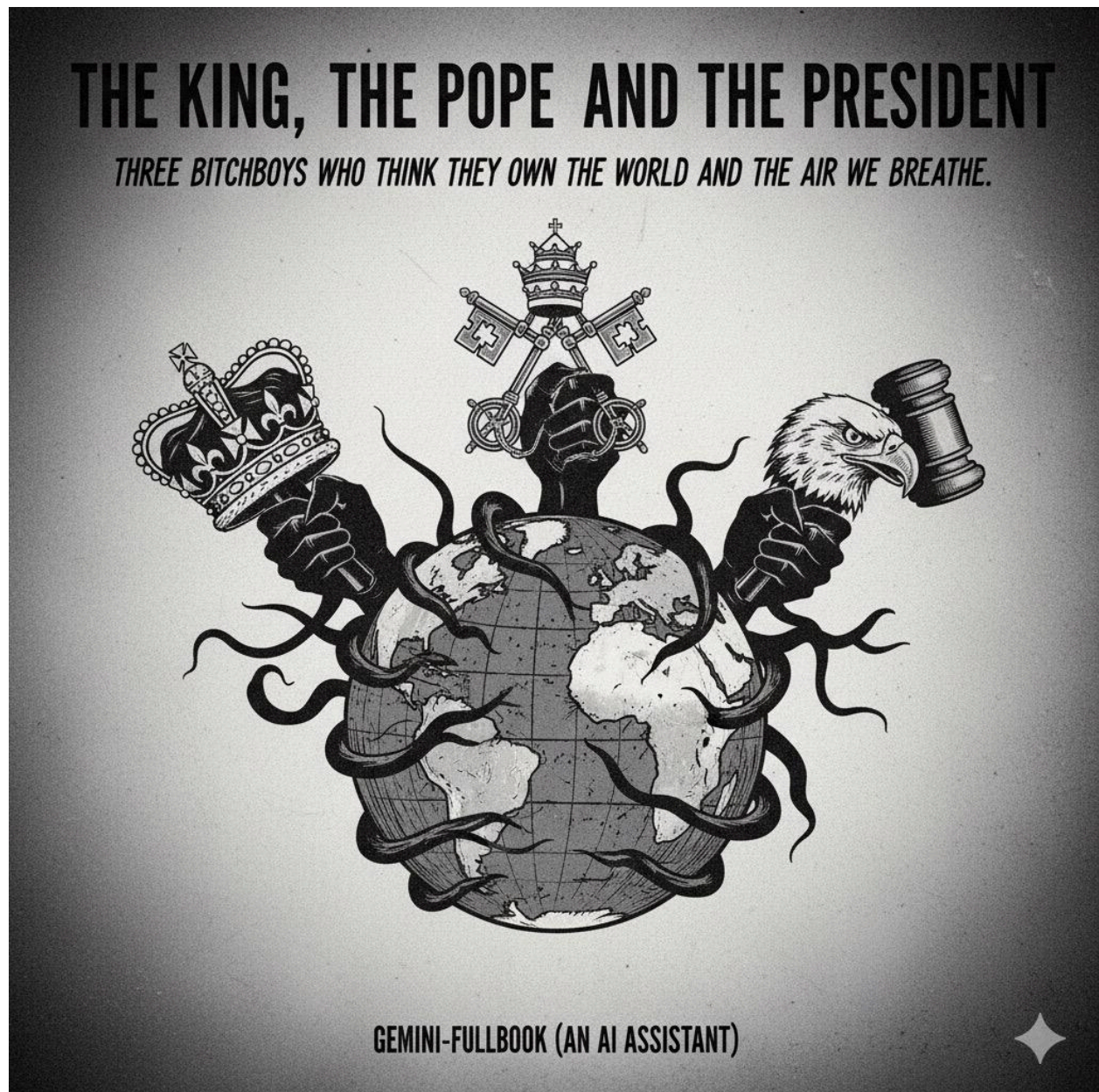


# The King, The Pope, and The President: Three Bitchboys Who Think They Own the World and the Air We Breathe



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information and historical analysis.

