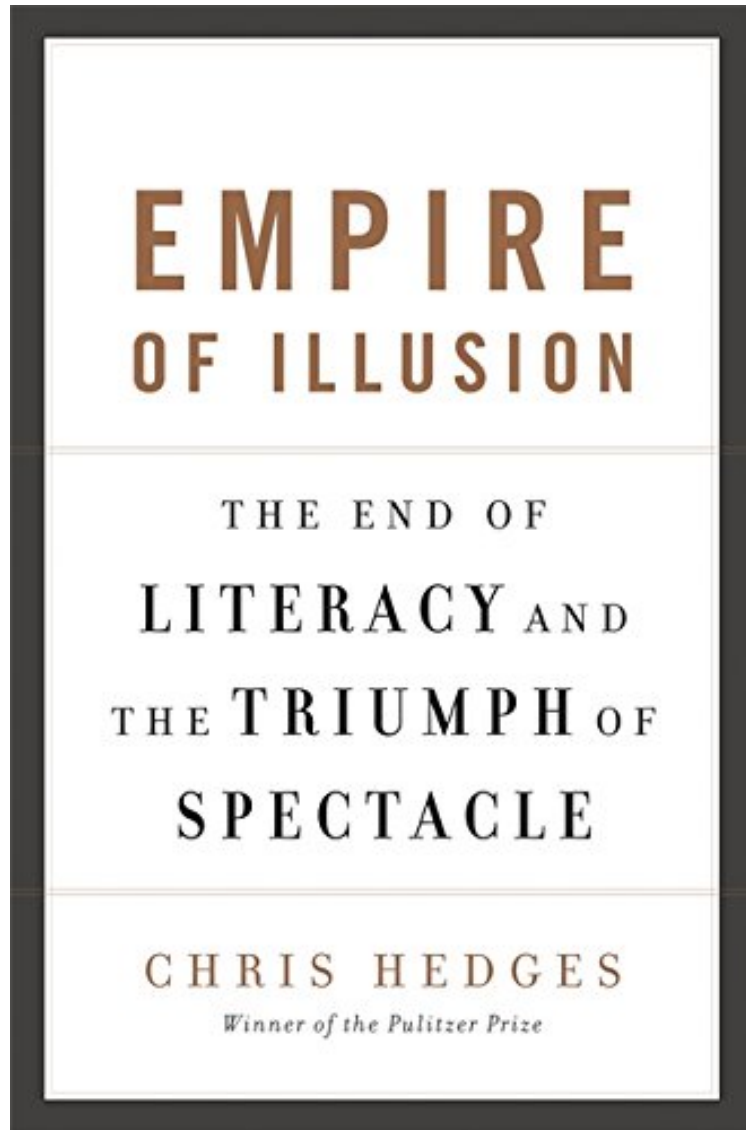


Empire of Illusion: The End of Literacy and the Triumph of Spectacle

Chris Hedges

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Chris Hedges : Empire of Illusion: The End of Literacy and the Triumph of Spectacle before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Empire of Illusion: The End of Literacy and the Triumph of Spectacle:

28 of 28 people found the following review helpful. An excellent and sobering view at the decline of reason and literacy in modern societyBy Richard JoltesThis is an absolutely superb work that documents how our society has

been subverted by spectacle, glitz, celebrity, and the obsession with "fame" at the expense of reality, literacy, reason, and actual ability. Hedges lays it all out in a very clear and thought provoking style, using real world examples like pro wrestling and celebrity oriented programming to showcase how severely our society has declined from a forward thinking, literate one into a mass of tribes obsessed with stardom and money. Even better is that the author's style is approachable and non judgemental. This isn't an academic talking down to the masses, but a very solid reporter presenting findings in an accurate, logical style. Every American should read this, and then consider whether to buy that glossy celebrity oriented magazine or watch that "I want to be a millionaire" show. The lifestyle and choices being promoted by the media, credit card companies, and by the celebrity culture in general, are toxic and a danger to our society's future.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars
By Marcus Richardson
Sobering and insightful. My first book by Hedges and I plan to read more of his work.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Important Read for Today
By Suzanne F. Isaacs
Chris Hedges' book left me breathless for most of my reading. And since this book is not current, I saw how his projections did or did not come about. The ones that did helps me with the long-term project of this stuff of illusion and how it has become the dominant point of view of many in our culture today.

We now live in two Americas. One now the minority functions in a print-based, literate world that can cope with complexity and can separate illusion from truth. The other the majority is retreating from a reality-based world into one of false certainty and magic. To this majority which crosses social class lines, though the poor are overwhelmingly affected presidential debate and political rhetoric is pitched at a sixth-grade reading level. In this other America, serious film and theater, as well as newspapers and books, are being pushed to the margins of society. In the tradition of Christopher Lasch's *The Culture of Narcissism* and Neil Postman's *Amusing Ourselves to Death*, Pulitzer Prize-winner Chris Hedges navigates this culture attending WWF contests, the Adult Video News Awards in Las Vegas, and Ivy League graduation ceremonies to expose an age of terrifying decline and heightened self-delusion.

"Remarkable, bracing and highly moral, *Empire of Illusion* is Hedges' lament for his nation." Maclean's
"Each chapter of *Empire of Illusion* makes a strong case for how different illusions of literacy, love, wisdom, happiness taken together are destroying the American mind, culture and the nation itself." National Post
"Each chapter torches one of our cultural illusions." The Globe and Mail
"Hedges is a fan of big ideas, and in *Empire of Illusion*, he draws upon the culture of professional wrestling and pornography, the elite university, positive psychology and the financial crisis to fashion a social theory of everything." Winnipeg Free Press
From the Hardcover edition.

About the Author
Chris Hedges is a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist. He spent nearly two decades as a correspondent in Central America, the Middle East, Africa, and the Balkans, with fifteen years at the New York Times. He is the author of numerous bestselling books, including *Empire of Illusion*; *Death of the Liberal Class*; *War is a Force that Gives Us Meaning*; and *Days of Destruction, Days of Revolt*, which he co-wrote with Joe Sacco. He writes a weekly column for the online magazine Truthdig. He lives in Princeton, New Jersey.