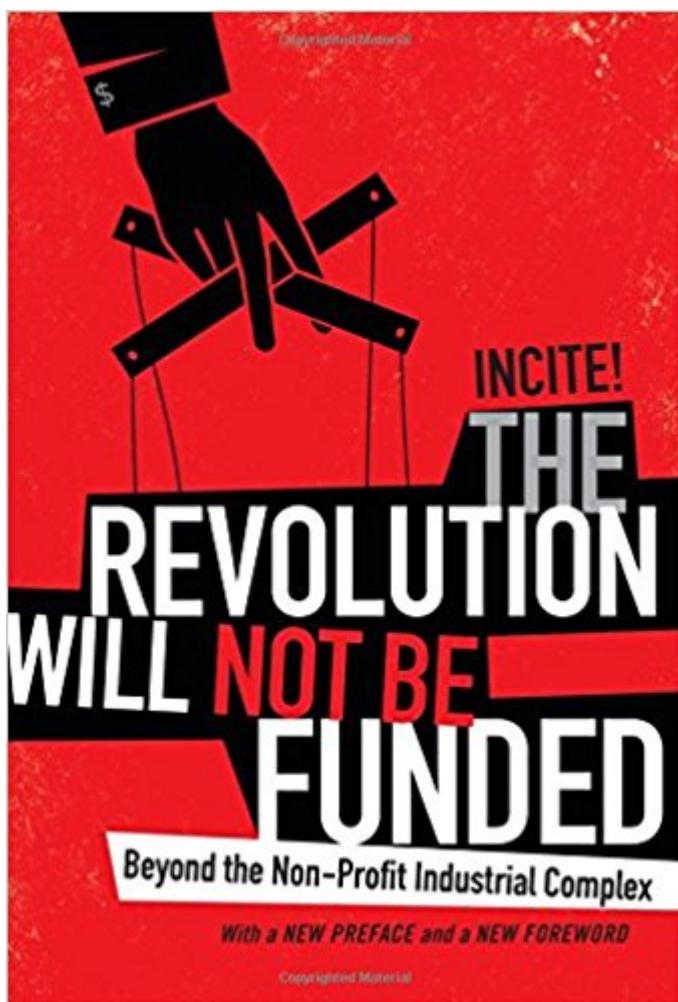


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# The Revolution Will Not Be Funded: Beyond The Non-Profit Industrial Complex



## Synopsis

A trillion-dollar industry, the USA's non-profit sector is one of the world's largest economies. From art museums and university hospitals to think tanks and church charities, over 1.5 million organizations of staggering diversity share the tax-exempt 501(c)(3) designation, if little else. Many social justice organizations have joined this world, often blunting political goals to satisfy government and foundation mandates. But even as funding shrinks, many activists often find it difficult to imagine movement-building outside the non-profit model. *The Revolution Will Not Be Funded* gathers essays by radical activists, educators, and non-profit staff from around the globe who critically rethink the long-term consequences of what they call the "non-profit industrial complex." Drawing on their own experiences, the contributors track the history of non-profits and provide strategies to transform and work outside them. Urgent and visionary, *The Revolution Will Not Be Funded* presents a biting critique of the quietly devastating role the non-profit industrial complex plays in managing dissent. Contributors. Christine E. Ahn, Robert L. Allen, Alisa Bierria, Nicole Burrowes, Communities Against Rape and Abuse (CARA), William Cordery, Morgan Cousins, Ruth Wilson Gilmore, Stephanie Guilloud, Adjoa Florância Jones de Almeida, Tiffany Lethabo King, Paul Kivel, Soniya Munshi, Ewuare Osayande, Amara H. Pârez, Project South: Institute for the Elimination of Poverty and Genocide, Dylan Rodrâguez, Paula X. Rojas, Ana Clarissa Rojas Durazo, Sisters in Action for Power, Andrea Smith, Eric Tang, Madonna Thunder Hawk, Ije Ude, Craig Willse

