

Transformative Organizing in the 21st Century

Playbook for Progressives by Eric Mann

I haven't been this excited about a book since *Rules for Radicals* by Saul Alinsky. *Playbook for Progressives* by Eric Mann digs in and delivers what every organizer needs: not theory, cheerleading, or advice, but experience. Raw, bare knuckle, ready to tackle whatever you've got to throw at me experience.

Mann defines and describes the roles and qualities needed to be a successful organizer with a skill and dexterity that proves his mettle. He doesn't bore down on the reader with brain numbing pedagogical drills. He tells stories. He illustrates the internal combustion of organizing with tales of his own and other progressives whom he met in civil rights, peace, labor, and environmental struggles.

Mann is best known by UAW activists for his book *Taking on General Motors* which narrates the successful drive to keep the Van Nuys, California GM plant open in the eighties. But he began his organizing career in the freedom movement working for the Congress Of Racial Equality. His credits include, but are not limited to, the Newark Community Union Project, the Students for a Democratic Society, the UAW New Directions Movement, the Labor/Community Strategy Center, and my favorite, The Bus Riders Union.

In Chapter 12 Mann says an organizer must be an expert in everything. I was dismayed until I realized the gist of the book is that the whole is greater than its parts. The individual cannot do or know everything. That's why we need organizations. Every progressive will be able to find his or her rightful position in the organization and learn how to execute game changing plays with this handbook for creative revolutionary action.

Playbook for Progressives won't find a place on your bookshelf because it will move from hand to hand as quick as Tinkers to Evers to Chance. It may wear a groove in your dashboard, it may rend a pocket from your backpack, but it won't require a dust-jacket to protect it from the elements of conflict. This book was designed for high impact. Buy a bundle and peddle them like ammo for the soldiers of solidarity. I can't think of a better kickoff for a transformational century.

sos, Gregg Shotwell

Order *Playbook for Progressives* at:
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