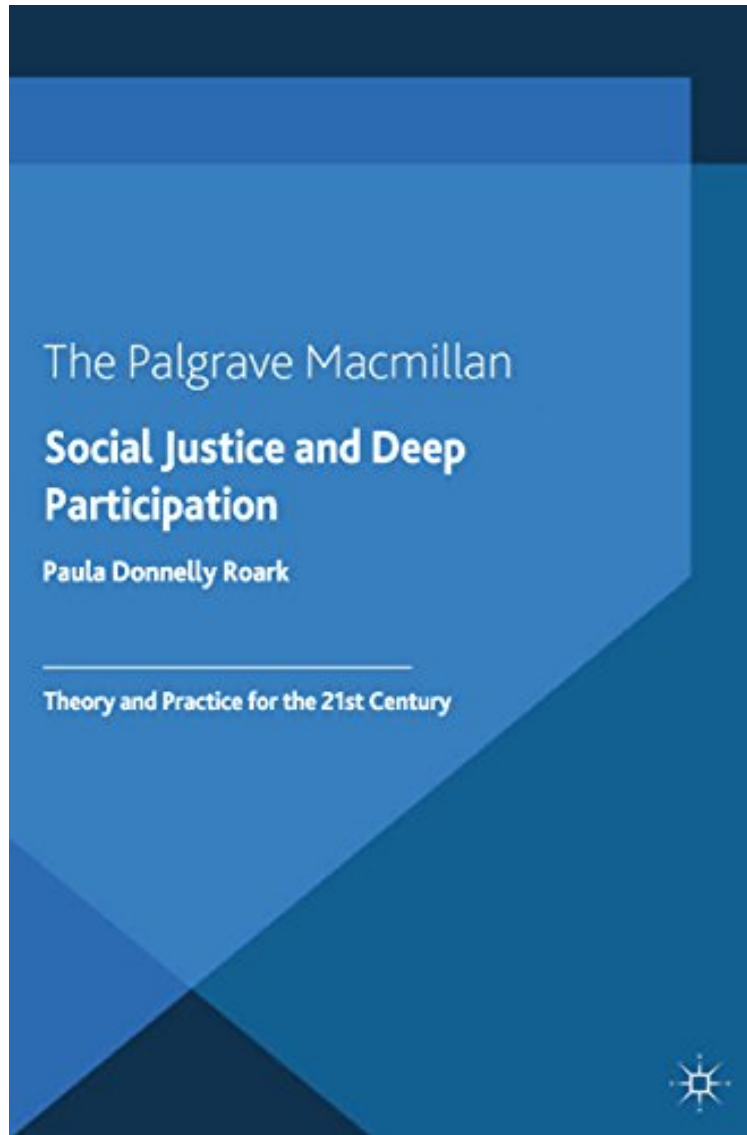


[Free pdf] Social Justice and Deep Participation: Theory and Practice for the 21st Century

Social Justice and Deep Participation: Theory and Practice for the 21st Century

Paula Donnelly Roark
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Paula Donnelly Roark : Social Justice and Deep Participation: Theory and Practice for the 21st Century before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Social Justice and Deep Participation: Theory and Practice for the 21st Century:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A powerful and timely analysisBy GraceSocial Justice and deep participation: Theory and practice for the 21st century is based on an analysis of community participation and how this generates social change in various countries in Africa, as well as North America.This is a powerful book. Its theme,

