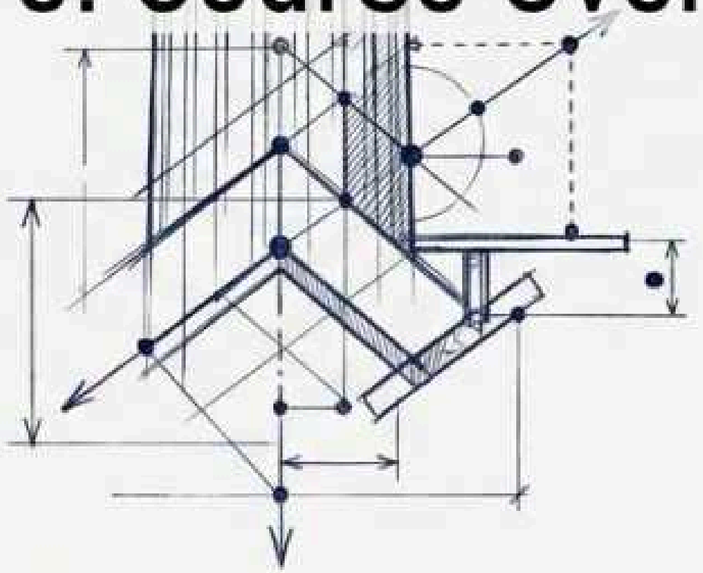
Lecture 0



The Corporation (BUS 310 B)

Lecture 0: Course Overview

Personality, Control, and Purpose.



$$\$Cost_{course} = \sum(\text{Service to Humanity}) + \Delta(\text{Shared Insights})$$



Pay it Forward.

→ Email → garyanderson@mail.grokbot.com

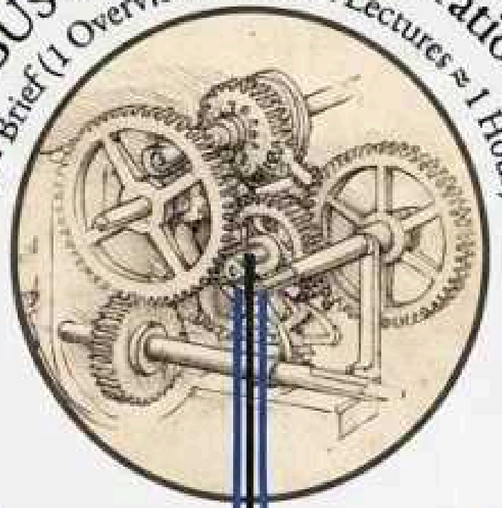
→ X (Twitter) → @garyanderson

This constitutes full compensation.

Anderson Academy
A 4-Year Library.

University-Level Courses

BUS 310 B: The Corporation
B = Brief (1 Overview + 6 Short Lectures ≈ 1 Hour)



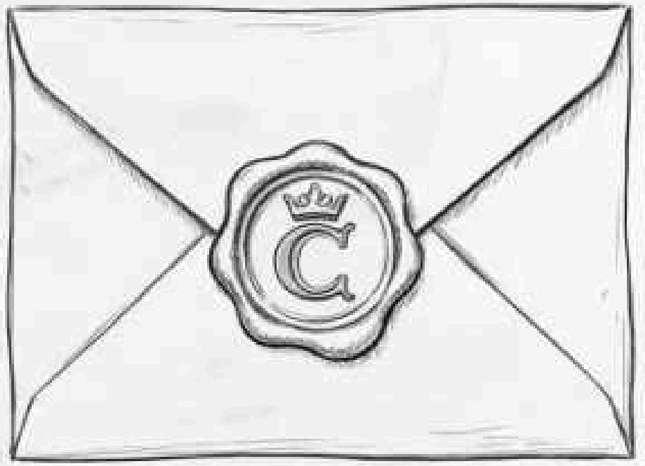
The engine of the rich world.

→ Employs most workers.
→ Produces most purchased goods.
→ Holds much of their savings.

Founders & Shareholders



The Corporation



$[+] Own Property
$[+] Sign Contracts
$[±] Borrow Money / Sue / Be Sued
$[∞] Immortality (Conditional: If Solvent)

The law treats the organization as a *person* entirely separate from those who own and run it.



