

How Corporations took over the Government

December 2022 – [*In a recent YouTube video*](#), former Labor Secretary Robert Reich discusses a little-known document that has had a profound impact on the erosion of democracy in the United States. In August 1971, corporate lawyer Lewis Powell sent a memo to an official at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in which he urged the business community to mobilize against threats to its interests. These “threats” were the kinds of policy proposals coming out of the environmental, consumer, civil rights, and women’s movements. The document, known as the [*Powell Memo*](#), launched a corporate takeover of the reins of government that we struggle with to this day. The inordinate influence of the fossil fuel, pharmaceutical, financial services, and other industries can be traced back to the Powell Memo. Two months after Powell issued his memo, President Nixon nominated him to the Supreme Court.

[**Watch the video**](#) from Inequality Media. [**Read the Powell Memo.**](#)

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce's 1971 call for a business crusade birthed a new corporate-political industry, practically overnight. *Robert B. Reich*

[*Inequality Media*](#) is a nonpartisan digital media company with a mission to inform and engage the public about inequality and imbalance of power.