which explores the basis of social integrative power, social legitimacy has far reaching implications. It uncovers the grass roots social mechanisms required for good governance. As such it is prescient and timely. At present we are witnessing the fragility of governments; the implosion of states, giving rise to a growing wave of nationless refugees. They are not only victims of poor governance within their communities of origin; but also of poor global governance perpetuated by policies imposed by the countries in which they are obliged to seek refuge. As an Africanist I believe that her work in Africa has shed light on secrets of community participation that few scholars have had the opportunity to observe. Despite their recent post-colonial political history, African societies have a long historical record of non-coercive, community based systems of governance. These societies have yielded prosperity, safety and stability for centuries prior to colonization. ...Donnelly Roark's book is based on the analysis of the internalized participation dynamics of these communities and their contributions to governance methods. These governance mechanisms, because of their deep participation-have social legitimacy. Consequently they have survived despite the myriad macro-political and macro-economic changes that the countries witnessed in the past 150 years. Her book is not only a philosophical discussion on the significance of participation, but it is a significant contribution to our understanding of the factors underpinning sustainable governance. It explores the mechanism by which small communities harness political power in their favor. Her insights on the transformational effects of collective altruism as well as the combined importance of critical thought and ritual as universal methods of legitimizing values are profound. They provide timeless methods for documenting the manner in which communities establish methods of universal inclusion and therefore of sustainable governance.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A stimulating blend of theory, practice, research, and practical utility. By Paul Friedman This book describes, advocates, grounds in case study research, and elaborates a comprehensive theoretical basis for a "deep participation" approach to social change. It demonstrates how, in the midst of rapid change (such as we are experiencing nearly everywhere in the world), a society's existing institutions can harness their "social integrative power" to direct, stabilize, and sustain positively evolving forces and assure that they progress in constructive directions. Readers interested in social, political, and economic change for greater social justice will find it insightful and inspiring. And its ideas and examples are applicable to a wide range of situations. Dr. Donnelly Roark's concepts and experiences relate to the interests of concerned citizens, aspiring change agents, and academic researchers, as well as to scholars who would appreciate a new, well-articulated social participation theory that integrates many salient constructs. Perhaps you live in a community, a state, a nation, or a region where rapid change is occurring or is imminent. You, and the organizations in which you participate, can influence the direction and stability of that change. Your options aren't limited, for example, to eliciting large donations, electing preferred candidates, or chanting slogans on behalf of your cause. Deep participation is a third force, a "social integrative power" that can be just as potent and far more beneficial. In fact, economic, political, and social power constitute the inherent dynamics of the world. Each represents an existential human need--survival, volition, and connection. Too often we think first and foremost about the first two, but now we have a third to employ. Indeed, balancing the three effectively is the key to successful change efforts. The book begins by reviewing contrasting "ordinary" and "deep" public engagement. It articulates six elements that interact to constitute the process of deep participation. Then it describes, in vivid, detailed case studies, how these elements contributed to poverty reduction in several West African nations, especially Burkina Faso, and to cooperation among social groups with divergent environmental beliefs in solving contentious water problems in North America. This section is my favorite, since the author's first-hand experience with the dynamics she describes brings to life the multi-faceted process of deep participation. Dr. Donnelly Roark has worked in Africa as a researcher, consultant, participation practitioner, and social activist for more than 30 years. Her work involved her in social change processes in Morocco, Burkina Faso, Somalia, Kenya, the Congo, and the Central African Republic. She has worked with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the African Development Foundation (ADF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and her own participation consulting firm. So she knows whereof she speaks. Deep participation is not a new force--it has always been there--and it has been intermittently triggered into operation in societies caught up in the vortex of rapid social change. But now, with the aid of Dr. Donnelly Roark's extraordinary analysis of deep participation and her integration of it into a broader participatory social theory, we have much greater ability to talk about, study, teach, and act upon this fundamental social dynamic. This book provides information, wisdom, hope, and direction for people who, in their personal or professional lives, want to make a difference regarding the pressing issues of our time, such as climate change, economic inequality, and social justice. Reading it leaves one more knowledgeable, empowered, and optimistic. It is thought-provoking, moving, and well-written. I highly recommend it.

Knowing what deep participation is, and how it works, can make a critical difference in solving 21st century economic, political, and social problems. This book provides a new approach to hands-on change and begins

formulation of a participatory social theory promising greater prosperity and justice for all.