

NEW BOOK RELEASE

***Helping People Help Themselves:***

*From the World Bank to an Alternative Philosophy of Development Assistance*

By David Ellerman

Foreword by Albert O. Hirschman

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*Helping People Help Themselves* grew out of David Ellerman's ten years at the World Bank—and particularly out of his three years as advisor and speechwriter for Joseph Stiglitz during Stiglitz's tumultuous term as the Bank's Chief Economist. The book provides a structural critique of the World Bank's approach to development assistance—but the main purpose is to lay the intellectual foundations for an alternative approach. The book takes a broad interdisciplinary approach drawing from educational theory, management theory, community organizing, psychology, and philosophy. While many thinkers are discussed, there is a focus on eight individuals who have wrestled with the fundamental conundrum of trying to give external help that promotes (rather than thwarts) self-help. Those individuals are: Albert Hirschman, John Dewey, Paulo Freire, E. F. Schumacher, Douglas McGregor, Carl Rogers, Saul Alinsky, and Søren Kierkegaard. *Helping People Help Themselves* might be considered the companion volume focusing on the World Bank to Stiglitz's *Globalization and Its Discontents* which focused on the IMF.

"Ellerman provides a compelling humanist understanding of how economic development aid can succeed, if only people and nations are enabled to help themselves."

— William Greider author, *The Soul of Capitalism: Opening Paths to a Moral Economy*

"A towering achievement. It outdoes Sen and Hirshman in its reach across economics, management theory, psychology, sociology, mathematics and philosophy. The result is a coherent alternative "way of seeing" the relationship between aid organizations based in rich countries and aid recipients based in poorer ones, and some practical suggestions on how to reengage the aid agencies more as "helpers" than as "doers". Along the way it fairly sizzles with insider insights into the workings of the World Bank."

—Robert Hunter Wade, Development Studies Institute, London School of Economics

**Detailed Table of Contents**

**Foreword by Albert O. Hirschman**

**Preface**

**Chapter 1: Introduction and Overview**

**Helping People Help Themselves**

**The Fundamental Helping-Self-Help Conundrum**

**The Key Factor in Development Assistance: Autonomy-Respecting Help**

**Unhelpful Help**

**The First Don't: Don't Override Self-Help Capacity with Social Engineering**

*The First Form of Unhelpful Help*

*The Indirect Approach*

**The Second Don't: Don't Undercut Self-Help Capacity with Benevolent Aid**

*The Second Form of Unhelpful Help*

*The Time-Inconsistency Problem of "Gap-Filling Aid"*

*Relief Assistance as Generalized Moral Hazard*

**The Scylla and Charybdis of Development Assistance**

**Knowledge-Based Development Assistance**

*The Cognitive Dimension of Development Assistance*

*The Two Don'ts in Knowledge-Based Assistance*

*Socratic Approach to Doers' Active Learning*

**The Three Dos**

*The First Do: Start from Where the Doers Are*

*The Second Do: See the World Through the Doers' Eyes*

*The Third Do: Respect the Autonomy of the Doers*

**Eight Thinkers Triangulate a Theory of Autonomy-Respecting Help**

**Chapter 2: Internal and External Motivation: Beyond *Homo Economicus***

**Towards a Critique of Agency Theory**

**Non-Distortionary Interventions**

*Non-Distortionary Taxes and Subsidies*

*The Common Pool Approach to Aid*

*Independence Today; "Supply Effect" Tomorrow*

*Independence and Moral Hazard*

*Commitment Mechanisms to Show Own-Motivation*

*Gaming the Safeguards*

**Internal and External Motivation**

*Moving Beyond *Homo Economicus**

*Foreground and Background*

*"Higher and Lower Selves"*

*Action = Behavior + Motive*

*By-Products Rather than Products of Choice*

*The Threat-to-Autonomy Effect*

*The Crowding-Out Effect*

*The "New Year's Resolutions" and Internalization Theories of Conditionalities*

*The Universal Solvent Fallacy in the Economic Design of Institutions*

**Chapter 3: The Indirect Approach**

**Introduction**

*The Indirect Approach in Strategy*

*The Indirect Approach in Biological Learning Mechanisms*

*The Indirect Approach of Selectionist Mechanisms*

**McGregor's Theory Y: A Prototype Indirect Approach**

*Step 1: Starting from the doer's problem*

*Step 2: Seeing the problem through the doer's eyes*

*Step 3: Helping the doer pursue own-ends to best solve the organizational problem*

*Step 4: Helping doer to implement, test, and refine the doer's solution*

*Step 5: Helping doer gain autonomy and take responsibility for solution*

**Intrinsic Motivation and Theory Y**

**Chapter 4: Indirect Approaches: Intellectual History**

**Introduction**

**Taoist Antecedents**

**The Socratic Method**

**The Path of Stoicism**

**Learning in Neo-Platonism**

**The Learning Paradox and Augustine**

**Rousseau's Copernican Revolution in Pedagogy**

**John Dewey and the Active Learning Pedagogy**

**Carl Rogers' Non-Directive Therapy**  
**Søren Kierkegaard and Ludwig Wittgenstein on Indirect Communication**  
**Gilbert Ryle and Michael Polanyi on Uncodified Knowledge**  
**Gandhi and Satyagraha**  
**Summary of Common Theme: B-ing and Non-B-ing**

