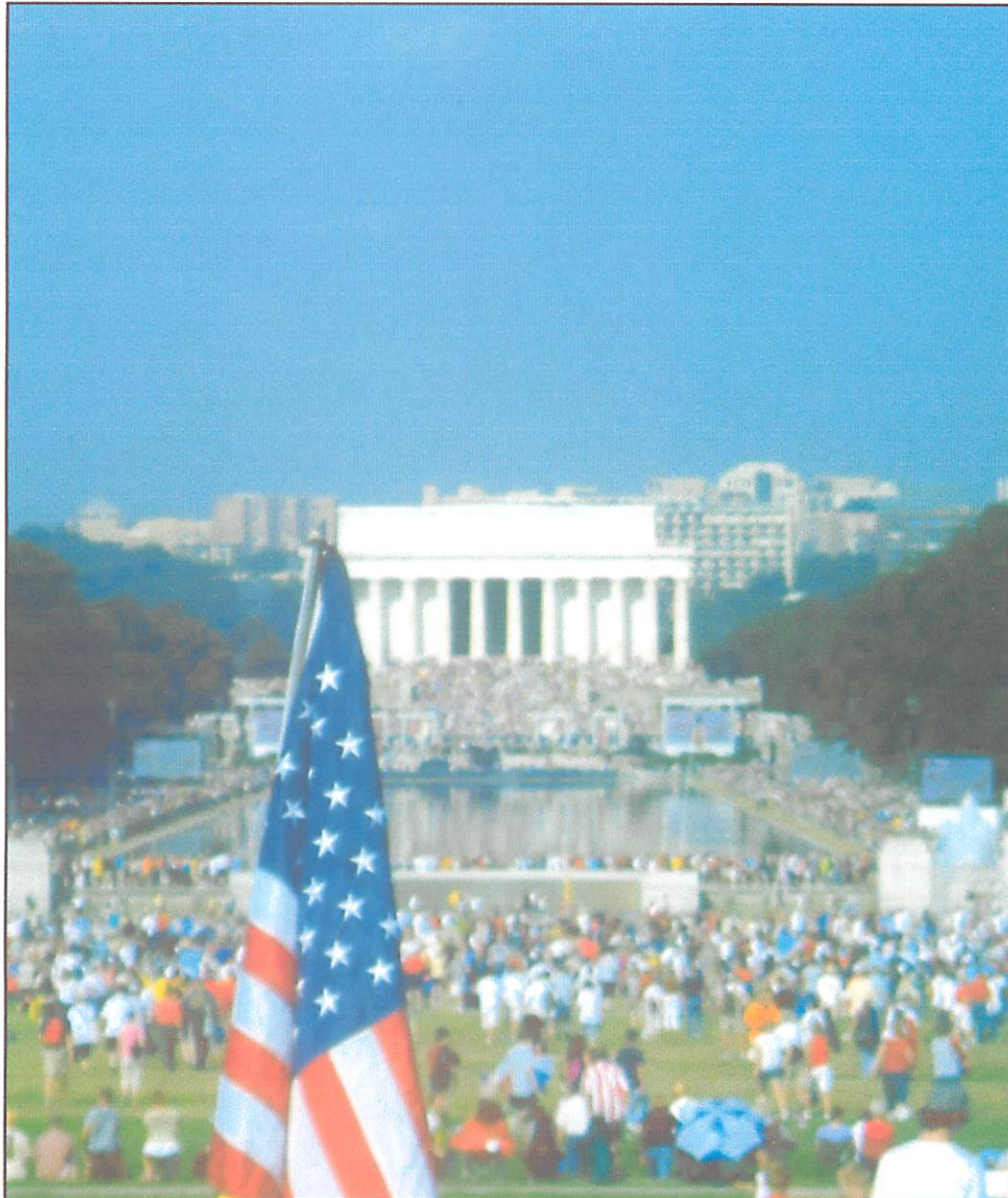


*The Middle Class Fights Back:  
How Progressive Movements  
Can Restore Democracy in America*  
by Brian D'Agostino



**“This book is a toolkit for creating  
a just and sustainable future.”**

***The Middle Class Fights Back: How Progressive Movements Can Restore Democracy in America***  
by Brian D'Agostino

Providing insight into the historical forces that have created the country's economic crisis, *The Middle Class Fights Back: How Progressive Movements Can Restore Democracy in America* by Brian D'Agostino (Praeger, 2012) offers pragmatic solutions to many of the major problems confronting American society today—from immoral wars to unemployment; from corporate greed to struggling public schools.