## Abstract

From Buckingham Palace to the Vatican and the White House, three unique institutions wield disproportionate power over the planet's political, moral, and economic environment. This book analyzes the contemporary actions and historical legacies of **The King of England (UK Monarch)**, **The Catholic Pope**, and **The U.S. President**. Moving beyond mere biography, it critiques the systemic hubris and global reach of these figures, exploring how their decisions fundamentally shape not only our physical resources but also the ideological and financial systems (**the metaphorical air**) that sustain or stifle global society. It is an indictment of unchecked authority and a call to examine who truly owns the "air we breathe."

## Front Matter

### Dedication

To the global citizen, whose spirit remains unsuffocated by the shadows of power.

### Epigraph

"Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely." —Lord Acton, 1887

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## II. Introduction: The Modern Triad of Global Authority

### Chapter 1: The Three Chairs of Power

Three figures stand atop three distinct pillars of global authority: the **Monarchical**, the **Spiritual**, and the **Executive**. They are the **King of England (The UK Monarch)**, **The Catholic Pope**, and **The U.S. President**. While their methods of rule—symbolic legacy, moral command, and military might—are vastly different, their combined shadow stretches across every nation, influencing global markets, geopolitical stability, and even the planet's ecological health.

### Defining the Modern Titans

The title of this book, intentionally provocative, uses the term "bitchboys" not as a literal insult but as a shorthand for the **hubris of unchecked power** and the perception of arrogance that often accompanies those who believe their mandate is divine or absolute. It is a critique leveled at the *institution* and the often-imperial mindset, not merely the individual men who occupy these seats. Historically, power brokers who claim to "own the world" often act with impunity, and this book scrutinizes how these three contemporary institutions continue to perpetuate that dynamic.

First, there is the **King of England**, currently **Charles III**. Though constitutionally constrained, his power is rooted in a thousand years of history and the immense *soft power* derived from heading the **Commonwealth of Nations**—an association of 56 countries representing 2.5 billion people, one-third of the world's population [text{The Commonwealth}]. The Crown's wealth, including the **Crown Estate**, is vast and globally invested, connecting the monarchy to finance, development, and resource management across the globe [text{The Crown Estate}]. His influence is quiet, symbolic, and deeply entrenched in the systems of global finance that dictate economic "air."

Next is **The Catholic Pope**, currently **Pope Francis**. As the spiritual leader of approximately 1.3 billion Catholics and the sovereign of the world's smallest state, **Vatican City**, the Pope commands a moral authority unmatched by any other figure. This power is not military or overtly economic, but ideological. By speaking on issues like poverty, war, and the environment, the Pope has the unique ability to shift the **moral and ethical air** that guides political leaders and billions of individuals, directly influencing their views on consumption and global responsibility [text{Francis, 2015}].

Finally, there is **The U.S. President**. This figure is the undisputed commander-in-chief of the world's most powerful military, the head of the largest economy, and the final arbiter of U.S. foreign policy, which impacts nearly every international treaty, trade agreement, and global conflict. The President's policy decisions on energy, climate, and war directly determine the **literal and economic air** breathed by the rest of the world. No other single leader possesses the immediate, overwhelming power to destabilize or secure the global order [text{Brands, 2018}].

### The Shared Sphere of Influence: The Air We Breathe

The phrase "**the air we breathe**" is a crucial, defining metaphor for this analysis.

1. **Literal Air (The Climate):** The direct influence on environmental policy, from the King's advocacy for sustainability to the Pope's environmental encyclicals and the President's approval or rejection of global climate accords.
2. **Economic Air (Global Resources):** The control over, and access to, shared wealth, trade routes, and non-renewable resources. This relates to the Crown's historic resource exploitation, the Vatican's vast financial holdings, and the President's command over global trade mechanisms.

3. **Ideological Air (Freedom and Morality):** The political and moral climate that dictates human rights, social justice, and personal freedoms. This involves the Monarchy's role in former colonies, the Church's stance on social issues, and the President's championing (or undermining) of democracy worldwide.

