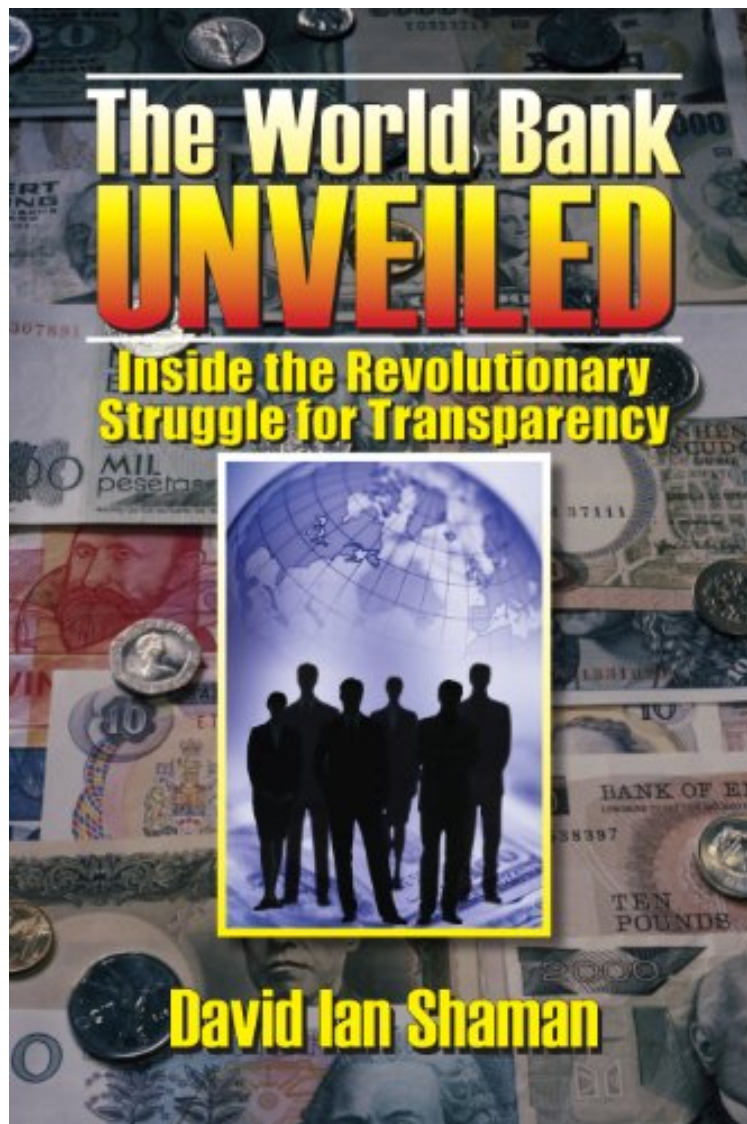


(Download free pdf) The World Bank Unveiled: Inside the revolutionary struggle for transparency (Our National Conversation)

## **The World Bank Unveiled: Inside the revolutionary struggle for transparency (Our National Conversation)**

*David Ian Shaman*

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**David Ian Shaman : The World Bank Unveiled: Inside the revolutionary struggle for transparency (Our National Conversation)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The World Bank Unveiled: Inside the revolutionary struggle for transparency (Our National Conversation):

4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. An accurate detailed inside viewBy Ex-World Bank StaffMuch has been written and said about the World Bank from outside commentators and polemicists. But apart from some notable

exceptions ( high officials after they left the Bank, the Wapenhuis Report and some Independent Evaluation Group internal reports ) little has been said from inside the Bank about the nefarious effects of "Bank culture" and how to change it, if only to reduce it's spillovers on the problems of global poverty. This book makes a good case that the slippery ethical slopes where World Bank managers engage in bureaucratic combat over turf and budget, have a deep and far-reaching effect on how our taxpayer dollars, euros and yens ( as well as yuans and rials ) are used in attacking global poverty. The amount of detail the author brings to bear - chapter and verse -- is hard to discount out of hand. This book should be read not as an attempt to paint the World Bank as "rotten" ( it isn't! ) , but rather as a painstakingly detailed documentation of how even one bad apple can spoil a perfectly healthy bunch, and how personal ambition can supersede serving client interests while hiding behind what are called prudent, fiscally responsible or sound personnel management principles. This book will be of interest to all social scientists interested in sustainable development and the reduction of poverty -- and in particular those from all disciplines with an interest in the root causes of organizational dysfunction. 4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. A very recommended pick for economics studies collections

By Midwest Book Review  
If no one knows what you're doing, what's to stop you from being selfish? "The World Bank Unveiled: Inside the Revolutionary Struggle for Transparency" is David Ian Shaman's call for more transparent management in the affairs of the world. One of the most influential and powerful organizations in the world, Shaman states that transparency will fight corruption, and encourage the bank to act more as it should, stating that many of the world's current problems lie within its poor management. "The World Bank Unveiled" is a very recommended pick for economics studies collections.

Nobel Prize winning economist and former World Bank Chief Economist, Joseph Stiglitz, has repeatedly discussed the importance of transparency in policymaking at the World Bank and International Monetary Fund. He believes a lack of transparency in the two institutions has led to bad decisions. Bad decisions at IMF and the World Bank mean real pain for the world's poor. There is a perception that the suits close the World Bank's doors to deliberate the fate of earth's poorest populations and only when the doors are unlocked do people living in poverty learn what has been decided about their future. Meanwhile donations are down. The bank's critical International Development Association's funding has dropped dramatically. Managers are discouraged by studies examining the bank's effectiveness. How, they wonder, could such large benefices have so little impact on poor populations? Events of the past two years have only increased the stakes. First, rising fuel prices caused a worldwide rise in the price of basic foods. Then the deepest economic downturn since the Great Depression sapped donor nations' coffers. By the end of the Bush administration in 2009, giving by the USA lagged more than any other wealthy nation. In 1999, two Bank researchers understood the situation was already on a precipice. World Bank loans had ceased to make significant impact on poverty in many client nations. Certain governments and multi-national corporations were destroying environments and desecrating indigenous cultures, all to achieve short-term gains for a fortunate few. Demonstrable successes were few, and every World Bank conference became a melee of demonstrators and police. The two researchers asked themselves whether it was possible to open up the institution by increased transparency, improve its accountability, and mute criticism. They decided to launch an internet-based broadcast to disseminate unedited videos of internal discussions and debates. The bank's culture and bureaucracy, hardened over a half-century, presented them with a formidable foe. Some powerful officials feared the transparency initiative; others withheld public support while standing on the sidelines. The World Bank Unveiled documents this epic struggle. It is the story of a revolution to transform the World Bank and a case study of the power of the Bank to transform people's lives.

"Impressive, as it is highly readable while thoroughly researched. Compelling."