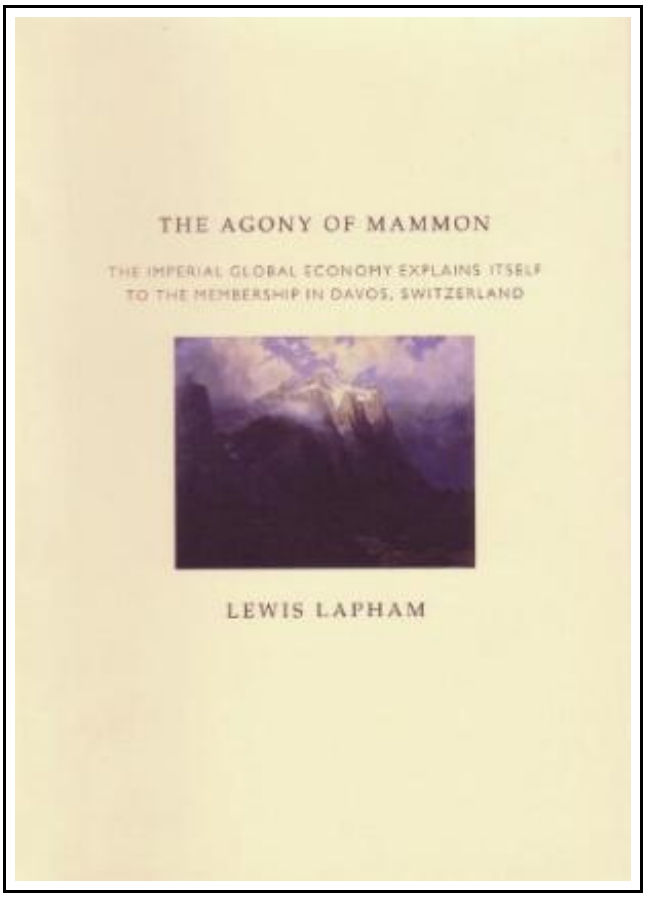
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Verso Books/An Imprint of the New Left Books, London & New York, 1998. Hardcover. Book Condition: Brand New. Dust Jacket Condition: Brand New. Copyright 1998. 8vo - over 7¾" - 9¾" tall. 84 pp. Brand new, wrapped, unopened, flawless, untouched copy and dust jacket, still in plasic wrapper (foil). Likely first edition! Synopsis: Welcome to the annual World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. Five days and six nights of rarefied discussion attended by at least 2,000 gratifyingly important people from 150 countries, with heads of state, finance ministers, policy intellectuals, Nobel Prize-winning physicists, corporate executives as thick upon the ground as pine needles. Among the 1998 notables: Bill Gates, George Soros, Newt Gingrich, and Helmut Kohl (who, in his opening remarks, informs his audience that the euro is coming and they'd better get used to it, citing the leadership example of his mother, a marvelous woman, as wise as she was strong-minded, who taught her children to eat the meals placed in front of them on the kitchen table without sniveling objection). Your guide to this congregation of the international plutocracy is Harper's editor Lewis Lapham, and although he occasionally finds himself at a loss to know which late-afternoon briefings to attend, the one about El Niño or the one about robots, he manages to put the hype surrounding the global economy into a darkly humorous perspective worthy of comparison to Mark Twain's 'The Innocents Abroad.' In addition to his itinerary during the 1998 Davos summit, Lapham also provides an account of a later economic conference held in New York, which also serves as a recap of the extremely volatile year, and a dictionary of received ideas wherein we learn, to pick one example, that bureaucrats are 'Enemies of Free Enterprise'. No bureaucrat knows what it means to meet a...

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