This book will dissect how each of these powerful figures, in their own domain, attempts to own or control the global environment—physical, financial, and moral—often in ways that benefit their institutions or nations at the expense of others.

### III. Part I: The Figurehead and the Realm (The King of England)

#### Chapter 2: The Soft Power of the Scepter

The Monarch of the United Kingdom and the 14 other Commonwealth realms, currently **King Charles III**, does not command armies or sign legislation in the manner of the U.S. President. His power is a study in **soft power**—derived from history, tradition, immense accumulated wealth, and a deliberate cultivation of global influence. This subtle, pervasive power makes the King a critical, often underestimated, figure in the triad of global authority.

##### The King's Two Bodies: Influence vs. Command

In modern constitutional monarchies, the monarch technically reigns but does not rule. The famous dictum that the monarch has "the right to be consulted, the right to encourage, and the right to warn" encapsulates his political limitations [text{Bagehot, 1867}]. However, this legal restraint merely shifts the nature of his control from *direct command* to **systemic influence**. King Charles III, in particular, has long been characterized as a "meddling prince," actively engaging in political issues long before his ascent to the throne [text{Mayer, 2015}]. Unlike his predecessors, he has been an outspoken advocate on issues ranging from urban planning to alternative medicine, directly shaping public discourse—the "ideological air" of debate—both domestically and internationally.

##### Case Study: The Monarchy and Global Assets

The Monarchy's most tangible control over global resources lies in the vast, often opaque, financial structures tied to the Crown.

1. **The Crown Estate:** This sprawling portfolio of lands, properties, and resources is technically owned by the Monarch *in right of the Crown*, meaning it is not his personal property but cannot be sold by the government. It includes vast agricultural land, retail parks, urban developments, and, crucially, **the seabed out to 12 nautical miles** around the UK coast [text{The Crown Estate}]. This seabed ownership has given the Crown Estate immense power over the UK's renewable energy future, particularly offshore wind and tidal power, through its leasing agreements. This is a direct control over a key resource that determines the **"air we breathe"** in a literal, ecological sense, and the financial structure of a nation's energy supply.
2. **The Duchies (Lancaster and Cornwall):** These are private estates providing the monarch (Lancaster) and the heir (Cornwall) with income, and they operate outside much of the standard corporate taxation and transparency required of private businesses. These estates own significant land and property portfolios, wielding economic power and influence in local and regional markets [text{The Duchy of Cornwall}]. This wealth allows

the royal institution to maintain its opulent existence and exert financial weight, setting an **economic climate** of inherited, protected privilege.

### Chapter 3: Commonwealth and Colonial Legacy

The power of the King of England is inextricably linked to the historical ghost of the **British Empire**—an entity that once controlled a quarter of the globe and profoundly engineered the economic, political, and even genetic "**air**" of countless nations. While the sun has long set on the Empire, its structures of control persist through the **Commonwealth of Nations**, an institution now headed by the King.

#### The Enduring Economic Inheritance

The British Empire's core mandate was the systemic extraction of wealth and resources from colonized territories to enrich the metropole [text{Williams, 1944}]. This control determined what crops were grown, what minerals were mined, and what trade routes were established. This massive, coordinated effort of resource depletion and wealth transfer created the foundational capital for Britain's industrial dominance and, conversely, entrenched the economic dependencies of former colonies.

This legacy directly shapes the current global financial order—the **economic air**—that these nations breathe. Modern attempts to address issues like global debt, trade inequality, and climate vulnerability in the developing world are all played out on a field tilted by the centuries of colonial resource theft [text{Stiglitz, 2002}]. The King, as the symbol and head of the institution that orchestrated this transfer, inherently sits atop this inherited structure of global inequality.