Society's major economic choices

The Corporate Engine

Pension funds & ordinary savers (own shares)



Governments (regulate, tax, rescue)



Understanding how they are built, governed, and held to account = Understanding modern society.



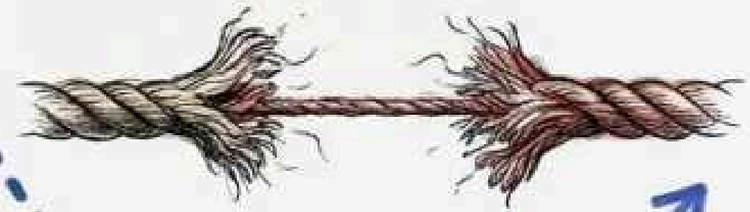
Origins

Medieval towns → Trading companies → 19th-century general incorporation laws.



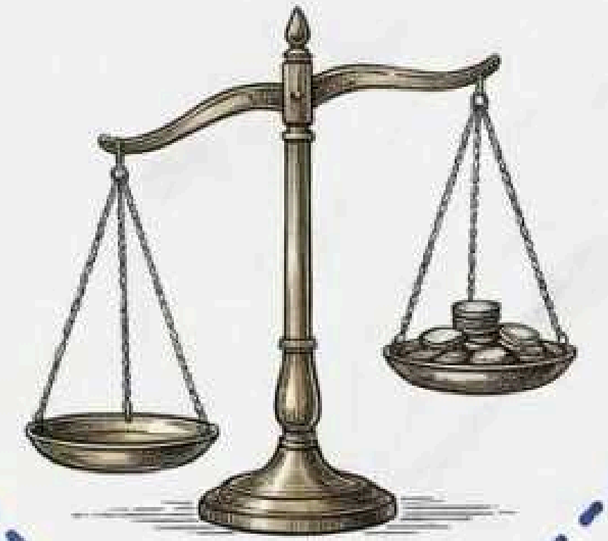
Legal Anatomy

The features that make a corporation what it is.



Ownership vs. Control

The gap between those who own and those who manage.



Governance

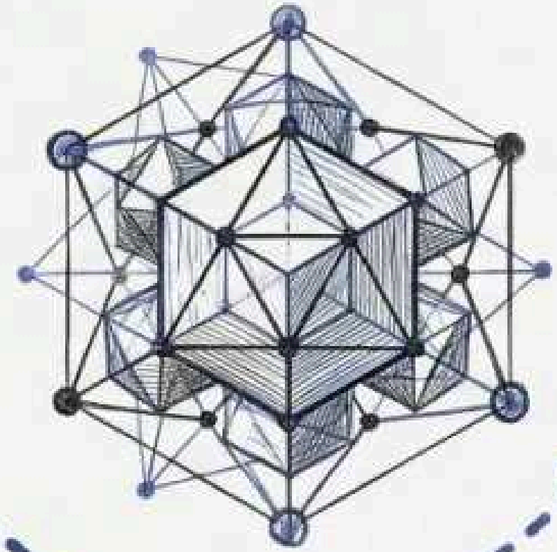
Boards, shareholders, scandals, and reform.

Purpose



Purpose

Shareholders vs. All Stakeholders.

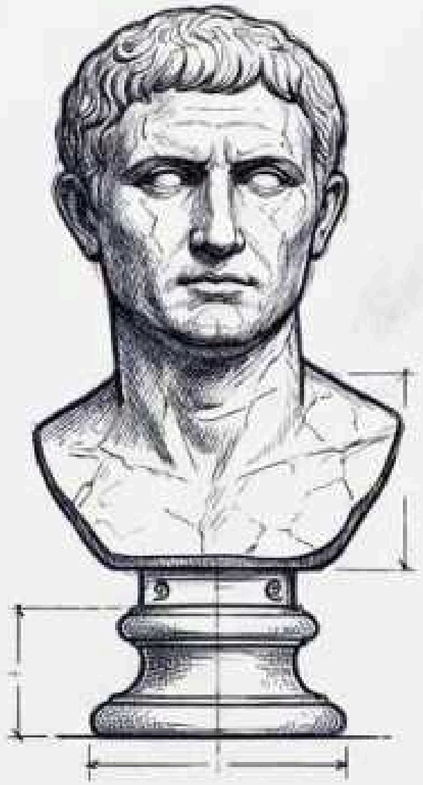


Present & Future

Multinationals, Private Equity, Technology Platforms.

