

[MIT Technology Review: How Silicon Valley is disrupting democracy](#)

December 13, 2024



Albert Lepage Professor in Business [Rob Lalka's](#) book *The Venture Alchemists: How Big Tech Turned Profits into Power* was reviewed in [MIT Technology Review](#) by Brian Gardiner. The book explores the origins of Big Tech entrepreneurs and investors including Mark Zuckerberg, Larry Page, Sergey Brin, Peter Rhiel and J.D. Vance and how they've leveraged their wealth and influence to secure power.

The Venture Alchemists is strongest when it's describing the early-stage antics and on-campus controversies that shaped these young entrepreneurs or, in many cases, simply reveal who they've always been. Lalka is a thorough and tenacious researcher, as the book's 135 pages of endnotes suggest. And while nearly all these stories have been told before in other books and articles, he still manages to provide new perspectives and insights from sources like college newspapers and leaked documents.

To read the article in its entirety, visit [technologyreview.com](https://www.technologyreview.com):

<https://www.technologyreview.com/2024/12/13/1108459/book-review-silicon-valley-democracy-teclash-rob-lalka-venture-chemists-marietje-schaake-tech-coup/>