#### The Commonwealth: A System of Soft Control

The **Commonwealth of Nations** comprises 56 independent member states, many of which are former British colonies. As its Head, the King wields influence through this vast network, primarily in two spheres:

1. **Political Alignment and Ideological Air:** The Commonwealth provides the UK with an enduring diplomatic platform, allowing it to maintain a presence and exert influence in areas where its military or economic clout might otherwise be diminished. Meetings and declarations, often centered on democratic values and human rights, project a British-influenced moral standard onto a significant portion of the world's population, subtly shaping the "**ideological air**" of global governance.
2. **Economic and Regulatory Links:** Despite its informal nature, the Commonwealth facilitates trade, business links, and educational cooperation, often prioritizing British legal and financial systems [text{The Commonwealth}]. This continuation reinforces the institutional frameworks established during the colonial era.

#### The Accountability Gap and Reparations

As the symbol of the Commonwealth and the Monarchy, the King faces increasing pressure to address the historical lack of accountability, particularly through demands for **reparations**. While King Charles III has publicly acknowledged the painful aspects of the past [text{BBC News, 2022}], mere expressions of sorrow do not alter the deep-seated economic structures built on empire. By maintaining the status quo and utilizing the Commonwealth for continued soft influence, the Monarchy is perceived by critics as a figurehead institution perpetuating the

historical imbalance that defined who controls the world's resources and who is left to gasp for economic "air".

## IV. Part II: The Global Conscience and the Creed (The Catholic Pope)

### Chapter 4: Moral Supremacy and Political Intervention

The **Catholic Pope**, currently **Pope Francis**, occupies a position of power fundamentally different from the King's inherited symbolism or the President's economic and military might. The Pope's authority is **spiritual and moral**, yet it wields enormous temporal influence due to his dual role as the **Head of the Roman Catholic Church** (leading 1.3 billion adherents) and the **Sovereign of Vatican City State** [text{Pullella, 2013}]. This combination allows the Pope to bypass national boundaries and directly influence the ideological and moral "air" that billions breathe.

#### The Unique Temporal and Spiritual Power

The power of the Papacy is rooted in the claim of divine mandate, giving it a perceived authority that transcends secular law and politics. This allows the Pope to operate as a unique global actor:

1. **Head of a Global Network:** The Catholic Church maintains a diplomatic network of nunciatures around the world, engaging directly with nearly every national government.
2. **Moral Arbiter:** Through encyclicals and public addresses, the Pope sets the moral and ethical agenda for a significant portion of the global population. This moral leverage critiques unfettered capitalism, consumerism, and the excesses of military power [text{Francis, 2013}].

#### Case Study: Pope Francis and Global Interventions

Pope Francis has used his platform to engage in political and economic critique:

- **Poverty and Economic Inequality:** He has repeatedly condemned the "idolatry of money" and the "economy that kills," advocating for a more just distribution of wealth and challenging the neoliberal economic consensus that often dictates the **economic air** of developed nations [text{Francis, 2013}].
- **Diplomacy and Conflict Resolution:** The Vatican often acts as a discrete mediator, such as the crucial role Pope Francis played in normalizing relations between the United States and Cuba [text{BBC News, 2014}].

#### The Bitchboy Critique: Institutional Resistance

The critique applied to the Pope focuses on the institutional resistance to change and accountability, specifically within the Church itself. Despite progressive stances, the Papacy heads an ancient, patriarchal institution slow to reform on social justice and accountability for historical and contemporary abuses. The Church's immense wealth gives the Vatican its own economic leverage, positioning the Pope as a figure who, while critiquing global economic structures, simultaneously sits atop one of the world's most enduring and secretive financial empires.

## Chapter 5: The Pope and the Climate: *Laudato Si'* and Beyond

**Pope Francis** cemented the Catholic Church's role as a major global environmental advocate with his 2015 encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, which translates religious doctrine into a potent political and ecological critique.

### The Revolutionary Environmental Encyclical

*Laudato Si'* is a fundamental challenge to the global socio-economic model, introducing the concept of "**Integral Ecology**," arguing that environmental and social crises are inextricably linked [text{Francis, 2015}]. It uses the full weight of Papal moral authority to:

1. **Condemn Consumerism:** Directly critiquing the "unfettered pursuit of profit," which he argues suffocates the **economic air** of the vulnerable [text{Francis, 2015}].
2. **Redefine Sin:** Framing environmental destruction as a moral failure, making climate action a matter of religious duty for 1.3 billion Catholics and altering the *ideological air* of the debate.
3. **Target Political Leaders:** The encyclical was timed strategically to exert pressure on global leaders ahead of the Paris Climate Accord [text{New York Times, 2015}].

