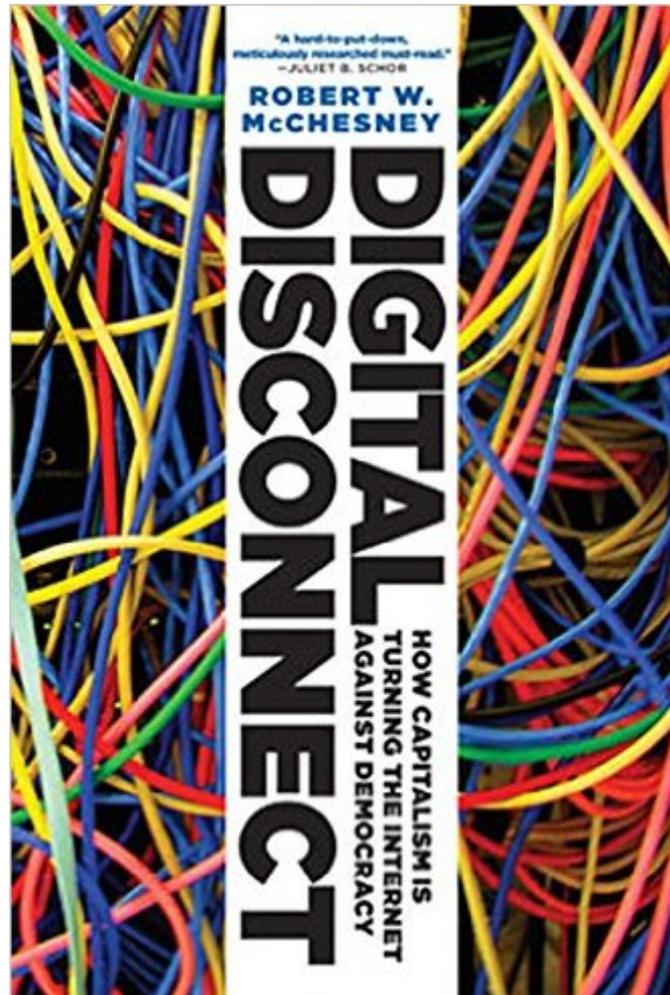


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# Digital Disconnect



## Synopsis

Hailed as "important" (Truthdig) and praised for its "excellent insight" (Patricia J. Williams, The Nation), Digital Disconnect, by activist and "exemplary public intellectual" (Choice) Robert W. McChesney, skewers the assumption that a society drenched in information in a digital age is inherently a democratic one. A prescient examination of the relationship between the Internet and the economy—one that has become even more relevant since its publication in hardcover—the book argues that capitalism's colonization of the Internet has spurred the collapse of credible journalism and made the Internet an unparalleled apparatus for government and corporate surveillance. "A provocative and far-reaching account of how capitalism has shaped the Internet in the United States" (Kirkus Reviews) and "an excellent analysis of the problem where a medium with the capacity to empower people is itself becoming a tool of social control" (Daily Kos), Digital Disconnect is both a groundbreaking critique of the Internet and an urgent call to reclaim the democratizing potential of the digital revolution while we still can.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

If your daily routine took you from one homegrown organic garden to another, bypassing vast fields choked with pesticides, you might feel pretty good about the current state of agriculture. If your daily routine takes you from one noncommercial progressive website to another, you might feel pretty good about the current state of the Internet. But while mass media have supplied endless raptures about a digital revolution, corporate power has seized the Internet -- and the anti-democratic grip is

tightening every day."Most assessments of the Internet fail to ground it in political economy; they fail to understand the importance of capitalism in shaping and, for lack of a better term, domesticating the Internet," says Robert W. McChesney in his illuminating new book, *Digital Disconnect: How Capitalism is Turning the Internet Against Democracy*. Plenty of commentators loudly celebrate the Internet. Some are vocal skeptics. "Both camps, with a few exceptions, have a single, deep, and often fatal flaw that severely compromises the value of their work," McChesney writes. "That flaw, simply put, is ignorance about really existing capitalism and an underappreciation of how capitalism dominates social life. . . . Both camps miss the way capitalism defines our times and sets the terms for understanding not only the Internet, but most everything else of a social nature, including politics, in our society." And he adds: "The profit motive, commercialism, public relations, marketing, and advertising -- all defining features of contemporary corporate capitalism -- are foundational to any assessment of how the Internet has developed and is likely to develop." Concerns about the online world often fixate on cutting-edge digital tech.

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