## **Chapter 5: Autonomy-Respecting Development Assistance**

**Development Intervention as a Principal-Agent Relationship**  
**First Do: Starting from Present Institutions**  
**Second Do: Seeing the World Through the Eyes of the Client**  
**First Don't: Transformation Cannot be Externally Imposed**  
**Second Don't: Addams-Dewey-Lasch Critique of Benevolence**  
**Third Do: Respect Autonomy of Doers**

## **Chapter 6: Knowledge-Based Development Assistance**

**The Standard Methodology and Its Problems**

*The Standard Theory-in-Use*  
*The Volitional and Cognitive Sides of Helping Theory*  
*Ownership Problems*  
*Self-Efficacy Problems*  
*Cognitive Dependency Problems*

**Examples of Building "In-capacity"**

*Core Courses*  
*Training of Trainers*  
*Training Networks*  
*Fees For Service*  
*Evaluations*  
*Public Relations and Other Influence Activities*  
*Economic and Sector Work: A "Jobs Program" for Bank Economists*  
*External Aid Agencies Co-opting Local Talent*  
*Unsustainable Missionary Outposts*

**Types of Development Knowledge**

*Universal versus Local Knowledge*  
*Codified versus Tacit Knowledge*  
*Cargo Cult Reforms: "Where is the road that leads to cargo?"*

**Knowledge Assistance: Brokering Between Experiments, Not Disseminating Answers**

## **Chapter 7: Can Development Agencies Learn and Help Clients Learn?**

**Introduction: A "Church" versus a Learning Organization**

*Roadblock to Learning #1: Official Views as Dogma—with Examples*  
*Roadblock to Learning #2: Funded Assumptions as Dogma*  
*Roadblock to Learning #3: "Social Science" as Dogma*  
*Roadblock to Learning #4: The Rage to Conclude*

**The Open Learning Model**

**Competition and Devil's Advocacy in the Open Learning Model**

*Devil's Advocacy and Countervailance*  
*The General Case for Devil's Advocacy*  
*Problems in Implementing Devil's Advocacy*  
*Devil's Advocacy as the Qualitative Version of the Opportunity Cost Doctrine*  
*Evaluation = Retrospective Devil's Advocacy*  
*Variations: Adversarial Legal Process, The Loyal Opposition, Separation of Powers, and Civil Society*

**Non-dogmatism and Socratic Ignorance in Organizations**

**Rethinking the Agency-Country Relationship**

## **Chapter 8: Case Study: Assistance to the Transition Countries**

**The Challenge of the Transition**

**The Privatization Debates: Did History have a "Timeout" under Communism?**

**Voucher Privatization**

*The Ideas Behind the Scheme*

*The "Arguments" for the Scheme*

**Voucher Privatization was a *Political* Strategy**  
**Institutional Shock Therapy versus Incrementalism**  
**China: An Incrementalist Transition**  
**Why an Incrementalist Approach Might be Successful**  
**The Lease Buyout Counterfactual**  
**Closing Remarks on the Transition Case Study**

## **Chapter 9: Hirschmanian Themes of Social Learning and Change**

**Introduction**

**The Balanced Growth Debate**

**Conditionality-Based Development Aid: The New "Big Push"**

**Unbalanced Growth Processes**

**Cognitive Side of Unbalanced Growth**

**Bridges to Other Thinkers**

*Herbert Simon's Theory of Bounded Rationality*

*Charles Lindblom's Theory of Incrementalism and Muddling-Through*

*Burton Klein's Vision of Dynamic Economics*

*Jane Jacobs' Vision of Development*

*Donald Schön's Theory of Decentralized Social Learning*

*Everett Rogers' Theory of Decentralized Innovation and Diffusion*

*Just-in-Time Inventory and Continuous Improvement Systems*

*Charles Sabel's Theory of Learning by Monitoring*

**Parallel Experimentation as a Basic Scheme for Learning Under Uncertainty**

## **Chapter 10: Conclusions**

**Concluding the Example of the World Bank**

*Can the World Bank Change?*

*Structural Problem #1: Monopolistic Power*

*Structural Problem #2: Affiliation with United States' Policies and Interests*

*Structural Problem #3: Money is Not the Key to Development Assistance*

*Structural Problem #4: Working Through Governments that are Part of the Problem*

*Structural Problem #5: Tries to Control Bad Clients Rather Than Exit Relationship*

*A Modest Proposal for the World Bank: Decentralization with Extreme Prejudice*

**Concluding Remarks**

## **Appendix: Eight Thinkers on the Five Themes**

**First Do: Starting From Where the Doers Are**

**Second Do: Seeing Through the Doers' Eyes**

**First Don't: Don't Try to Impose Change on Doers**

**Second Don't: Don't Give Help as Benevolence**

**Third Do: Respect Autonomy of the Doers**

## **Bibliography**

David Ellerman was the advisor and speech-writer for Joseph Stiglitz during Stiglitz's three years as Chief Economist of the World Bank. Prior to the World Bank, Ellerman taught at various universities in a number of fields. Currently, he is a visiting scholar in the Economics Department of the University of California in Riverside and is consulting on development and worker ownership issues.

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