

# Who Rules? Understanding the Journey

## SET 1. How did a business model gain power over the People?

Fill in the story with the missing words. Use each answer once.

real people	three branches	law
constitutional rights	Powell Memo	1971
equal protection	politicians and judges	courts
human rights	person	1819
1 <sup>st</sup> Amendment rights	corporation	standing
democracy	charter rights	1886
campaign finance rules	artificial persons	power
giving and spending	protection	movements

The Constitution includes the word “\_\_\_\_\_” many times, but never defines it. The Constitution does not include the word “\_\_\_\_\_.” In U.S. \_\_\_\_\_, corporations are considered “\_\_\_\_\_” with \_\_\_\_\_ as privileges to do business. Corporations went to the \_\_\_\_\_ to gain more power through protected \_\_\_\_\_.

In \_\_\_\_\_, the U.S. Supreme Court gave corporations \_\_\_\_\_ in the Constitution. In \_\_\_\_\_, after the Civil War Amendments passed, corporations secured 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment \_\_\_\_\_ of laws – equal to real people. Corporations immediately began to secure protected constitutional rights to regain their \_\_\_\_\_ over the people. Constitutional rights gave corporations \_\_\_\_\_ from laws meant to protect \_\_\_\_\_.

In \_\_\_\_\_ in response to people’s rights \_\_\_\_\_, corporations organized under the \_\_\_\_\_ to gain control of all \_\_\_\_\_ of government. Over the next 40-plus years, corporations and wealthy persons went to the courts to secure a series of \_\_\_\_\_, giving “persons” unlimited \_\_\_\_\_ in election campaigns.

These rulings destroyed \_\_\_\_\_, free and fair elections, and people’s rule – \_\_\_\_\_. Now \_\_\_\_\_, elected by big money from corporations and wealthy individuals, make laws that openly violate \_\_\_\_\_.



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## SET 2. How did a sovereign people become disempowered by their own government?

Fill in the story with the missing words. Use each answer once.

human rights	political & economic power	majority of people
abolished slavery	legalized slavery	citizens
equal protection	'Jim Crow' laws	women
campaign finance rules	'War on Drugs'	black people
democracy	Powell Memo	black men
5 <sup>th</sup> Amendment	"separate but equal"	politicians & judges
1 <sup>st</sup> Amendment rights	exceptions	1896
three branches	racial segregation	corporations

The Constitution \_\_\_\_\_ without using the word. The \_\_\_\_\_ who were left out of the Constitution worked to have their rights recognized. The Civil War Amendments \_\_\_\_\_, recognized all persons born or naturalized in the United States as \_\_\_\_\_ with due process and \_\_\_\_\_ of law, and penalized states that denied \_\_\_\_\_ the right to vote. However, the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Amendments had \_\_\_\_\_ for crime.

After the Civil War, courts acted to protect a white ruling class. In 1875, the U.S. Supreme Court denied \_\_\_\_\_ 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment protection, but 11 years later recognized equal protection in law for \_\_\_\_\_. Pro-slavery states used black codes and \_\_\_\_\_ to deny black men the right to vote and to enforce \_\_\_\_\_ in schools, marriage, and society. In \_\_\_\_\_, the Court ruled state laws enforcing racial segregation were legal if \_\_\_\_\_ accommodations were provided. The ruling class built \_\_\_\_\_, while most people still worked to have their rights recognized.

During the 1950s to 1970s, people drove new constitutional and civil rights into law, and courts interpreted equal protection as due process under the \_\_\_\_\_.

In response to people's rights movements, the U.S. executive branch began the \_\_\_\_\_ that targeted people of color and led to more \_\_\_\_\_ in the prison system than were slaves before the Civil War.

Meanwhile, corporations organized under the \_\_\_\_\_ to gain control of all \_\_\_\_\_ of government. Corporations and wealthy persons went to the courts to secure a series of \_\_\_\_\_, giving "persons" unlimited spending and giving in elections. These rulings destroyed \_\_\_\_\_, free and fair elections, and people's rule – \_\_\_\_\_.

Now \_\_\_\_\_, who are elected by big money from corporations and wealthy individuals, make laws that openly violate \_\_\_\_\_.



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## SET 3. What are the social consequences of artificial persons with constitutional rights?

Check all that apply.

- ☐ a small number of people have most of the money and political power
- ☐ loss of free and fair elections, leading to rule by the rich and government by the wealthy
- ☐ unjust laws that lead to high numbers of people in jail, especially people of color
- ☐ laws that protect corporations' profits
- ☐ weakening of laws meant to protect people from chemical pollutants in air, water, land, food, and products
- ☐ high rates of cancers and childhood illnesses from chemical pollutants in the air, water, food, and products

## 4. What is and what causes the power dynamic within our democracy?

Check all that apply.

- ☐ The Constitution reflected the prejudices and love of power of the Founders.
- ☐ The Constitution legalized slavery and what came with it: racism and classism.
- ☐ The 96% of the people left out worked to have their rights recognized.
- ☐ When people succeeded in getting rights recognized, the Money Power worked to regain power over the people.
- ☐ The result is a power dynamic – a repeating series of struggles for rights and political power between the 96% who were left out and the Money Power.

## 5. Why does it take intergenerational work to maintain a democracy?

Fill in the missing two words.

Love of power and fear of other (prejudices) are weaknesses in \_\_\_\_\_  
and, therefore, are ever-present internal threats to democracy.

## 6. What is the most surprising thing you learned from the lessons on 'Who Rules?'