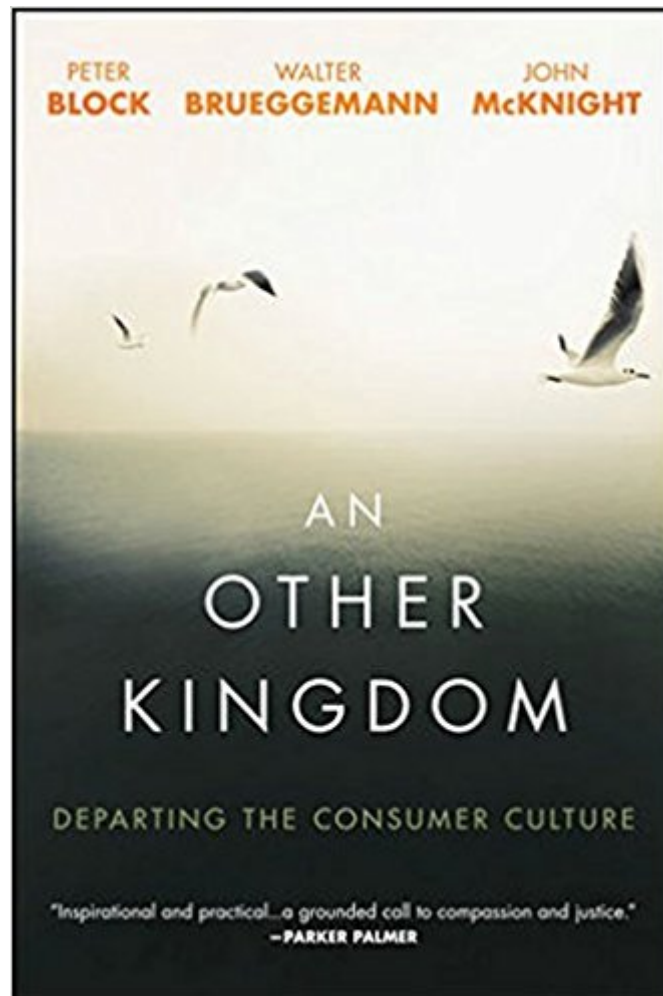




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An Other Kingdom: Departing The Consumer Culture



Synopsis

Our seduction into beliefs in competition, scarcity, and acquisition are producing too many casualties. We need to depart a kingdom that creates isolation, polarized debate, an exhausted planet, and violence that comes with the will to empire. The abbreviation of this empire is called a consumer culture. We think the free market ideology that surrounds us is true and inevitable and represents progress. We are called to better adapt, be more agile, more lean, more schooled, more, more, more. Give it up. There is no such thing as customer satisfaction. We need a new narrative, a shift in our thinking and speaking. An Other Kingdom takes us out of a culture of addictive consumption into a place where life is ours to create together. • This satisfying way depends upon a neighborly covenant – an agreement that we together, will better raise our children, be healthy, be connected, be safe, and provide a livelihood. The neighborly covenant has a different language than market-hype. It speaks instead in a sacred tongue. Authors Peter Block, Walter Brueggemann, and John McKnight invite you on a journey of departure from our consumer market culture, with its constellations of empire and control. Discover an alternative set of beliefs that have the capacity to evoke a culture where poverty, violence, and shrinking well-being are not inevitable – a culture in which the social order produces enough for all. They ask you to consider this other kingdom. To participate in this modern exodus towards a modern community. To awaken its beginnings are all around us. An Other Kingdom outlines this journey to construct a future outside the systems world of solutions.

