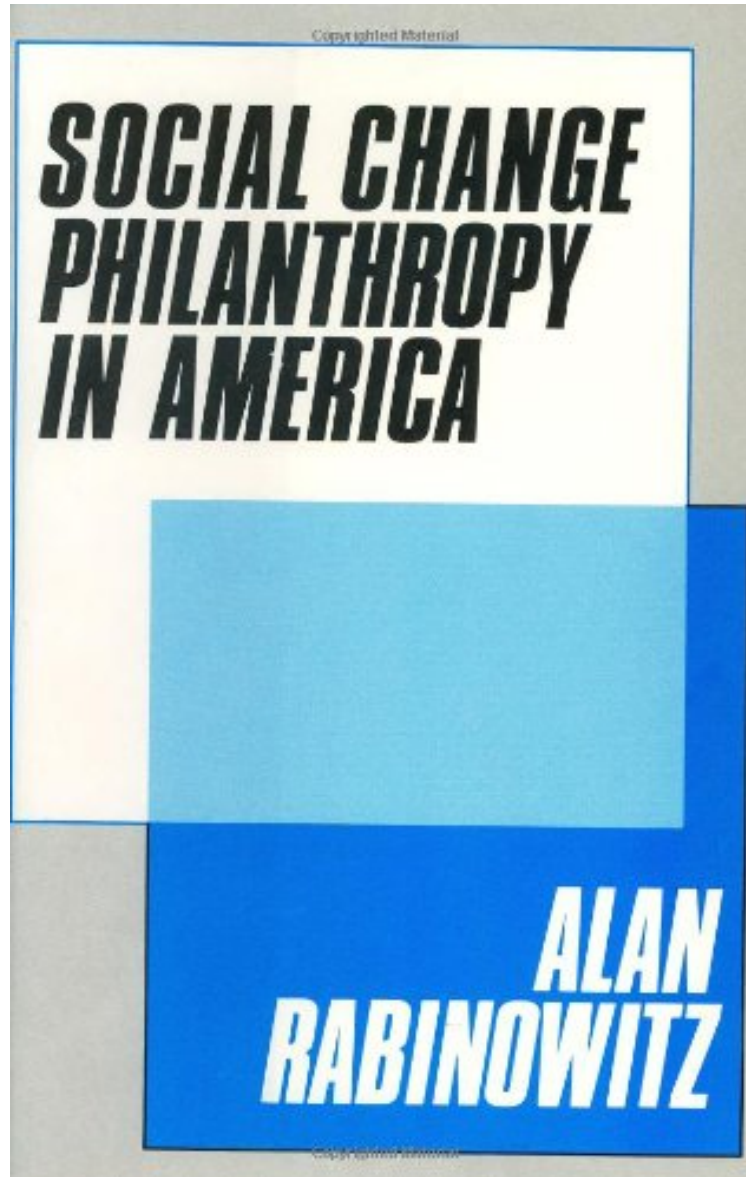


(Download) Social Change Philanthropy in America

## Social Change Philanthropy in America

*Alan Rabinowitz*

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**Alan Rabinowitz : Social Change Philanthropy in America** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Social Change Philanthropy in America:

Alan Rabinowitz provides the first comprehensive analysis of the nontraditional or social change philanthropists who

help finance national campaigns and grassroots organizations that focus on improving American society and the environment, particularly for minority and low-income people. Written both for funders and grantees already in the field and those just beginning to fund nontraditional activities, *Social Change Philanthropy in America* examines the experience, operational practices, and future prospects of philanthropists who have been involved in such activities over the past thirty years. Rabinowitz offers new insights into who the funders are and how they think, how funders actually make decisions, what types of grants are made, and the tax, political, and historical aspects of social change funding and its role in America's philanthropic system. Beginning with an introduction to the network of progressive social change funders and grantees and the philanthropic universe within which they operate, Rabinowitz goes on to analyze the flow of dollars through the nonprofit system. The next two sections present detailed portraits of social change funders and grantees. In part four, the author discusses whether grants for progressive social change are effective and worthwhile, whether grantees are sufficiently accountable, and whether funders and grantees are meeting each other's needs. He then explores progressive funding as an arena of controversy, conflicting ideologies, and, ultimately, electoral politics. The final chapter looks at challenges and prospects for the progressive social change community as strategies for organizing, campaigning, and fundraising are developed for the future. The appendix illustrates in more detail the range and substance of the field for readers with little previous knowledge of progressive social change philanthropy.

"In this valuable book Rabinowitz focuses on the estimated 200 to 300 million dollars of philanthropic funds devoted to progressive social change' out of the approximately 253 billion dollars available to the nonprofit sector of American society. Although they receive less than .12% of available funds, it is these grantees who are committed to creating progressive social change in society, literally improving the societal system by making it more fair. Often they are organizations dedicated to empowering weaker groups and freeing the political process from domination by the financial needs of the media.' While putting the social change advocacy in context, the author effectively describes the current field of philanthropy, identifies the functions of the Foundation Center and the independent sector within the networks of philanthropy, and analyzes the need for new rationales in charity. From his database, he provides brief descriptions of 91 prototypical project grants from social change philanthropists. The book is well researched and provocatively written."-Choice

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"Rabinowitz's book is a major contribution to understanding an important, neglected, growing sector of American philanthropy. His study of progressive, social change foundations is well-written and compact, comprehensive and analytic. By depicting the tensions and possibilities of these foundations, this essential guide points to major issues facing all of philanthropy. It moves the study of philanthropy to a new level."-S. M. Miller Former Board Member Field Foundation

"This is a book that would be useful to any donor, irrespective of whether they agree with its assumptions or conclusions. Not surprisingly, a scholar who feels so passionately about empowering people has also provided a rich array of ideas for how we can all make our grantmaking more humane. The book is also a valuable contribution to philanthropic literature because it documents an often misunderstood phenomenon in charitable giving."-Mary Stewart Hall President and Trustee Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation

About the Author ALAN RABINOWITZ has been active in the field of social change philanthropy for two decades. He is a consultant on urban land economics, state/local finance, and real estate markets and a former Professor of Urban Planning at the University of Washington. Among his previous books is *Land Investment and the Predevelopment Process* (Quorum, 1988).