



## Deadly Monopolies": Medical Ethicist Harriet Washington on How Firms are Taking Over Life Itself

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**Guest: Harriet Washington**, medical ethicist and author. Her new book is called *Deadly Monopolies: The Shocking Corporate Takeover of Life Itself—And the Consequences for Your Health and Our Medical Future*. She is also author of *Medical Apartheid: The Dark History of Medical Experimentation on Black Americans from Colonial Times to the Present*.



One of the major themes raised by the Occupy movement is the increasing power of large corporations over more and more aspects of our lives. We spend the hour looking into the issue of the corporate control of life itself. Our guest, Harriet Washington, is a medical ethicist and has just published a book that examines the extent to which what she calls the medical-industrial complex has come to control human life. In the past 30 years, more than 40,000 patents have been granted on genes alone—many more patents are pending. Washington argues that the biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies patenting these genes are more concerned with profit than with the health or medical needs of patients. Her new book is called "Deadly Monopolies: The Shocking Corporate Takeover of Life Itself—And the Consequences for Your Health and Our Medical Future." [includes rush transcript]

Video link:

[http://www.democracynow.org/2011/10/31/deadly\\_monopolies\\_medical\\_ethicist\\_harriet\\_washington](http://www.democracynow.org/2011/10/31/deadly_monopolies_medical_ethicist_harriet_washington)