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Alanna Hartzok <alannahartzok@gmail.com>

Mon, Jul 20, 2026 at 1:00 PM

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To IU Executive and CGUSA Speakers Bureau and CGUSA Members - Our Georgist colleague Marty Rowland, who wrote the forward to this book will also be on the webinar on Wednesday. This is a very nterestig group that is fully on board with the Georgist agenda. I give a brief report at each monthly session. (You may also wish to subscribe to my substack.)

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The Hidden Hand - Book Review

Wealth, Power and Control from Pharaohs to Corporations

ALANNA HARTZOK

JUL 20



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The Hidden Hand book review by Alanna Hartzok

Note: Author Eric Daniel Buesing will be the featured speaker at the upcoming *Trine Day Roundtable*. Details and **[RSVP for the free ZOOM event July 22, 2026, 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm EST HERE](#)**

The Hidden Hand – Wealth, Power and Control from Pharaohs to Corporations – is an outcome of author Eric Daniel Buesing’s severe health crisis due to the Army mistakenly giving him a double dose of vaccines in less than one week. In the author’s words, this devastating illness “opened a door to a profound: To keep my mind intact to grapple with my mortality and to uncover the deeper truths of human existence. Why am I here? What is our

purpose? Where do we go from here? These questions ignited a 22-year odyssey through the soul, history, science and power, sparing no rabbit hole in my pursuit of answers.”

Following his sojourn into metaphysics Buesing shifted his gaze to “the earthly powers steering humanity’s course.” In doing so Buesing has given us an expansive, breathtaking, psycho-socio-historical overview of the forces underlying the many dire predicaments of our current world realities. The Hidden Hand displays Buesing’s mastery in a brief, succinct volume of only 132 pages. To fully appreciate his accomplishment one must also leaf through the nearly 50 pages of notes, glossary, bibliography and index.

Buesing’s sharp eye for systems analysis brings to the fore the patterns and procedures of elite rule from ancient Egypt, through medieval Venice, the industrial and digital eras until our moment in time. Institutional capture leads to gross wealth inequality and wars that maim, mutilate and murder multi-millions of people. Now we know why and how we the people have lost the reins of democratic control.

From his eagle’s eye view of five thousand years of the human experience Buesing identifies a clear pattern of four interlocking mechanisms deployed by elites across eight historical eras. Here is his overview of the mechanisms:

Coercion operates through debt in Sumer, tax-farming in Rome, wage dependency in industrial capitalism and algorithmic management today,

Alignment functions through temple rituals in Egypt, philosophical academies in Athens, corporate culture in modern enterprises, and social media echo chambers.

Amnesia works by suppressing oral traditions, burning libraries, controlling textbook content, and curating search results.

Conflict manifests in tribal warfare justifying royal authority, colonial wars enabling extraction, proxy conflicts sustaining military budgets, and trade disputes legitimizing supranational governance.

Buesing touches on the money problem and some of his examples show the land problem. Most inspiring is that at the end of The Hidden Hand he gives

us a glimpse of pathways to our recovery via a benevolent system reset that could finally end our person/planet pain. He writes:

This beautiful world belongs to all of us, not to the people who claim ownership through violence and fraud. We're caretakers together, responsible to those who come after us.... They're few. We're many. Their power is borrowed from our surrender. Every act of resistance, every cooperative structure we build, every child we teach to think critically, every community network we strengthen undermines their control.

This world is ours. We reclaim it now. Not through violence. Not through seizing state power only to reproduce the same patterns. But through patient construction of alternatives they can't capture. Cooperative structures. Decentralized technologies. Communities organized around mutual aid rather than competition. Knowledge preserved and transmitted across generations Culture built on stewardship rather than exploitation.... Become a conscious caretaker of this inheritance we're all supposed to share. Remember what matters.

Kudos to TrineDay for bringing us The Hidden Hand. You can order this remarkable book at TrineDay.com.