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## Customer Reviews

"The Revolution Will Not Be Funded gives us valuable insight into what these activists call 'the non-profit industrial complex,' an unseen web of money and power that tries to undermine people's struggles for racial, class, economic, gender, and environmental justice. It deserves the closest study." (Mumia Abu-Jamal)"This collection presents a context for the questions that have been troubling us about non-profit structures. In years to come, we will mark it as the jump-start for our new thinking about ways to make collective social change." (Suzanne Pharr, author of *In the Time of the Right: Reflections on Liberation*)"A stinging indictment of what the authors call the 'non-profit industrial complex,'" (Elisabeth PrÃfÃ gl Signs)"The Revolution Will Not Be Funded is a must-read for all of us who are living in the U.S., the crossroads of empire and global capitalism. Seriously addressing the questions and critiques raised by this collection will help today's U.S.-based justice movements make sense of our responsibilities—and envision creative opportunities—to help map a transformative future for liberation." (Joo-Hyun Kang, member, CAAAV Organizing Asian Communities)"Fiery" (Utne Reader)"Powerfully demonstrate[s] what we too often forget: our attempts at securing safety for ourselves and our communities are subject to much more powerful attempts by the state and society to make itself safe—including to make itself safe from us and our most radical, challenging, revolutionary, feminist ideas." (Ruthann Robson *Women's Studies Quarterly*)"Although The Revolution Will Not Be Funded presents no easy answers for those of us struggling both to make a living and to create social change, it exhorts us to put the consideration of our movements' missions, and the way we fulfill them, before considerations of organizational and job security—and to regularly revisit within our organizations the question of whether the form and the content of our work are essentially compatible." (Christy Thornton *NACLA Report on the Americas*)"Are non-profit organizations sufficiently accountable and responsive to the larger aims of popular social movements, or is the 'non-profit industrial complex' thawing the potential for fundamental social change? The Revolution Will Not Be Funded provides a variety of critical perspectives that challenge the conventional foundation model and non-profit system approach to popular organizing in capitalist America. Sure to be a provocative book for activists working for social justice." (Daniel Faber, editor of *Foundations for Social Change*)

all forms of violence against women, gender non-conforming, and trans people of color through direct action, critical dialogue, and grassroots organizing.

I've been involved in the nonprofit world for some years, and this book cuts right to the heart of all that is wrong with that world, while providing possible alternatives at the same time. This book also, through its format of essays from people who are involved in the work, goes beyond purely pontificating and directly into practical applications of the ideas they present. Buy this book for yourself, buy it for any friends you have.

A must read for those of us seeking alternatives to the foundation-funded approach toward making social change. Understanding how neoliberal ideas have become so deeply embedded into almost all aspects of society, *The Revolution Will Not Be Funded* offers exciting insights into alternative paths for true social justice.

Should be required reading for all US citizens. Critical examinations and effective strategies offered by those who are at work in our communities.

Very usefulQ

Just the article "Fundraising Is Not a Dirty Word" was well worth the price of the book.

Very eye-opening.

Edited volumes are always a mixed bag, and this one is no exception. It is unusual in that there is a clear trajectory in the quality. The first two essays are academic mumbo jumbo, classic examples of a distinct style of pseudo-critical posturing in which militarizing one's vocabulary (they intervene in discourses! they interrogate concepts!) passes as actually doing something. This kind of opaque writing moves through a series of cliches (hiss at patriarchy, denounce capitalism) without nary a thought for evidence but quite certain of its profundity. This is more offensive and embarrassing here in that these writers, who have guaranteed lifetime employment (tenure), criticize people for their participation in the hustle for grants, as if the people who have to do it are unaware of the problems. That's breathtaking in a genre that prides itself on being self-reflexive. After that, however, the essays steadily improve, with the degree of insight varying inversely to the author's connection

to academia and maybe half to two-third should be required reading for people who work in nonprofits. The biggest criticism I have of even the best essays is that they don't offer much on alternatives. Detailed descriptions of the daily life of US grassroots organizing before the rise of nonprofits would have been especially helpful. Several quite interesting essays use grassroots organizing in the Americas south of the US border as a model of engaging people with nonprofit organizations, but even they don't give a sense of what that would mean in this country. A group in New York City that became a 501(c)(3) and then returned to being all volunteer receives a lot of attention for seemingly successfully doing just that. The different perspectives on that group do not, however, give a clear sense of what people do for money. There's just an acknowledgment that it's tougher to participate if you have a family and a comment to the effect that they 'lost some people along the way.' All of this just begs for answers to the questions of what happened to the paid staff and how participants now balance (or don't) their engagement with childcare and other family responsibilities. Odd for an explicitly feminist work. Another criticism that could be made is that the essays have surprisingly little to say about the structure of 501(c)(3) status--the role of boards, the limits on lobbying, etc. These characteristics are alluded to but never faced squarely, which seems to be quite an oversight given the purpose and themes of this book.

Every hippie should read this

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