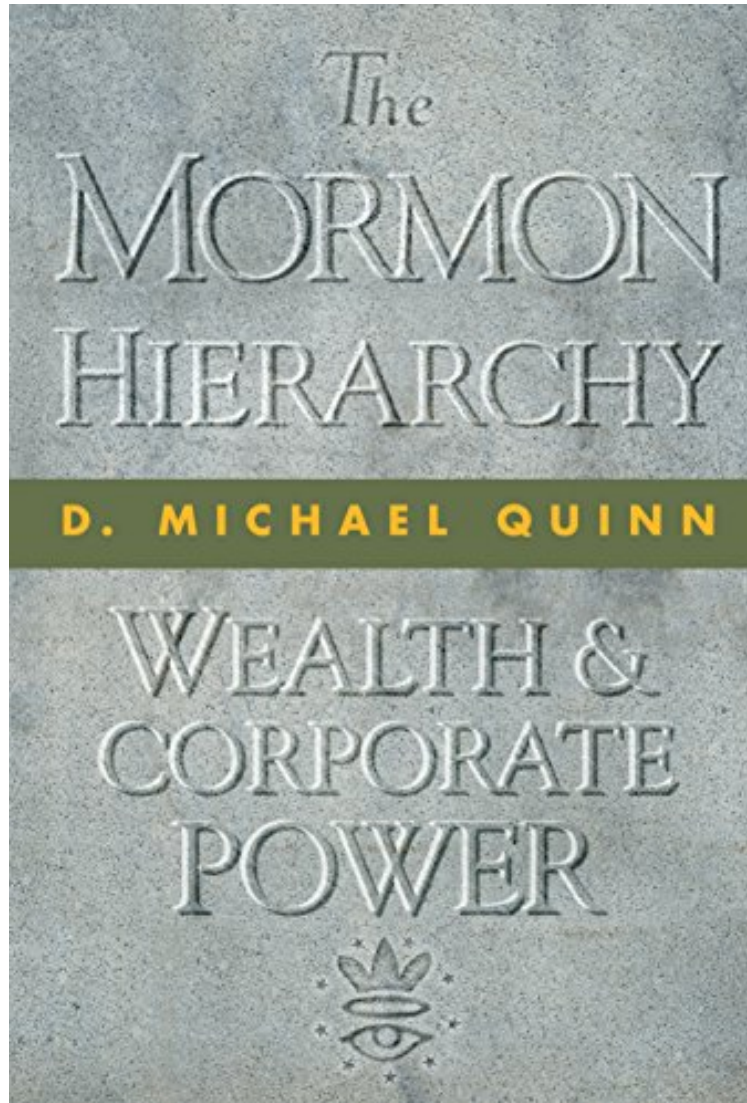


(Download free pdf) The Mormon Hierarchy: Wealth and Corporate Power

The Mormon Hierarchy: Wealth and Corporate Power

D. Michael Quinn

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D. Michael Quinn : The Mormon Hierarchy: Wealth and Corporate Power before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Mormon Hierarchy: Wealth and Corporate Power:

24 of 27 people found the following review helpful. Exhaustively researchedBy Johnny T. TownsendLike many fans of Michael Quinns work, Ive been waiting impatiently for the Wealth and Corporate Power volume of The Mormon Hierarchy. And I think it was worth the wait. Quinn is notorious for his detailed scholarship, and the book is heavily footnoted. In addition, the bulk of this book is a series of 21 lengthy appendices. It is a thorough and exhaustive reference work on the subject of the finances of the LDS Church and its leaders. That said, no one takes the material at

face value. On the exmormon reddit forum, for example, there was a lengthy discussion of the table on page 35 estimating tithing income, why some people felt the figures might be a little off. But I found most of the material in the book both fascinating and convincing. Quinn explains his methodology in understandable terms, and he converts figures from throughout the history of the Church to their equivalent in 2010 dollars, to make the material easier to comprehend. On page 70, Quinn notes the limitations of his Appendix 5, but in so doing reveals just how exhaustive his research was. Whats truly amazing is that Quinn has been able to put tens of thousands individual pieces of data into a cohesive, understandable format. Something worth noting is that the book appears to have no political agenda. Some readers may want to find some kind of smoking gun that embarrasses or hurts the LDS Church, but we are basically just being given information that is difficult (or impossible) for the average person to get on their own. The reader or activist can make what they will of it. Part of the problem with the book is that most of the information is ancient history. While it is useful, perhaps essential, to understand the past of the Church, the information regarding the U.S. pretty much stops several decades ago. Canada, Australia, the UK, Tonga, the Philippines, and New Zealand require the Church to disclose its finances, so this is certainly helpful, but with information from the US lacking, readers are left with questions even this important tome cant answer. This, of course, isnt a fault of the authorities simply a result of the iron-willed secrecy of the Church. There is some information available to fill this gap, thankfully, such as the discussion of church service employees, where the Church calls members to fill jobs that would normally be paid, such as clerk, receptionist, real estate specialist, forklift operator, ranch hand, shop foreman, welder, etc. The Church also coerces its members to act as a volunteer janitorial staff for its local meetinghouses. We also hear about the Perpetual Education Fund, started in 2001 to help members in various countries have the opportunity to attend colleges in their area. Information about the City Creek mall in Salt Lake and other projects is also helpful. These and other pieces of information keep that huge gap in current Church financial transparency from becoming a black hole. The bottom line is that this book is as comprehensive as is possible at this time and thus gives us a wealth of information that is both enlightening and useful. Well worth the time and effort to read.

Early in the twentieth century, it was possible for Latter-day Saints to have lifelong associations with businesses managed by their leaders or owned and controlled by the church itself. For example, one could purchase engagement rings from Daynes Jewelry, honeymoon at the Hotel Utah, and venture off on the Union Pacific Railroad, all partially owned and run by church apostles. Families could buy clothes at Knight Woolen Mills. The husband might work at Big Indian Copper or Bullion-Beck, Gold Chain, or Iron King mining companies. The wife could shop at Utah Cereal Food and buy sugar supplied by Amalgamated or U and I Sugar, beef from Nevada Land and Livestock, and vegetables from the Growers Market. They might take their groceries home in parcels from Utah Bag Co. They probably read the Deseret News at home under a lamp plugged into a Utah Power and Light circuit. They could take out a loan from Zions Co-operative and insurance from Utah Home and Fire. The apostles had a long history of community involvement in financial enterprises to the benefit of the general membership and their own economic advantage. This volume is the result of the authors years of research into LDS financial dominance from 1830 to 2010.

About the Author D. Michael Quinn (Ph.D., Yale University) might be characterized as the elder statesman of Mormon history. He is the author of several seminal books and articles that have received awards from the American Historical Association, John Whitmer Historical Association, and Mormon History Association.