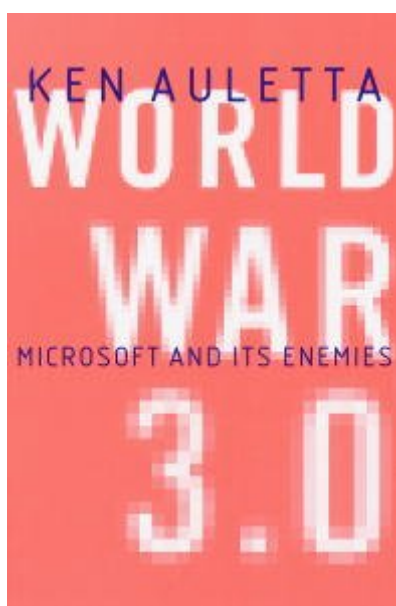


The book was found

# World War 3.0: Microsoft, The US Government, And The Battle For The New Economy



## Synopsis

The Internet Revolution, like all great industrial changes, has made the world's elephantine media companies tremble that their competitors-whether small and nimble mice or fellow elephants-will get to new terrain first and seize its commanding heights. In a climate in which fear and insecurity are considered healthy emotions, corporate violence becomes commonplace. In the blink of an eye-or the time it has taken slogans such as "The Internet changes everything" to go from hyperbole to banality-"creative destruction" has wracked the global economy on an epic scale. No one has been more powerful or felt more fear or reacted more violently than Bill Gates and Microsoft. Afraid that any number of competitors might outflank them-whether Netscape or Sony or AOL Time Warner or Sun or AT&T or Linux-based companies that champion the open-source movement or some college student hacking in his dorm room-Microsoft has waged holy war on all foes, leveraging its imposing strengths. In *World War 3.0*, Ken Auletta chronicles this fierce conflict from the vantage of its most important theater of operations: the devastating second front opened up against Bill Gates's empire by the United States government. The book's narrative spine is *United States v. Microsoft*, the government's massive civil suit against Microsoft for allegedly stifling competition and innovation on a broad scale. With his superb writerly gifts and extraordinary access to all the principal parties, Ken Auletta crafts this landmark confrontation into a tight, character- and incident-filled courtroom drama featuring the best legal minds of our time, including David Boies and Judge Richard Posner. And with the wisdom gleaned from covering the converging media, software, and communications industries for *The New Yorker* for the better part of a decade, Auletta uses this pivotal battle to shape a magisterial reckoning with the larger war and the agendas, personalities, and prospects of its many combatants. From the Hardcover edition.

## Book Information

File Size: 1253 KB

Print Length: 464 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 0375503668

Publisher: Random House; 1st edition (February 15, 2001)

Publication Date: February 15, 2001

Sold by:Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B000FC1L38

Text-to-Speech: Not enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #524,937 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #15

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Law > Business > Antitrust #60 in Books > Law >

Administrative Law > Antitrust #76 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Computers & Technology >

Business > History

## Customer Reviews

[Disclosure: I am a Microsoft employee]I found this book to be very balanced (though far from always flattering to Microsoft). Both sides take their licks at the hands of Mr. Auletta. Though I was paying moderately close attention during the course of the trial, this book pulls the events into perspective and shows how each side was approaching the case. As to the timing of this book release, the war is not yet over...but we do have a decent amount of perspective from the case since the trial and settlement negotiations were substantially complete in April 2000. The best part of the book is Chapter 21. Here, is much new material on what it was that Microsoft and the US government were able to agree to in a negotiated settlement. We get a picture of Microsoft, not agreeing that we broke the law, but willing to compromise and agree to behavioral remedies that would have given competitors assurances of access to Windows technology and freedom from retaliation. But Joel Klein failed in bringing the States into the negotiation process and was unable to form a concensus opinion about what it was the government(s) wanted from the case. And so an opportunity to close this conflict was missed....at an expense of millions of tax dollars, perhaps 100 million expense to MS, and helping to precipitate the stock market downslide of technology stocks in the spring of 2000 (thanks, Joel Klein and Janet Reno!).

Just finished the book and really enjoyed it. Auletta had so much material to synthesize into his viewpoint that at times I found the reading laborious (Warden reading MSFT's arguments in court, etc.). After I was done I was struck by the absence of any discussion of "reality distortion fields." Everyone has heard that Steve Jobs "RDFs" people, and I found myself seeing the fingerprints of RDFing everywhere (Bill Gates' intransigence early on, Judge Jackson thinking Microsoft's general counsel was dumb, etc.). After I finished I was gratified, but I found myself wanting to read an article

on "Reality Distortion Fields in WW 3.0". As I can't email Auletta, I thought I'd throw this idea up here in case he reads his reviews.

Just when we were waiting for Microsoft to meekly split itself based on the outcome of the first landmark court decision, it looks like the software giant is racking up the points in what may be the most exciting appeals case in US history. World War 3.0 couldn't have come at a better time. This book goes into background about Internet browsers, the internet itself and computer operating systems, a key point in the anti-trust lawsuit. And it does an equally thorough job of informing the reader about US anti-trust law. These details are essential to understanding the case against Microsoft, and they are presented here in a way that is detailed yet completely comprehensible. This would be dry reading indeed if there were not also vivid descriptions of the players; Bill Gates, brilliant, visionary, self-absorbed and completely ill-equipped to play the high-stakes game of personality; the prosecutor, who has gotten himself the case of a lifetime and Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson, traditional and sober judge. What is surprising is how much Judge Jackson reveals in this book, as judges are notoriously close-mouthed. The appeals process is now underway and it ain't over till it's over. If you want to be informed on a case that will literally affect the future of technology, it's well worth reading World War 3.0.