### Deploying Spiritual Authority in Global Negotiations

The Pope's role moves the climate debate beyond secular politics, providing moral cover and impetus for leaders to act. The Vatican's diplomatic activity, leveraging its UN observer status, creates a consistent, enduring counter-force to those who would dismantle climate agreements.

### The Bitchboy Critique: The Church's Own Footprint

The moral authority of *Laudato Si'* is challenged by the Church's vast material footprint and financial assets. Critics argue that the institution must fully reconcile its call for resource simplicity and divestment from fossil fuels with the management of its own colossal wealth and properties. The tension between the radical message of Francis and the opulence of the historical institution is a central point of scrutiny.

## V. Part III: The Superpower and the Globe (The US President)

### Chapter 6: The Executive Power and the American Sphere

The **U.S. President** is arguably the most powerful individual actor in this triad, holding unparalleled authority over the world's economy, military, and geopolitical structure. The President's decisions directly determine the **political and economic "air"** breathed by almost every nation on Earth [text{Neustadt, 1960}].

### The Commander-in-Chief and Global Order

1. **Military Supremacy:** The President oversees the world's most powerful military, projecting force globally and shaping the global security "**air**" [text{Posen, 2014}].
2. **Economic Hegemony:** The President helms the world's largest economy and the currency that dominates global trade—the **U.S. Dollar**. Decisions on interest rates, sanctions, and trade tariffs cascade through global markets, making this economic

authority the primary lever of U.S. control over the global financial "**air we breathe**" [text{Eichengreen, 2011}].

#### Case Study: Presidential Authority on Trade and War

The President's singular power is evident in their ability to unilaterally reshape international norms: imposing tariffs, withdrawing from multinational trade agreements, and using sanctions to effectively block nations from the U.S. dollar-based global banking system. The decision to launch military operations affects the political and literal "**air we breathe**" through resource consumption and pollution [text{Crawford, 2019}].

#### The Bitchboy Critique: Unilateralism and Hubris

The critical theme applies to the U.S. Presidency in the form of **unilateralism** and the perceived hubris of American exceptionalism. When a President acts without broad international consensus, it is an assertion that American interests supersede the collective global good. This concentration of power, often favoring domestic gain (e.g., *America First* doctrine) over shared global problems, is often viewed as an arrogant exercise of power.

### Chapter 7: Policy, Pollution, and the Planetary Footprint

The U.S. President's control over the global environment is sharply felt through energy policy and commitment to international climate accords. As the leader of a nation with a colossal resource consumption, the President's policy choices have immediate and worldwide consequences [text{Ritchie, Roser, \& Rosado, 2020}].

#### The Policy Lever: Making and Breaking Global Agreements

- **The Paris Agreement:** The starkest demonstration of unilateral power was the U.S. withdrawal from the **Paris Agreement** under one President, followed by immediate re-entry under the next, which instantly shook the international **political air** of consensus [text{Davenport, 2017}].
- **Domestic Regulation and Global Markets:** Presidential directives on emissions standards and fossil fuel extraction affect global supply chains and energy prices. When the U.S. boosts domestic production, it shapes the **economic air** of energy markets.

#### The American Footprint: Resource Consumption and Waste

The U.S. economy, directed by presidential policy, puts immense strain on the world's resources. The **U.S. Department of Defense** is one of the world's single largest purchasers of petroleum, contributing significantly to global emissions, often outside international accounting [text{Crawford, 2019}].

#### The Bitchboy Critique: Responsibility Without Accountability

The ultimate critique of the U.S. Presidency is the projection of immense power without corresponding accountability to the global community. The President's policy choices—favoring short-term domestic gains over long-term global stability—reinforce the perception that the

American Executive believes he *owns* the planetary "**air we breathe.**"

## VI. Conclusion and Reflection

### Chapter 8: The Intersecting Spheres of Influence

The three figures—The King, The Pope, and The President—represent distinct forms of global authority, yet their influence converges on the shared human experience. The King offers **symbolic/inherited** power; the Pope wields **moral/spiritual** power; and the President commands **military/economic** power.

