

What a Waste: Outsourcing and How it Goes Wrong (Manchester Capitalism MUP)

By Andrew Bowman, Ismail Ertürk, Peter Folkman, Julie Froud, Colin Haslam, Sukhdev Johal, Adam Leaver, Michael Moran, Nick Tsitsianis

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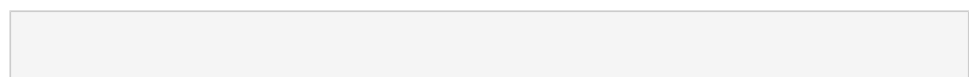
What a Waste: Outsourcing and How it Goes Wrong (Manchester Capitalism MUP) By Andrew Bowman, Ismail Ertürk, Peter Folkman, Julie Froud, Colin Haslam, Sukhdev Johal, Adam Leaver, Michael Moran, Nick Tsitsianis

Outsourcing - contracting out public services to private business interests - is an unacknowledged revolution in the British economy. The outsourcing revolution has happened quietly but is creating powerful new corporate interests, transforming the organisation of government at all levels, and simultaneously enriching a new business elite and creating numerous fiascos in the delivery of public services.

What links the brutal treatment of asylum seeking detainees, the disciplining of welfare benefit claimants, the huge profits effortlessly earned by the privatised rail companies, and the fiasco of the management of security at the 2012 Olympics? In a word: outsourcing.

The book documents how outsourcing has penetrated every part of the public sector; it argues that the many service delivery fiascos perpetrated by the outsourcers are not simply the product of individual incompetence, nor the product of the inability of public authorities to write failsafe contracts. Fiascos and profiteering are inherent to the operation of the giant outsourcing conglomerates which have become our new governing institutions. The high returns from mundane contracts do not produce stable firms because the conglomerate's constant need to expand drives them into acquisition and bidding for contracts in areas beyond their competence, leading to recurrent fiascos.

This book, by the renowned research team at the Centre for Research on Socio Cultural Change in Manchester, is the first to combine 'follow the money' research with accessibility for the engaged citizen, and the first to balance critique with practical suggestions for policy reform.



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- Rank: #5824407 in Books
- Brand: imusti
- Published on: 2015-10-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 5.40" h x .40" w x 8.30" l, .35 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 132 pages

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Editorial Review

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