Legal Personality

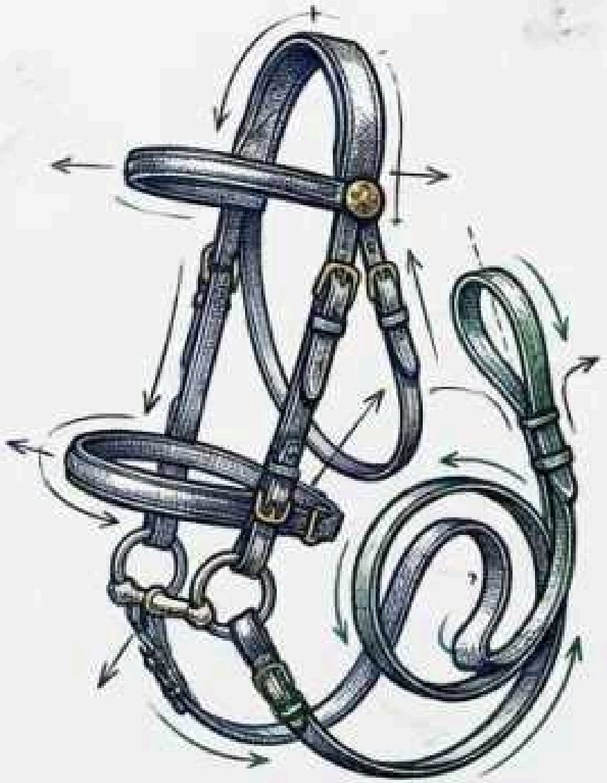
The corporation is an artificial person.



Puzzle: What kind of person is it?

Control

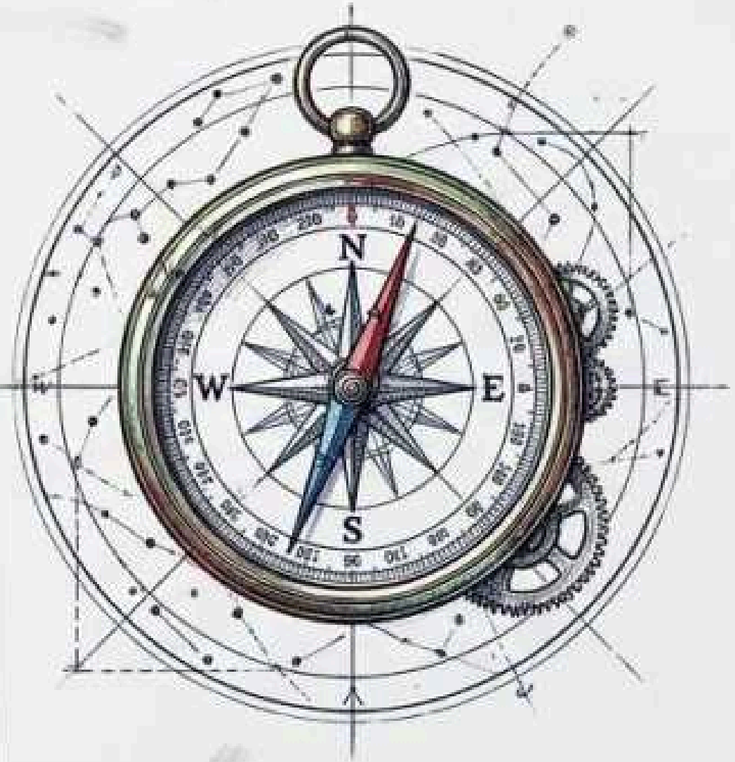
Someone must make decisions.