This review was written by Alanna Hartzok, author of The Earth Belongs to Everyone, two times congressional candidate, and administrator for the International Union for Land Value Taxation at www.theIU.org Join us to claim your right to the Earth as your birthright!

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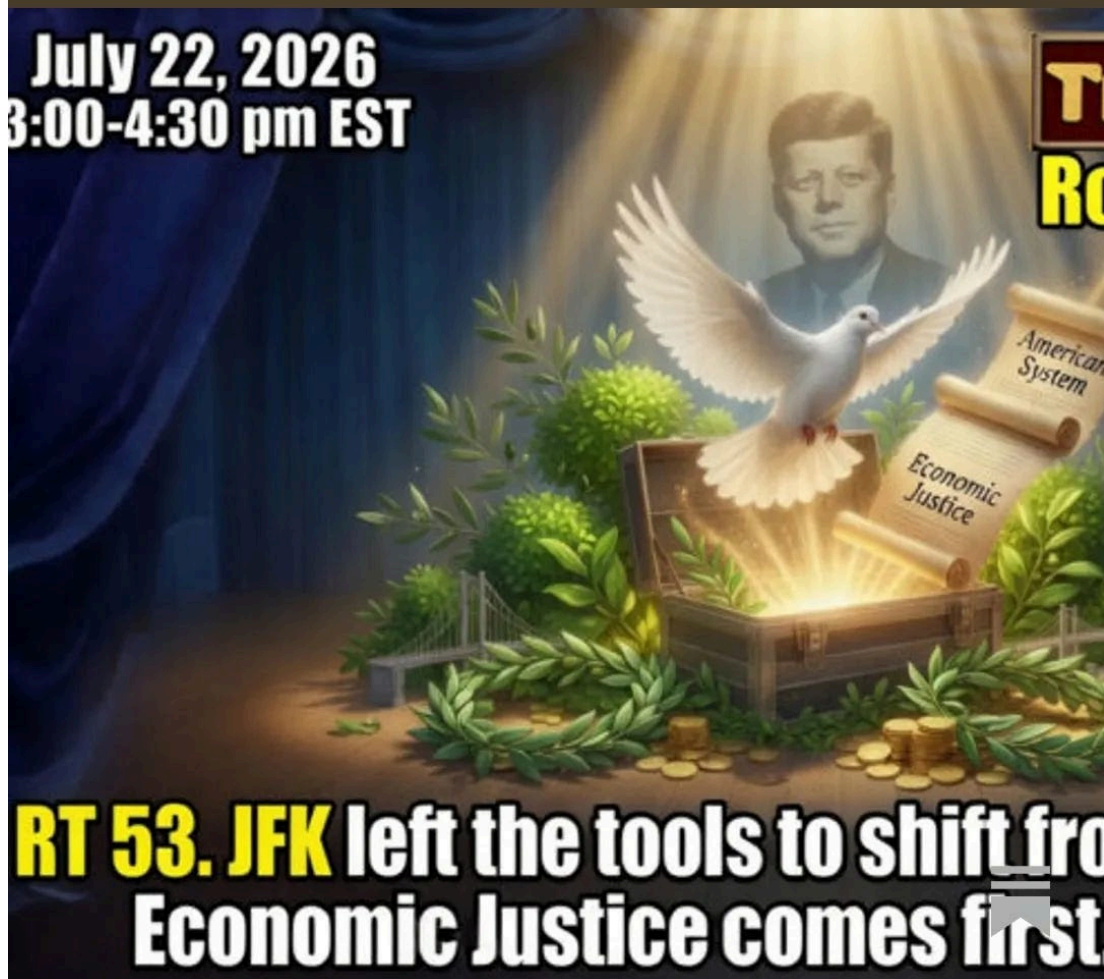
The Hidden Hand - Book Review

Wealth, Power and Control from
Pharaohs to Corporations

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**July 22, 2026
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