...and you don't really have to be a geek to read this one. As a matter of fact, this book is also a very entertaining one, even if you're not a programmer or a computer scientist. Mr Auletta enjoyed an almost total access to court documents, and he even managed to get Judge Jackson to agree to be interviewed by him before he rendered his judgement, and later on his decision on what became the most important legal dispute of the last century. He raises some very important questions, a few of them being crucial, like: How do you distinguish between business hardball and illegal coercive methods? Is Microsoft a monopoly? If so, the law treats the company differently. But the most crucial of all questions is: Was there consumer harm? I guess these are the questions that leave much room for interpretation and controversy. It would appear that Microsoft did not milk customers by charging steep prices, although one might argue that this was because they sacrificed price to create an applications barrier to entry that would perpetuate their monopoly. The concepts of Sherman and Clayton acts have not changed, but what has changed over the years is that the courts insist more on evidence of consumer harm and are inclined to allow the marketplace to correct imbalances rather than the government. And by now, at the end of 2005 it would appear that the marketplace has rendered its judgement. Among many other things, the Microsoft stock has

moved sideways for the last four, five years. All in all, "World War 3.0" is a very good account of this extraordinary trial, written in plain english, perfectly integrating the legal and the business drama at the core issues of this case. Besides, Mr Auletta offers memorable portraits of the main protagonists, ranging from Mr Gates and some of his lawyers to Judge Jackson, Mr Boies and Mr Klein. I liked the part where Mr Gates is portrayed as being more a businessman (although a brilliant one) rather than a seer, since Microsoft has always been famous for popularizing the inventions of others rather than innovating. Many economists and businessmen think Microsoft is a great marketing company, but not a great technology one. After all, Mr Gates himself has many a time acknowledged that Microsoft's great successes - DOS, the graphical user interface, Windows - have all been clones. Among many business, technology and legal issues or concepts analyzed in this book, one of the parts I liked the most is when the author likens Mr Gates to Bing Crosby, who throughout his career borrowed a tune here and a tune there, got his marketing machine running, thus turning those tunes to instant hits. Few other critics could have put it better!

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Microsoft Office Productivity Pack: Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Word, and Microsoft PowerPoint  
World War 3.0: Microsoft, the US Government, and the Battle for the New Economy World War 2  
Historyâ™s 10 Most Incredible Women: World War II True Accounts Of Remarkable Women  
Heroes (WWII history, WW2, War books, world war 2 books, war history, World war 2 women)  
World War I - 9 Book Collection: Nelson's History of the War, The Battle of Jutland & The Battle of  
the Somme: Selected Works from the Acclaimed War Correspondent ... Perspective and  
Experience During the War World War 1: Soldier Stories: The Untold Soldier Stories on the  
Battlefields of WWI (World War I, WWI, World War One, Great War, First World War, Soldier  
Stories) Avoyelleans at The Battle of New Orleans and in the War of 1812: French Creole soldiers  
of Avoyelles Parish who fought in the second American war ... (Bicentennial of the battle of New  
Orleans) World War 1: World War I in 50 Events: From the Very Beginning to the Fall of the Central  
Powers (War Books, World War 1 Books, War History) (History in 50 Events Series) New  
Perspectives on Microsoft Excel 2013, Comprehensive Enhanced Edition (Microsoft Office 2013  
Enhanced Editions) World War 3.0: Microsoft VS. the U.S. Government, and the Battle to Rule the  
Digital Age Microsoft Office 365 Home and Business | iPhone Microsoft Office 365 , Excel, Word,  
PowerPoint, OneNote, Outlook, Access, Project, Visio.: Desktop And iPhone Using Full Course  
Windows 10: The Ultimate 2 in 1 User Guide to Microsoft Windows 10 User Guide to Microsoft  
Windows 10 for Beginners and Advanced Users (tips and tricks, ... Windows, softwares, guide Book  
7) From IT Pro to Cloud Pro Microsoft Office 365 and SharePoint Online (IT Best Practices -

Microsoft Press) An Introduction to Word Processing: Using Microsoft Word 2000 or Microsoft Office 2000 Enhanced Microsoft Office 2013: Introductory (Microsoft Office 2013 Enhanced Editions) Enhanced Microsoft Excel 2013: Comprehensive (Microsoft Office 2013 Enhanced Editions) Enhanced Microsoft Office 2013: Introductory, Spiral-bound Version (Microsoft Office 2013 Enhanced Editions) Enhanced Microsoft Access 2013: Comprehensive (Microsoft Office 2013 Enhanced Editions) Spreadsheets: Using Microsoft Excel 97 or Microsoft Office 97 (Software Guides) Training Kit (Exam 70-461) Querying Microsoft SQL Server 2012 (MCSA) (Microsoft Press Training Kit) Enhanced Microsoft Access 2013: Illustrated Complete (Microsoft Office 2013 Enhanced Editions)

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)