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Customer Reviews

The consumer culture holds the belief that no amount is enough. The free market ideology produces economic crises, violence, and an exhausted planet. An Other Kingdom provides a new narrative, a shift in our thinking and speaking, to take us out of a culture of addictive consumption into a place where contract is replaced by covenant, consumption is replaced by neighborliness, and time is reclaimed as our own. This is a modern exodus towards a connected community, built on an alternative set of beliefs, liturgy, and disciplines. The shift has begun and out of it we find a better way to raise our children, be healthy, be safe, and be kinder to the earth. "A fast-paced, hard-hitting smack of a book . . . [with] specific, practical ways we can move toward greater neighborliness for the common good." —WILL WILLIMON, Professor of Christian Ministry, Duke Divinity School, Durham, NC and United Methodist Bishop (ret.) "The book is not sentimental . . . but rather hopeful of fundamental economic, social, and cultural transformation, reminiscent of economist Fritz Schumacher." —SUSAN WITT, Schumacher Center for a New Economics "An alternative vision of a neighborly society, one that draws upon our deepest sacred and secular traditions and is already being constructed by ordinary people in many local communities." —WALTER T. DAVIS, Professor Emeritus, San Francisco Seminary "Original and illuminating. Prophetic and liberating!" —ROBERT INCHAUSTI, author of Thomas Merton's American Prophecy, Subversive Orthodoxy, and The Ignorant Perfection of Ordinary People "Shines like the North Star in the night sky: a joy to read, and a compass to hold close as we face the unknown and unknowable environmental, political, relational, and spiritual challenges that lie out ahead." —CORMAC RUSSELL, author of Asset-Based Community Development; Managing Director of Nurture Development; faculty member of ABCD Institute, and lead steward for ABCD in Europe

Peter Block (Cincinnati, OH; www.peterblock.com; www.designedlearning.com) is a leading consultant and bestselling author whose work is about empowerment, stewardship, chosen accountability, and the reconciliation of community. He is a partner in Designed Learning, a training company that offers workshops designed by Peter to build the skills outlined in his books. He received a Masters Degree in Industrial Administration from Yale in 1963. He has received national awards for outstanding contributions in the field of training and development, including the American Society for Training and Development Award for Distinguished Contributions; the Association for Quality and Participation President's Award; and "Training Magazine" HRD Hall of Fame. Walter Brueggemann (Cincinnati, OH; www.walterbrueggemann.com) is one of the most influential Old Testament scholars of the last several decades, known throughout the world for his method of

combining literary and sociological modes when reading The Bible. He has written more than 58 books, hundreds of articles, and several commentaries on books of the Bible, has contributed to the Living the Questions DVD series, and participated in Bill Moyers' PBS television series on Genesis. John McKnight (Evanston, IL) is emeritus professor of education and social policy and co-director of the Asset-Based Community Development Institute at Northwestern University. He is the coauthor of "Building Communities from the Inside Out" and the author of "The Careless Society."

This book is provocative and insightful. It is a plea for neighborliness and looking into ourselves to produce a sustainable culture. To me it helps explain the deplorable state of our political process right now. We are all children of the same God but live in an economy that obscures that simple fact.

excellent source for those working with and in communities. I appreciate the authors presentations because they are clear and do not require a special vocabulary or skills. I have yearned for community such as I recall from youth and early working days. I now understand where that yearning comes from and it isn't just me who is experiencing that in their 70's.

A thought provoking book!

I like the three authors immensely. I am not as much a fan of this synthesis of their contributions.

These three wise men expose the faults of our consumer culture with incisive commentary. We are all in danger, we are destroying each other and our planet. Their response to the dilemmas we face is one of possibility and hope. I love the interplay between economics and faith, they bring God into the conversation. My only disappointment is their use of the word kingdom, which speaks of patriarchy, while the whole of their work is of inclusiveness and community. They speak of standing in line, "the privileged do not wait in line...The elite do not queue up" in reference to the poor at a food kitchen. Women stand in lines at almost every bathroom, men do not. This oversight does not diminish their work, rather it illustrates how much we need each other as lights in these dark times.

An incredibly challenging and well written work that presents a clear perspective of our consumer mindset and what it may be costing us as a society and culture

Too many religious references

An able scholar and a Great book I've read many books on this subject and this is by far and away the best. Things have to change and here is the reason why.

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