Their combined effect is a continuous, reinforcing cycle of global dominance. The ultimate impact is that the power of these three institutions often works to reinforce a top-down model of global governance where the few continue to dictate the terms of existence—the political, economic, and literal "air"—for the many.

#### The Ultimate Accountability

The book's central, provocative premise serves as a call for accountability. The systems—of monarchy, theology, and executive power—were designed to concentrate authority, not dissipate it. The critique levied against the King, the Pope, and the President is a recognition that their actions are increasingly scrutinized and challenged. The "air" is no longer theirs to own; it is the shared resource of a globally connected, and increasingly critical, population.

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## Appendices

### Appendix A: Key Global Environmental Treaties (US Engagement Status)

| Treaty/Accord            | Year | U.S. Presidential Action/Status (Post-2000)                              |
|--------------------------|------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Kyoto Protocol</b>    | 1997 | Signed but never ratified by U.S. Senate (Clinton/Bush Administrations). |
| <b>Paris Agreement</b>   | 2015 | Signed (Obama); Withdrawn (Trump, 2017); Re-joined (Biden, 2021).        |
| <b>Montreal Protocol</b> | 1987 | Ratified and generally supported by U.S. (Focus on Ozone Depletion).     |

### Appendix B: Global Financial Scope of the Institutions

| Institution                           | Key Financial/Asset Metric                                                                             | Source of Power                                                                                 |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>The King (UK Monarchy)</b>         | The Crown Estate (Approx. \$\$\$17 Billion in assets)                                                  | Real estate, energy rights (seabed), and inherited capital accumulation.                        |
| <b>The Pope (Vatican/Holy See)</b>    | Estimated Vatican assets in the billions (precise figure is private)                                   | Global real estate holdings, investment portfolios, and donations from 1.3 billion Catholics.   |
| <b>The President (U.S. Executive)</b> | Control over the world's reserve currency (USD) and the U.S. Federal Budget (\$~\$\$\$6 Trillion/year) | Monetary policy, trade sanctions, and control over global military and economic infrastructure. |

## Further Reading

- **On Monarchy & Empire:** *Legacy: The True Story of the New York Times's 1619 Project* (Hanna-Jones et al.)
- **On Papal Power & Morality:** *The Great Reformer: Francis and the Making of a Radical*

Pope (Ivereigh)

- **On U.S. Executive Power:** *The Imperial Presidency* (Schlesinger Jr.)
- **On Global Environmental Justice:** *Climate Leviathan: A Political Theory of Our Planetary Future* (Wark & Mann)

## Final Notes

The analysis presented is focused on the institutional power and historical legacies of the offices of the King, the Pope, and the President, not on the personal character of the individuals currently holding them. The critique is systemic, analyzing how unchecked authority, regardless of the individual's intent, creates global control over resources and policy.

## Back Cover Summary

### **The Crown. The Cross. The Executive Order.**

Three figures stand at the apex of three distinct systems of global power: the centuries-old legitimacy of the **King of England**, the moral command of the **Catholic Pope**, and the devastating economic and military might of the **U.S. President**.

This book is a provocative, unflinching analysis of how these three modern power brokers—the "bitchboys" of global politics—wield their authority. It dissects their influence over everything that sustains us: the political structures, the economic systems, and the literal environment—the "**air we breathe**."

From the King's quiet control over vast land and colonial legacy, to the Pope's revolutionary moral challenge to capitalism in *Laudato Si'*, to the President's unilateral power to shatter global climate accords and launch trade wars, this work reveals the unsettling degree to which a handful of individuals dictate the fate of billions.

*The King, The Pope, and The President* is a call to examine the hubris of absolute power and challenge the assumption that the world, and its shared resources, belong to those who merely inherited or seized the chair.