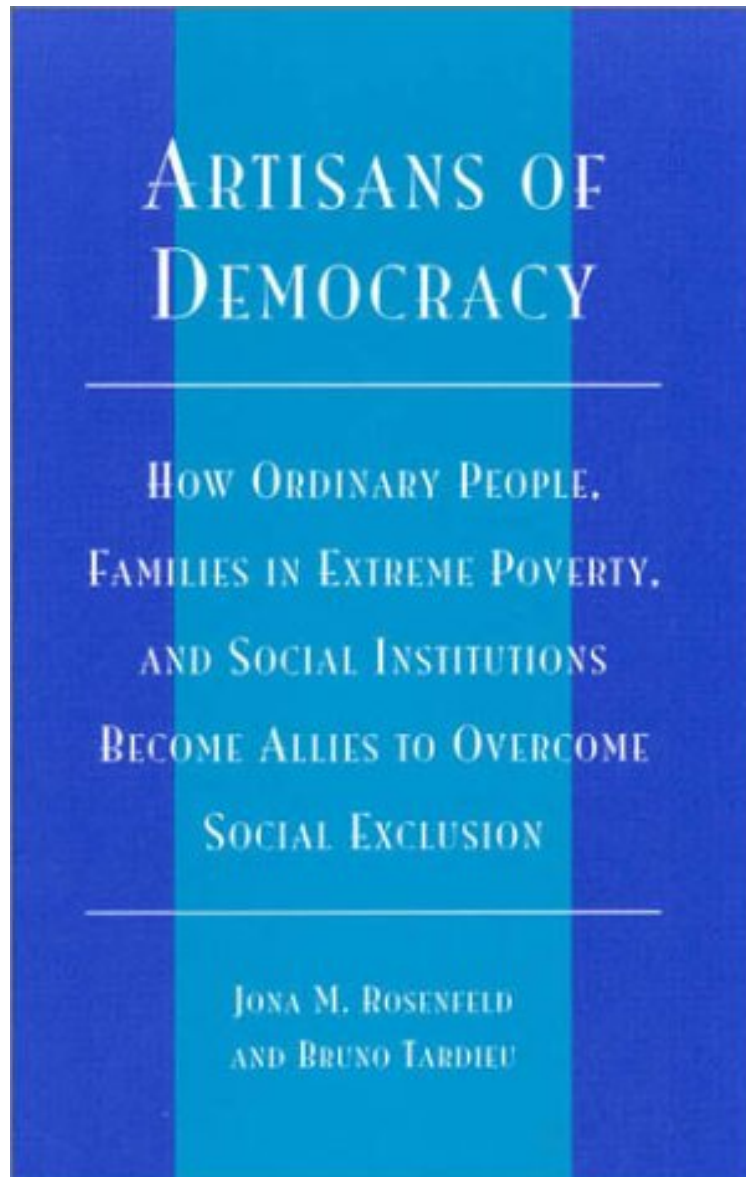



[Ebook free] Artisans of Democracy: How Ordinary People, Families in Extreme Poverty, and Social Institutions Become Allies to Overcome Social Exclusion

Artisans of Democracy: How Ordinary People, Families in Extreme Poverty, and Social Institutions Become Allies to Overcome Social Exclusion

Jona M. Rosenfeld, Bruno Tardieu
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whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Artisans of Democracy: How Ordinary People, Families in Extreme Poverty, and Social Institutions Become Allies to Overcome Social Exclusion*:

