



# **Dethroning the King: The Hostile Takeover of Anheuser-Busch, an American Icon**

*Julie MacIntosh*

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**Dethroning the King: The Hostile Takeover of Anheuser-Busch, an American Icon** Julie MacIntosh  
**How the King of Beers collapsed without a fight and what it means for America's place in the post-Recession world**

How did InBev, a Belgian company controlled by Brazilians, take over one of America's most beloved brands with scarcely a whimper of opposition? Chalk it up to perfect timing—and some unexpected help from powerful members of the Busch dynasty, the very family that had run the company for more than a century. In *Dethroning the King*, Julie MacIntosh, the award-winning financial journalist who led coverage of the takeover for the *Financial Times*, details how the drama that unfolded at Anheuser-Busch in 2008 went largely unreported as the world tumbled into a global economic crisis second only to the Great Depression. Today, as the dust settles, questions are being asked about how the "King of Beers" was so easily captured by a foreign corporation, and whether the company's fall mirrors America's dwindling financial and political dominance as a nation.

- Discusses how the takeover of Anheuser-Busch will be seen as a defining moment in U.S. business history
- Reveals the critical missteps taken by the Busch family and the Anheuser-Busch board
- Argues that Anheuser-Busch had a chance to save itself from InBev's clutches, but infighting and dysfunctionality behind the scenes forced it to capitulate

From America's heartland to the European continent to Brazil, *Dethroning the King* is the ultimate corporate caper and a fascinating case study that's both wide reaching and profound.

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