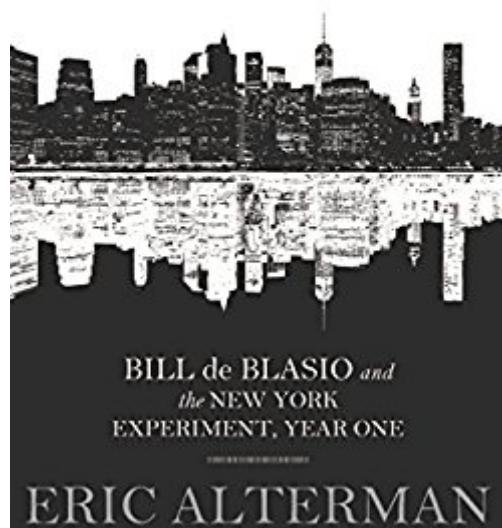


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Inequality And One City: Bill De Blasio And The New York Experiment, Year One

INEQUALITY
AND ONE CITY



Synopsis

Bill de Blasio's election as mayor of New York captured the attention of a typically restless city. But it also made progressives across the country "and, indeed, around the world" sit up and take notice. With unprecedented popular support, de Blasio took office pledging to "put an end to economic and social inequalities that threaten to unravel the city we love." • Based on interviews with dozens of key figures in New York politics, including the mayor himself, Eric Alterman's new e-book is a rigorous, fascinating and indispensable account of what happened next. It is, as he writes in the preface, "an attempt to move beyond the day-to-day headlines that dominate our political debate. By placing Bill de Blasio's words, and the actions of his administration, into a political, cultural, social, and intellectual context, we can see just how daunting the task he has set for himself really is: to use the power of the city government to make New York a fairer and more equal place for all its inhabitants, and to do so while executing the fundamental tasks of governance judiciously and efficiently." • If you want to understand what really went down during the first year of the de Blasio experiment • "the face-off with Governor Cuomo over pre-K, the charter school battle, the epic clash with the NYPD" Eric Alterman has the story. • Eric Alterman's "Equality and One City: Bill de Blasio and the New York Experiment, Year One" (ebookNation) is a de Blasio booster's handbook to how much the mayor has already accomplished and a sober reminder "no matter how many poor people vote for empathetic local candidates" of just how much Albany and Washington can scuttle his agenda. • "Sam Roberts, the New York Times

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Customer Reviews

Eric Alterman is first to the wire with an analysis of the de Blasio mayoralty, and he has produced a very interesting, factual analysis, making several economic points that resonated with me. (de Blasio won so handily in the general election because of his stand on Stop and Frisk, and Alterman covers this controversial issue and its intense fallout, but Alterman's major focus is on economic issues.) And, although economics can also be intensely controversial, Alterman's Ph.D. in history stands him in good stead here. de Blasio entered the primary in fourth or fifth position, and focused his efforts against Quinn, then the front runner. He emphasized over and over again his goal of helping low income workers in the city, claiming that Quinn had blocked helpful legislation in an effort to placate business in an effort to find a workable balance between need and fears of driving business out of the city. Alterman makes the point that de Blasio not only used that point to drive Quinn down in the ratings, but announced his intentions to implement his programs at his inauguration: "We are called to put an end to economic and social inequalities that threaten to unravel the city we love." Alterman suggests that in fact de Blasio is not only committed to that course, but is actually becoming very successful in doing so. His efforts face two intractable political realities: the state government in Albany, and to a lesser extent the Federal government exert almost total control over NYC finances - hence the almost contemptuous attitude of the Governor toward the Mayor. Second, the balance of power between the state and city strongly favors upstate legislators.

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