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Fresh Ideas for Overcoming Poverty By Joe Kubik In *Artisans of Democracy* by Bruno Tardieu and Jona M. Rosenfeld, the authors share with us a view on poverty and the institutions connected with families living in poverty which scrapes below the economic surface to ask questions and give suggestions about the nature of poverty itself and the human relation to it. Compared to conventional North American thinking, the idea of poverty that gives this book its foundation is profoundly different. Tardieu and Rosenfeld propose that poverty is an economic issue on only the most basic level, that poverty means the stigmatization, the exclusion, and the marginalization which the extremely poor suffer at the hands of the rest of society. They propose that our distant, aloof, academic study and theorization of those in poverty only adds to the feeling of exclusion that they experience. Tardieu and Rosenfeld instead give a revolutionarily positive account of 12 social institutions, from schools to judicial systems, from utility companies to international governing bodies, working together with those afflicted with poverty to overcome their exclusion from society and these institutions. They practice their own beliefs by studying in depth the lives of those in poverty and how, through communication and appeals to basic human rights, they work together with complex and bureaucratic institutions to solve a specific problem. They then draw on these stories to reveal how success, or at least a pathway to success, was achieved. A fundamental part of the success begins with the institutions' change in thought about the family living in poverty. Instead of the commonly accepted, paternalistic, "strong helping the weak" relationship, these institutions only make headway when they begin some level of reciprocal learning. When the institution says, "We can learn from you how to work with people living in poverty to allow both of us to succeed", a door opens. Until that first step, until the institution realizes that it is dealing with human beings and not class groups or statistics, all meaningful paths of communication are closed. Tardieu and Rosenfeld do no feign to have an answer to overcoming poverty. They instead ask us to take a small but extremely challenging step, to begin giving all people one of their basic human rights: to be treated as a human being, and to be included in all of human society, despite class status.

Is extreme poverty inevitable in our affluent societies? The twelve case studies in *Artisans of Democracy* show how very poor people, ordinary citizens, and institutions (schools, the government, the news media, the courts, churches, universities, public utilities, unions, and small businesses) succeeded in creating alliances. They became partners in order to overcome social exclusion and radically change the inhuman conditions in which very poor people lived, as well as the practice and policies that lead to these conditions. The book then discusses implications for research, democratic theory and public policies and draws lessons for action that would enlighten any academician, professional, activist, practitioner, or citizen concerned by the persistence of extreme poverty. Tardieu and Rosenfeld present new ways to think and act toward overcoming poverty at the private or public local, national, or international levels.

A fine book, a tribute to the work of the Fourth World Movement. (Mary Jo Bane, Harvard University) This is a beautiful book about the work of Father Wresinski and his colleagues with the poorest of the poor in Europe, and it is unique in that it speaks not only of 'serving' people in poverty but honoring their dignity and learning from their works and lives. (Jonathan Kozol, Author, "The Shame of the Nation") '*Artisans of Democracy*' offers a VISIONARY REALISM that can improve the lives of the most excluded-and all of us. (S.M. Miller, Boston College) This book should be required reading for social policy makers and those trying to understand how social change occurs. (Daniel Kronenfeld, Executive Director, Henry Street Settlement, New York). . . because the guidelines for social action can be applied to many projects, the book will have great relevance for practitioners. . . its message will be especially welcome in a world where faith-based organizations and 'compassionate conservatism' carry the day. (Politics, Social Movements, and The State) At a time when private charity is being portrayed as an alternative to public services, this book carries a very different message, showing that an empathetic and participatory voluntarism can be the compliment and not the alternative to a generous public sector. An important book. (Frances Fox Piven, author of *Poor People's Movements*) A fine book, a tribute to the work of the Fourth World Movement. (Mary Jo Bane, Harvard University) '*Artisans of Democracy*' offers a VISIONARY REALISM that can improve the lives of the most excluded-and all of us. (S.M. Miller, Boston College) This book should be required reading for social policy makers and those trying to understand how social change occurs. (Daniel Kronenfeld, Executive Director, Henry Street Settlement, New York). . . because the guidelines for social action can be applied to many projects, the book will have great relevance for practitioners. . . its message will be especially welcome in a world where faith-based organizations and 'compassionate conservatism' carry the day. (Politics, Social Movements, and The State) All told, '*Artisans of Democracy*' offers a jarring and energizing read, one quite different from run-of-the-mill political theory. In its narrative- and its theoretical reflection firmly rooted in the narratives- the book challenges many familiar political philosophical assumptions and conceptualizations. (David Kahane, University of Alberta Social Theory and

Practice)...useful for professors and students interested in capturing the ups, downs, and complexities of direct community practice... (Journal Of Community Practice)About the AuthorJona M. Rosenfeld is the Gordon Brown Professor Emeritus and former Director of the Paul Baerwald School of Social Work, Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Senior Advisor, JDC-Brookdale Center for Children and Youth and JDC Israel. Bruno Tardieu is Co-Director of Fourth World Movement/USA, and a visiting lecturer at MIT Department for Urban Studies and Planning.