POWER ELITE DATABASE, 1935-1936, v2.0

This archive contains information about the "power elite" in the United States in 1935-1936, as defined by the boards of directors of the largest corporations, and members and directors of certain influential nonprofit organizations (policy-planning groups and foundations).

This data set was compiled by G. William Domhoff and Adam Schneider of the University of California at Santa Cruz.

This version (v2.0) is the one used by Tom Mills & G. William Domhoff in "The Policy-Planning Capacity of the American Corporate Community" (*Theory and Society*, 2023). Mills & Domhoff's paper examined the power elite in two time frames —1935-1936 and 2010-2011 — so it included only a small number of nonprofit policy-planning groups that existed in both time periods.

The boards of directors/trustees of the following organizations are included:

- CORPORATIONS (250): In 1935, President Roosevelt created the National Resources Committee within the Department of the Interior, and in 1939 the NRC produced a document called *The Structure of the American Economy*, which examined interlocking directorates among the largest 200 non-financial corporations and 50 largest financial corporations in the United States. Using various sources (mostly *Poor's Register*), we obtained the 1935/1936 boards of directors for all 250 of these corporations.

  [Source: https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/001312880]

- POLICY-PLANNING GROUPS & THINK TANKS (4): The Brookings Institution, Council on Foreign Relations, Business Advisory Council, and the National Association of Manufacturers. For the BAC, CFR, and NAM, the *full* membership is included, but people's leadership status within the group is noted, so non-directors could be filtered out if necessary.

- FOUNDATIONS (2): The top two U.S. foundations in 1934 were the Rockefeller Foundation and the Carnegie Corporation of New York. Grants from these two dwarfed everything else in the 1930s.

  [Source: https://indianamemory.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/PRO/id/3823/rec/1]

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.
- `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, with some information about the organizations (category, business sector, rank) included.

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