

POWER ELITE DATABASE, 2010-2011, v2.1

This archive contains information about the "power elite" in the United States in 2010-2011, as defined by the boards of directors of the largest corporations, and members and directors of certain influential policy-oriented nonprofit organizations.

The first version of this data set was compiled by Clifford Staples at the University of North Dakota, and additions and corrections were made by Adam Schneider and G. William Domhoff of the University of California at Santa Cruz. Demographic information was contributed by Richard Zweigenhaft of Guilford College.

In "[The Policy-Planning Capacity of the American Corporate Community](#)" (*Theory and Society*, 2023), Tom Mills & G. William Domhoff examine the power elite in two time frames —1935-1936 and 2010-2011 — so the version of the database used in that paper ("v2.0") was crafted to be as similar as possible to the comparable 1930s dataset: just 250 corporations, plus six policy-planning groups that exist in both eras. *This* version (v2.1) is an expanded version of the Mills & Domhoff dataset; it contains the same six policy-planning groups as v2.0, but includes the full *Fortune* 500.

- CORPORATIONS (496): The boards of directors of the corporations listed in the 2010 *Fortune* 500. Four companies were not included because they were acquired or held by other companies in the same list: Pepsi Bottling (held by PepsiCo), Continental Airlines (acquired by United Airlines), Sun Microsystems (acquired by Oracle), and XTO Energy (acquired by Exxon Mobil). Burlington Northern Santa Fe was acquired by Berkshire Hathaway just before the 2010 *Fortune* 500 list was released, and its pre-acquisition board IS included.

[Source: <https://money.cnn.com/magazines/fortune/fortune500/2010/>]

- FOUNDATIONS (2): The Rockefeller Foundation and the Carnegie Corporation of New York; these two were selected because they were by far the richest and most influential foundations in the 1930s.
- POLICY-PLANNING GROUPS (4): Two business-oriented policy groups (the Business Roundtable and the National Association of Manufacturers), and two think tanks (the Brookings Institution and the Council on Foreign Relations).

Note: For the policy-planning groups, the full membership rosters are included, but people's leadership status within the group is noted, so non-directors can be filtered out if necessary.

Structure of the database

There are three plain-text files included:

- `people.txt` — A list of people and their organizations. For policy-planning groups, their leadership positions are noted, if applicable. For *Fortune* 500 directors, there is a also gender/ethnicity column (W = White, B = Black, L = Latino/a, A = Asian, M = Middle Eastern.)
- `organizations.txt` — Metadata about the organizations: category, corporate sector/subsector, revenue or assets, rank within category, location.
- `combined.txt` — A combination of the two other files: it's a list of people and their seats and demographics, with some information about the organizations (category, business sector, rank) included.

— G. William Domhoff & Adam Schneider, <http://whorulesamerica.net/>