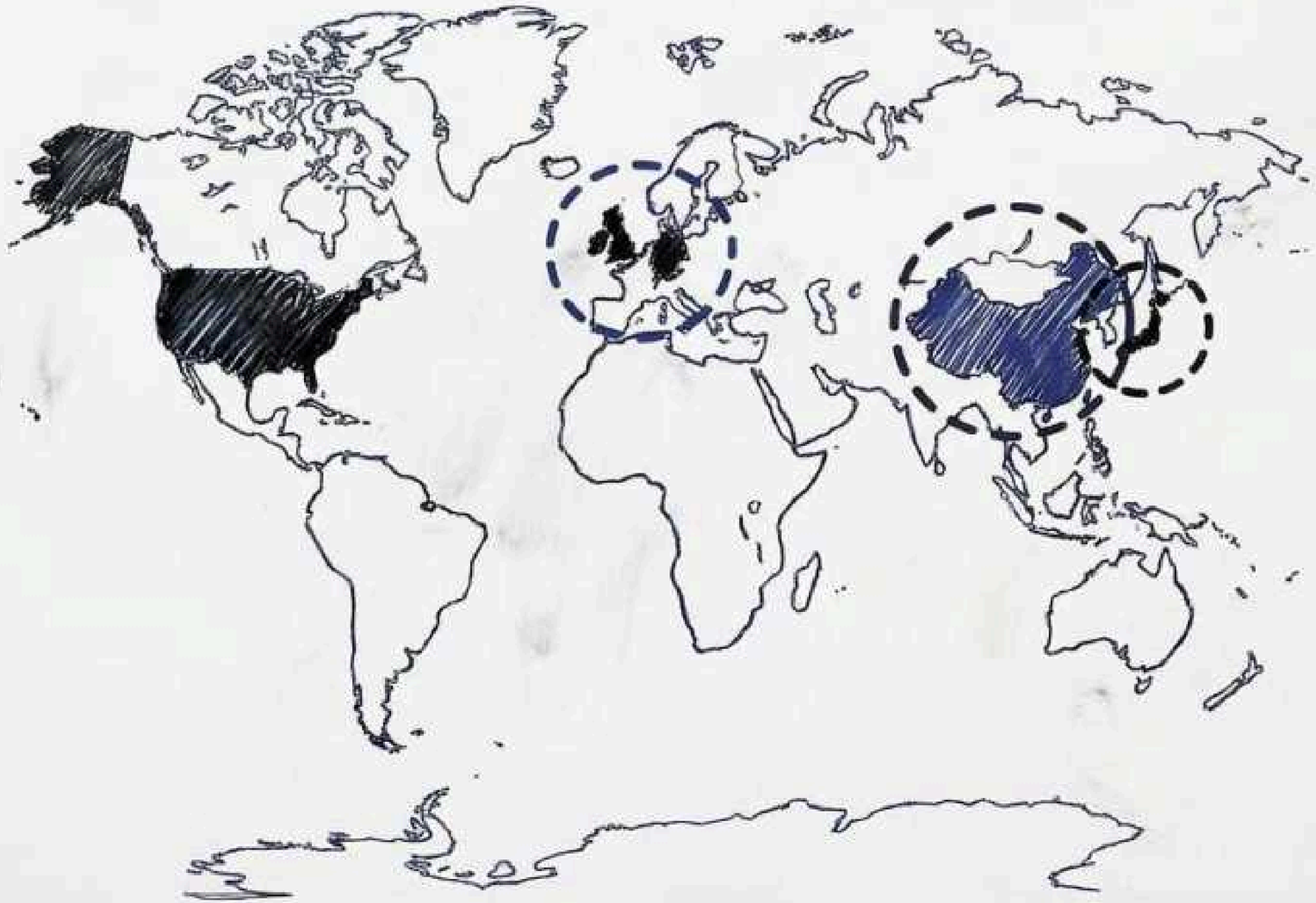
Puzzle: Deciders are rarely the owners.

Purpose

A powerful institution needs an aim.



Puzzle: Deep disagreement on the target.



[*Course Scope*]

≠

[*Legal Advice*]

+

[*Investment Advice*]

Prerequisites: *None required. (Helpful context: BUS 101 B: Intro to Business & ECON 240 B: Nature of Capitalism).*

Pause & Apply

Reflect on an employer or a firm whose products you use.



Track the Map

Every paragraph is numbered.

Example:
Lecture 3,
Paragraph 5 = 3.5

5-Question Quiz

At the end of each lecture.

Answers map directly back to numbered paragraphs.

Final Assessment

50-Question Final Exam
+ A Tripos Paper
(6 essay questions with model answers)



Checked against standard works on corporate law, history, and governance.

