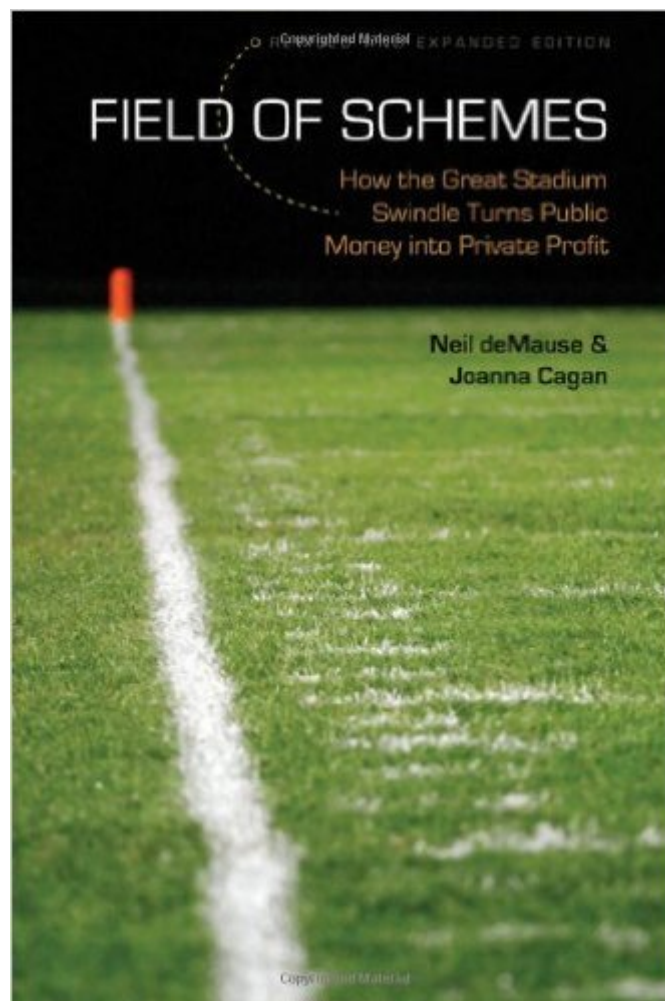


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Field Of Schemes: How The Great Stadium Swindle Turns Public Money Into Private Profit, Revised And Expanded Edition



Synopsis

Field of Schemes is a play-by-play account of how the drive for new sports stadiums and arenas drains \$2 billion a year from public treasuries for the sake of private profit. While the millionaires who own sports franchises have seen the value of their assets soar under this scheme, taxpayers, urban residents, and sports fans have all come out losers, forced to pay both higher taxes and higher ticket prices for seats that, thanks to the layers of luxury seating that typify new stadiums, usually offer a worse view of the action. The stories in Field of Schemes, from Baltimore to Cleveland and Minneapolis to Seattle and dozens of places in between, tell of the sports-team owners who use their money and their political muscle to get their way, and of the stories of spirited local groups like Detroit's Tiger Stadium Fan Club and Boston's Save Fenway Park that have fought to save the games we love and the public dollars our cities need. This revised and expanded edition features the first comprehensive reporting on the recent stadium battles in Washington DC, New York City, and Boston as well as updates on how cities have fared with the first wave of new stadiums built in recent years.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Many writers have explored the subject of how owners of sports teams persuade, cajole, threaten or otherwise intimidate state and local governments into building them at public expense magnificent sporting arenas. This is a fine example of this genre of muckraking journalism. It focuses on the large number of sports specific arenas built at public expense around the nation in the 1980s and 1990s to the tune of some \$1.5 billion dollars. Since this book first appeared in 1998, this trend has continued as virtually every major league city has been held up by owners for new stadiums and indoor arenas. Like most journalism "Field of Schemes" is best in the specifics of telling stories of individual efforts to oppose initiatives to build new sports complexes. It follows the stands made against the owners in such cities as Detroit, San Francisco, Minneapolis, Baltimore, Cleveland, and Seattle. I should add that in every case a new stadium eventually was built with significant taxpayer involvement. The only small success in these fights was in San Francisco, where the Giants actually paid for the stadium but not before the city made many internal infrastructure improvements to the area. The best part of the book is Cagan and deMause's delineation of the steps taken by the owners to obtain new stadiums. The playbook goes like this: 1. The Home Field Disadvantage: the assertion that the current stadium is so old and in such poor shape that it simply must be replaced. 2. Faking a Move: claiming that unless the situation in the local city is remedied the owner will have no choice but to move the team. 3.

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