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Corporations ARE NOT PEOPLE

MONEY IS NOT SPEECH!!

Cover Press

So, what is a Super PAC?

A Super PAC (Political Action Committee) is a type of independent political committee that can raise and spend unlimited amounts of money to advocate for or against political candidates. Unlike a traditional PAC, they can't give directly to candidates or coordinate with campaigns.

BYLME

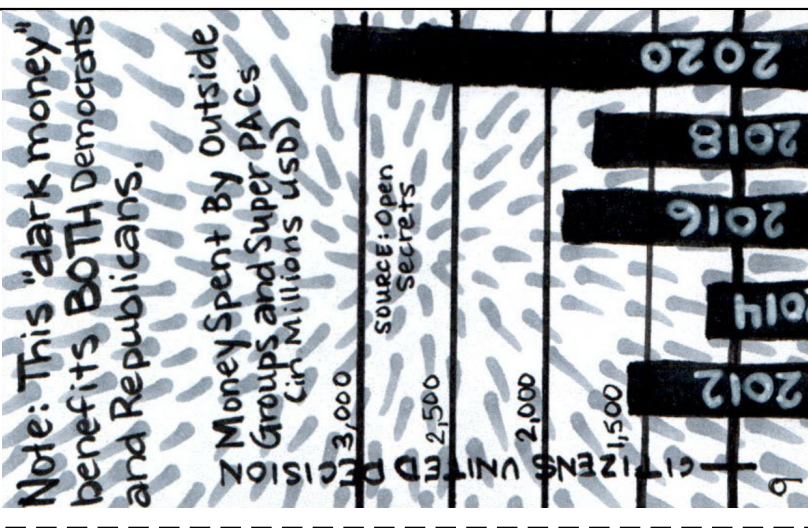
How a Supreme Court Decision reshaped American Politics.

Money, Power and Democracy

V. F E C :

Citizens United

Lawman's Law School Presents:



- Implications:**
- Increased Influence of Wealth and Corporations
 - Erosions of Democratic Accountability
 - Polarization and Gridlock
 - Barriers for entry of New Voices
 - Global Implications of undermining democracy
 - Increased systemic inequality and oppression.

The Supreme Court decides:

5-4 decision along "party" lines.

"Independent expenditures, those made including those made by corporations, do not give rise to corruption or the appearance of corruption."

~Justice Anthony Kennedy

Who is Citizens United?

Citizens United is a conservative non-profit founded in 1988, known for advocating limited government and free market principles.

In 2008, they produced a documentary critical of Hillary Clinton and wished to air it during the campaign. The Federal Election Commission (FEC) blocked its release under Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act (BCRA), which prohibited corporate-funded electioneering.

Citizens United sued the FEC claiming this violated the organization's first amendment rights.

How Do We Stop This

Expanding the definition of lobbyist

Cooling off periods between serving in office and becoming a lobbyist

Banning lobbyist donations to elected officials

Strengthening penalties on attempts to buy political influence

Banning legislators from trading individual stocks

Banning legislators from fundraising during congressional months

Citizens United:
"Political spending
is free speech."

VS.

"Unlimited
spending corrupts
democracy,
Federal Election
Commission

Impact:

- Increased Political Ads
- Increased influence of the rich
- Reduced Transparency
- Distorted Representation
- Loss of voice, weight for everyday people

Across the Pond

America's political funding system is more permissive and less regulated compared to many other democracies. Canada and the UK have STRICT limits on campaign contributions and spending. Many democracies in Europe also provide public funding for campaigns and BAN corporate donations, which creates a more level playing field. In Europe, there is not as much disproportionate influence as in the US. While many countries struggle with transparency, the US is rife with problems.

Voices of Dissent

"The court's ruling threatens to undermine the integrity of elected institutions."
- Justice John Paul Stevens.

"A democracy cannot function effectively when its constituent members believe laws are being bought and sold."
Justice Stevens believed this stripped voters the right of self protection.

Should corporations have the same free speech rights as individuals?

In 2010, the Supreme Court's landmark decision in Citizens United V. FEC fundamentally reshaped American politics by ruling that corporations and unions could spend unlimited amounts of money on independent political expenditures. The court's 5-4 decision found such spending is freedom of speech, arguing it did not lead to corruption.

Donors (individuals, unions, corporations) can be anonymous

Non Profit+ (501c4, 501c6) unlimited \$\$\$\$ Not required to disclose donors.

SUPER PAC

can spend unlimited funds on political ads and campaigns CAN NOT coordinate directly with candidates or parties.

Political Campaigns Benefit from ads, mailers, and other efforts by Super PACs

What is DARK MONEY?

Dark money refers to political spending by organizations not required to disclose their donors, often funneled through nonprofits like 501c4 social welfare groups. This lack of transparency allows wealthy individuals, corporations, and special interests to influence U.S. elections anonymously. The Citizens United decision made this possible. It also allowed nonprofits to spend on political activities with out disclosing donors, leading to a surge in undisclosed funds flooding elections.

Other Ways to Combat Corruption + Influence

- Support Ranked Choice Voting
- End Gerrymandering
- Ban Foreign Campaign Spending
- Support National Popular Vote
- Support states limiting Super PAC contributions
- No excuse-needed Absentee Voting
- Ethics Reform