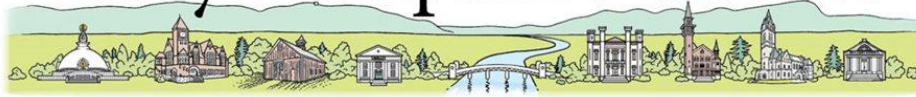


# Daily Hampshire Gazette



## **John Sheehan: ‘Kochland’ is a must-read book**

John Sheehan

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“Kochland: The Secret History of Koch Industries and Corporate Power in America” is a must read for anyone interested in social justice, political power and greed.

Investigative reporter Christopher Leonard spent six years interviewing people and doing research on how Charles and David Koch became worth more than \$120 billion. Financial Times named this the Best Book of 2019 and it was a New York Times bestseller.

The book starts out by explaining how Native Americans in Oklahoma were exploited. Koch Brothers employees would under-report how much oil they pumped from the Native American oil wells. The FBI caught them cheating the Native Americans, but the Koch Brothers eluded prosecution and guilt through cunning deceit, sharp attorneys and buying off politicians.

They aggressively purchase businesses in every part of the American economy so that people buy Koch products almost every day, without knowing it. Their empire is composed of companies like Purina Dog Food, fertilizer companies, Flint Hills Resources, which offers petroleum products, gasoline, diesel fuels, jet fuels and other oil products.

Koch companies collectively employ over 120,000 people in 50 countries, and more than half are in the United States. Their annual income is \$110 billion. The book tells how the Koch Brothers influence public policy and political leaders, through groups like The Cato Institute, the Heritage Foundation, the Tea Party and many others. They are one of the top donors to the Republican Party.

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