

BOOK REVIEW

Naomi Klein, *No is Not Enough: Resisting Trump's Shock Politics and Winning the World We Need*. (Chicago: Haymarket Books, 2017), 272 pp.

Naomi A. Klein is a Canadian author known for her critical insights on globalisation, capitalism, labour movements, and the corporate sector. The emergence of Donald Trump to the highest office of power is the focus of Klein's recent work. Her book *No is Not Enough* echoes critical insights into the origin of the Trump Presidency, and how people resisted the onslaught of corporate interests during his presidency. Klein describes the election of Trump as a 'shock' to the political system. Klein argues how the rise of right-wing leaders and pro-corporate economic policies around the globe is the outcome of an ongoing process of 'shock tactics'. A 'shock' happens when there are calamities like wars, coups, terrorist attacks, etc. People become unsettled and shrewd politicians and businessmen utilise this shock to push corporate agendas. She analyses the political, economic, and social trends that followed Trump's emergence to power. Trump's cabinet itself embodied a pro-corporate spirit. The multi-millionaire cabinet members signified the pro-corporate thrust of Trump's Presidency. Welfarist measures took a back seat. Hunger, combating climate change, reducing racial tensions, and healthcare support for the poor got relatively less attention. Tax cuts for the corporates and 'unfettered' freedoms for big businesses got pushed to the top of the policy agenda.

She remarks how the change of Presidency was a corporate takeover. The corporate sector in the US has been viewing the political class as 'middle men'. Trump's emergence to the top was an outcome of this sentiment of the corporate class that there is no need for 'middle-men' anymore and they should take control of the reins of administration. The corporate class resented the sense of 'entitlement' the politicians enjoyed while they were taxed. This view that the corporate class took control of political power in the 2016 elections has been echoed by political analysts around the world. A section is devoted to how scientists countered the 'war' on facts. The facts on climate change were suppressed by government websites. Klein describes how the scientific community pushed back against this blatant hiding of the truth. She refers to this pushback by the scientists and experts as the 'revenge of reality'. Though the term Post Truth is not explicitly stated, Klein is trying to put forth how Post Truth, where facts are submerged by rhetoric, came to be the norm under Trump's administration.

What makes the book political as well as reformist is the call for action to reverse the shock wave of crude corporate agenda by bringing back welfare and development to the discussion table. Klein reminds the readers that 'shocks' can be resisted. Movements to counter the shock were already taking shape on the eve of Trump assuming power. Climate activists, Black Lives Matter movement, and immigrant groups were expressing solidarity and preparing themselves for resistance as Trump entered the White House. Klein gives the example of the American Civil Liberties Union mobilising funds to support immigrants to show how an act of resistance garners momentum over time. The significance of the development of counter-narratives to resist the onslaught of crony capitalism is brought out interestingly in the book. Coincidentally, the book itself is a part of the counter-narrative. Klein discusses acts of solidarity and resistance that emerged in the US after Trump's election. Klein emphasises the immense hope that lies in the acts of resistance of people transcending class, race and gender. As a political text, the book offers a macroscopic analysis of how people tried to defy the 'bullying' from a businessman-President and the importance of cooperation among people. The attempts to marginalise immigrants, silence climate activists, mock women's rights, and muzzle dissent were consistently resisted.

Climate change is given special attention. The fossil fuel companies that thrived on exploitation and emission are put on the dock. Klein critiques the failure of the Obama administration to reign in the carbon emitters and usher in a Green Economy. As a

consequence, the fossil fuel companies positioned themselves as job-creators and saviours of the economy. This has resulted in greater entrenchment of carbon-emitting companies when the world needs the opposite. The author tries to give meaning to movements, events, and elections. The election of Trump was not a one-off event. It was followed by the rise of Trump-like politicians around the world. The shock tactics of Trump were replicated by politicians in the East and the West. The counter-movements to crude corporate policies were also prominent.

As Klein quotes Historian Howard Zinn in the book, “The really critical thing isn’t who is sitting in the White House, but who is sitting in—in the streets, in the cafeterias, in the halls of government, in the factories. Who is protesting, who is occupying offices and demonstrating? Those are the things that determine what happens.” This sums up the author’s thrust on building on sustained resistance instead of just saying NO. No is Not Enough is an interesting and lucid read for students of International Relations, Politics, Science Diplomacy, and Climate Change.

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