

**Research Project One: Spring 2020 – US Government
Corporate Power and Democracy**

Final Due Date: Friday, March 20, 2020 (late papers will be marked down one letter grade).

Question: Your textbook author (McClenaghan) suggests that although democracy and the free enterprise system are “not the same thing,” the relationship between them is such that the two systems “reinforce one another in practice” and thus our “mixed economy” protects both the public and preserves private enterprise (p. 21). This analysis leaves out some information related to the growth of corporate power and its effects on democracy. Analyze some of the critical interpretations below and give your own evaluation as to the veracity of McClenaghan’s claim.

**Sample Outline
(But feel free to set this essay up as you wish)**

I. Introduction / Thesis Statement – a brief statement outlining your position or something relevant about this issue.

II. Body – the bulk of the paper is here, in data taken from the readings and other evidence that you have found to support this position.

- a. Text DPE – what does the textbook say about whether or not the US can be considered a democracy and how corporate capitalism enhances or distorts this reality.**
- b. Other Traditional DPE – supporting positions from the democratic and pluralist perspectives.**
- c. Critical DPE – what do some of the readings say on this issue. You should include but are not limited to the following scholarship: Parenti, Boyer, Alperovitz, Hightower, Street and Kelly (and the film Corporate Coup D’etat).**
- d. Outside DPE – are there other authors that you have examined that have a unique and/or important position on this question. They can come from any theoretical perspective.**

III. Conclusion – from your reading of the various authors and theoretical positions, it is clear that McClenaghan’s claims of the benign relationship between capitalism and democracy are / are not undermined by the critical data researched.

Extras:

- 1. Make sure to include the proper APA form of citation for your sources *every time you use a statement or an idea from the readings that I have provided, or that you found in your own independent research.* Using other’s work without providing proper citation is plagiarism and grounds for immediate failure on this essay.**
- 2. Please type all work and provide 2 copies of the essay. One I will keep, the other will be returned to you.**
- 3. An “A” paper will be: a) *fully* documented and cited; b) a *minimum* of 10 pages of text (including the title page, abstract, and reference page, meaning *7 full* pages of text analysis); c) research *beyond* the authors I provided; and d) turned in *on time* (March 20, 2020).**