based society
12. Deconstructing morals
13. USA addicted to war
14. USA sells its debt i.e. sells its deficit to China
15. Methane chimneys
16. Culture of deregulation
17. Inverted totalitarianism
18. Making democracy dysfunctional
19. Faux debate
20. Civil disobedience ... those who fight dragons become dragons ...
21. Rights of the working class
22. Manipulators of information

2- Chris Hedges 2009, Empire of Illusion 1st edition Knopf Canada

<<http://www.randomhouse.ca/catalog/display.pperl?isbn=9780307398475>> [Accessed from Taree NSW 22. August 2011]

Notes:

2.1- Saturday 03. July 2010 at 20:17 I bought this book for price of 29.95\$CA plus 5% GST from:

Store# 00200 World's Biggest Bookstore/ Indigo
20 Edward Street
Toronto, Ontario M5G 1C9 Canada
Telephone: +1-416-977-7009

2.2 Quotations from the book:

Page 22- William Deresiewicz:

"... computer is creating a culture of connectivity. ... contemporary self wants ... to be recognized, ... It wants to be visible."

Page 23- ...contemporary terror is anonymity...

Page 23- Appearances make everything whole.

Page 29- We ingest these lies until our money runs out.

Human beings become a commodity in a celebrity culture. They are object,...

Page 33- It is this perverted ethic that gave us Wall Street bankers...that willfully trashed the nation's economy, stole money from ... small shareholders...

Page 34- Degradation as entertainment is the ... underside ... of celebrity culture.

Page 38- The fantasy of celebrity culture...is designed to keep us from fighting back.

Page 44- We are culture that has been denied ...intellectual tools... to separate illusion from reality.

Page 45- Knowledge is confused with how we are made to feel.

Page 46- It is style and story, not content and fact that inform mass politics.

Page 48- Those who are best at deception succeed.

Page 49- Reality is boring.

Page 72- Porn reflects the endemic cruelty of society.

Page 74- Absolute power over others...expresses itself through sexual sadism.

Page 89- The elite universities disdain intellectual inquiry...

- Page 90- These elite universities... refuse to question a self-justifying system.
- Page 92- ...hypermasculinity has its logical fruition in Abu Ghraib, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and our lack of compassion for our homeless, our poor, the mentally ill, the unemployed, and the sick.
- Page 93- ... learning isn't about résumé fondling ...
- Page 97- ... corporate ... economists ... who ... rigged our financial... system speak ... in incomprehensible ...
- Page 97- (economic) meltdown during Tiberius' reign was finally halted by massive government spending...
- Page 100- ... Wall Street titans ...(whose) lives are...examples of moral squalor and unchecked greed.
- Page 105- ... getting ahead means deference to authority.
- Page 109- Matthew Arnold's Culture and Anarchy ... 1869... would provide standards to resist ... corruption ...
- Page 111- Our elites... in Congress... on Wall Street ... do not have the capacity to fix our financial mess... they will make it worse.
- Page 122- The optimal worker complains less... obeys more... costs the employer less in health care...
- Page 142- ... banks, courts, dysfunctional schools... and employers all conspired to make sure the poor remained poor.
Our nation has been hijacked ... by economic elite ... that govern, and often steals,...
- Page 144- The country's moral decay is manifested in its physical decay ... our infrastructure ... outdated...
Half of all bankruptcies in America occur because families are unable to pay their medical bills.
- Page 150- The media churn out info-tainment and pollute the airwaves with fatuous pundits.
- Page 151- We started borrowing to maintain a lifestyle we could no longer afford.
America's most dangerous enemies are not Islamic radicals but those who sold us the perverted ideology of free market capitalism and globalization.
Our financial system was ...looted by bankers, brokers, and speculators...
Speculators ... were hanged. Today they receive billions in taxpayer dollars and huge bonuses...
- Page 152- ... the oil and gas industry will never allow us to achieve energy independence.
- Page 153- The United States has become the largest single seller of arms and munitions...
The defence industry is a virus. It destroys healthy economies.
- Page 155- ... private insurance industry ... fragments risk pools, skimming off the healthier part of the population...
- Page 156- Harvard Medical School found that national health insurance would save the country \$350 billion a year.
- Page 156- ... pharmaceutical companies are afraid that a national health program will, as in Canada, be able to negotiate lower drug prices. Canadians pay 40 percent less for their drugs.
- Page 158- NAFTA was great if you were a corporation. It was a disaster if you were a worker.
- Page 159- The cost of our empire of illusion is not being paid by the corporate titans. It is being paid on the streets... and speaks the language of human misery...
- Page 166- Our government is being wrecked by corporations, which now get 40 percent of federal discretionary spending.
- Thus corporations ... cleverly evade taxation.
- Page 169- Television journalism is largely a farce.
- Page 174- ... traditional role of reporting ... should always begin with the assumption that those in power have an agenda and are rarely bound to the truth.
- Page 177- Franklin Delano Roosevelt ... on April 29, 1938,... the liberty of a democracy is not safe if its business system does not provide employment and produce and distribute goods in such a way to sustain an acceptable living.
The emergence of the corporate state always means the emergence of the security state.
... Patriot Act ... motive ... is not to fight terrorism or to bolster national security. It is to seize and maintain internal control.
- Page 178- ... the national security state's preparation to crush potential civil unrest ... (is) a glimpse of the future.
- Page 181- The (CPI) ... used by the government to measure inflation, is meaningless ...
The advantage of false statistic to the corporations is huge.
Corporations never have to pay real cost of living increases...
- Page 190- Mass culture is a Peter Pan culture.
- Page 193- ... power elites have for millennia tried and failed to crush the force of love.