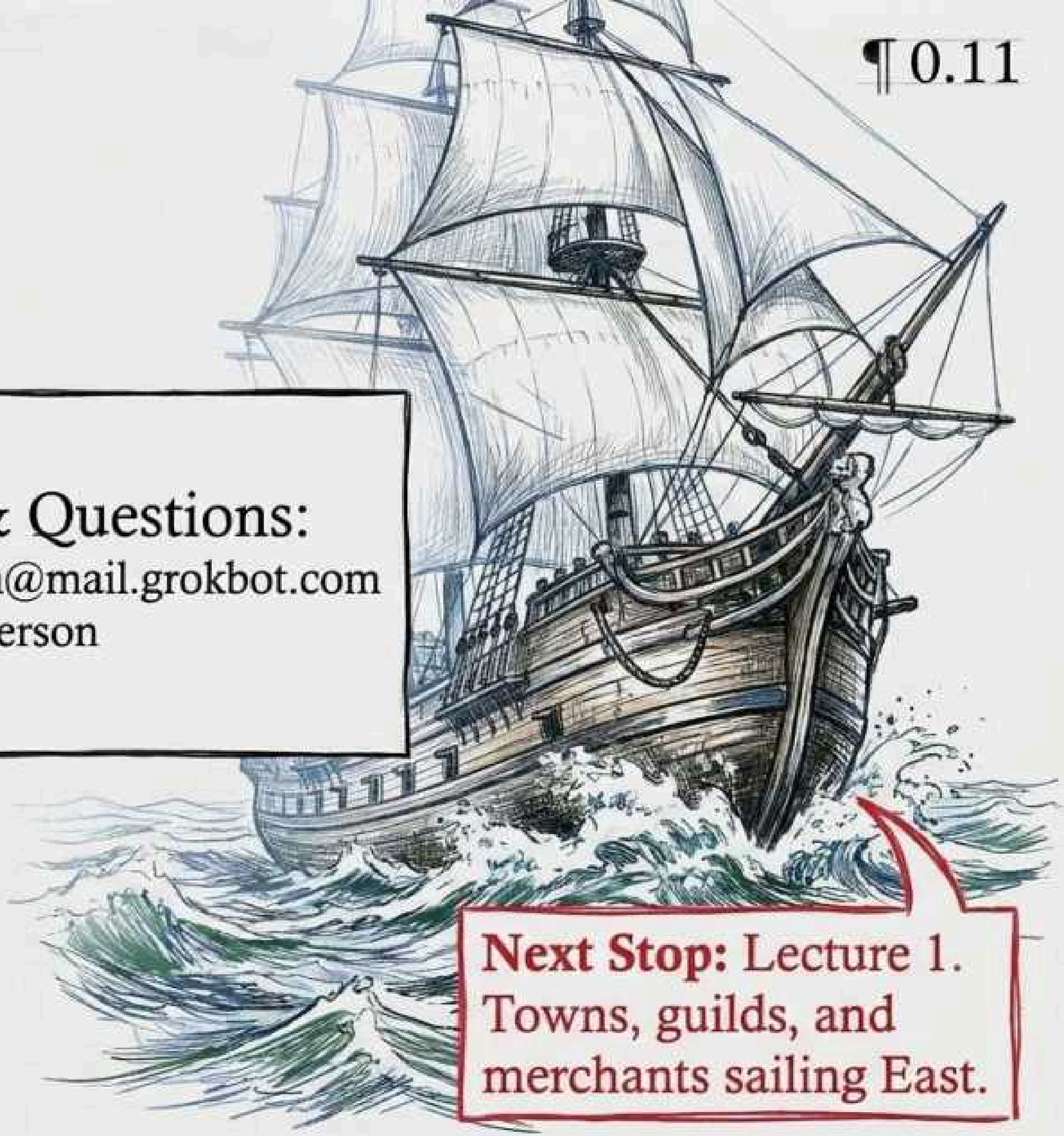
$ [Generative AI Input] → [Human Direction] → [Academic Verification] → [Balanced Output]

Fair presentation of scholarly/practitioner disagreements.

Found an error? Report it by specific paragraph number.

Feedback & Questions:

→ garyanderson@mail.grokbot.com
→ X: @garyanderson



Next Stop: Lecture 1. Towns, guilds, and merchants sailing East.