In PLUTOCRACY IN AMERICA, Ronald Formisano:

- Establishes that inequality is steadily undermining democracy

- Insists that representative government over several decades has turned into a plutocratic government enabling the flow of wealth upward to rich individuals and corporations

- Demonstrates that economic inequality is a direct creator of political inequality

- Reveals how excess CEO compensation, hundreds of times average workers' and far more than in peer countries, is a major driver of inequality

- Explains how McDonald's and Walmart are the true Welfare Queens and how they drag down wages

- Shows how inequality creates a cascade of consequences infecting almost every corner of economic and social life

- Uncovers how Predators on the poor use multiple ways to take billions out of their pockets (e.g., payday loans, auto loans), and how state legislators pocket campaign cash and enable the predators

- Rejects explanations of rising inequality as primarily due to globalization or other impersonal forces

- Portrays the American education system as working best for the affluent but failing millions: “no rich child left behind”

- Examines critically the notion of the “undeserving poor” while exposing the class of undeserving rich

- Contends that we are not “on our way” to a plutocracy and caste society: we are a plutocracy and caste society shot through with inequality
- Concludes the U.S. has moved from a market economy to a market society – everything is for sale and the commodification of EVERYTHING corrodes values and social relations

- Casts a wide net through American life to expose the open and hidden infrastructure of inequality

- Establishes the dimensions of the shrinking of the once proud American middle class

- Assembles the evidence that social mobility and opportunity are declining in America and are less than in European and other nations

- Illustrates the more equality in society the better physical and mental health, greater degree of civility, positive social relations and greater community spirit

- Reminds us that the U.S. labor force is not Number 1 in wages relative to other advanced nations, but in fact near the bottom

- Shows how Food Insecurity is rampant in the U.S. and a national embarrassment

- Exposes the collusion between politicians and forprofit colleges that are debt machines for low-income students and veterans

- Leaves little doubt that inequality harms the health of millions across the socio-economic spectrum but especially for low-income families

- Argues that inequality betrays the vision of the nation’s Founders, indeed of the promise of America

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