According to Dr. D'Agostino, “Militarism and capital flight are undermining the country's capacity to create prosperity for ordinary people, who have seen personal savings decline over the last 30 years. Politicians use fear of terrorism to legitimize a trillion dollar war economy and corporate leaders use foreign competition as an excuse to de-industrialize the United States, destroying middle class prosperity and livelihoods.”

*The Middle Class Fights Back* offers visionary but pragmatic solutions to these problems, describing in depth such effective models as worker ownership and control of enterprises and outlining a green New Deal that can create full employment. According to D'Agostino, “Grassroots movements and the Internet are making far-reaching political change possible. This book gives a coherent direction to activism. It provides a concrete policy agenda that can realize the aspirations of ordinary people for a peaceful, just, and sustainable future.”

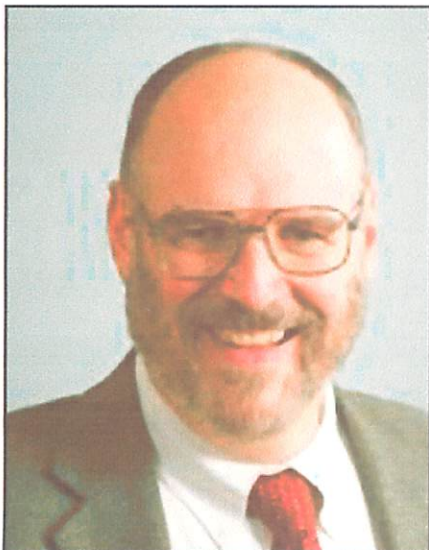
The book offers a toolkit of ideas for a grass roots movement of concerned citizens, activists, workers, students and teachers:

- How unions and government created America's middle class, and how massive public investment in such priorities as renewable energy and urban public education can restore middle class prosperity.

- How bloated military spending, including the Afghanistan and Iraq wars, has depleted the middle class and how those resources can be used instead to rebuild American manufacturing and infrastructure, creating sustainable and productive jobs for all.
- How U.S. corporations—which are outsourcing jobs in search of the cheapest labor—can be transformed by a political grand bargain: creating worker equity in place of the corporate income tax.
- How a green New Deal can avert catastrophic climate change and position the United States for global leadership in sustainable technology, while employing millions.
- How authoritarian school governance and teacher “accountability” are hurting America’s children and how to create a world class education system.

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For additional information including author appearances visit [www.bendag.com](http://www.bendag.com)

## About the Author



**Brian D'Agostino, Ph.D.** teaches political economy and history at the Harry Van Arsdale, Jr. Center for Labor Studies at Empire State College, State University of New York. He previously taught political science at Adelphi University and City University of New York, and worked 11 years as a New York City public school teacher. D'Agostino holds a doctorate from Columbia University and is the author of numerous publications on public affairs and political psychology, including the peer reviewed article "Self-Images of Hawks and Doves."

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## **Praise for *The Middle Class Fights Back* (Praeger 2012)**

This powerful book is a crucial voice in the historic fightback movement against injustice in America. Don't miss it.

–**Cornel West**, Professor, Union Theological Seminary

It is conventional wisdom that downsizing most of America's military capabilities would destabilize international security and a democratic world order. D'Agostino's methodical analysis shatters that picture, exposing how it upholds the power of state and corporate elites at the expense of the populace, at home and abroad. He shows how demilitarization can be achieved without jeopardizing real security, freeing up resources needed for a green New Deal that can provide productive livelihoods for ordinary people and a viable ecology for future generations. This is what is meant by 'human security,' which D'Agostino argues is the proper aim of government. His book is a tour de force!

–**Saul H. Mendlovitz**, Dag Hammarskjöld Professor, Rutgers Law School-Newark

D'Agostino exposes the truth behind the corporate-driven education reform movement and offers the kind of research- and experience-based conversation about real reforms that would truly improve our public education system and that our policy-makers should be having. He reminds us that, rather than rely on these elites, parents, young people and educators must fight to transform our public education system and, more broadly, for the fiscal priorities our country needs and our children deserve.

–**Julie Cavanagh**, The Grassroots Education Movement,  
Producer of “The Inconvenient Truth Behind Waiting for Superman”

*The Middle Class Fights Back* cogently argues that it was unions and government that created the middle class as we once knew it, and that the shrinking of unions, beginning in the 1970s, has had a devastating effect on the prosperity of ordinary people. Arguing that militarism and capital flight are undermining the country's capacity to produce wealth, D'Agostino's provocative book makes the case for massive public investment in green technology and for the creation of a new economy of worker-owned and -controlled enterprises.

–**Moshe Adler**, Author of *Economics for the Rest of Us: Debunking the Science that Makes Life Dismal* (The New Press, 2010)