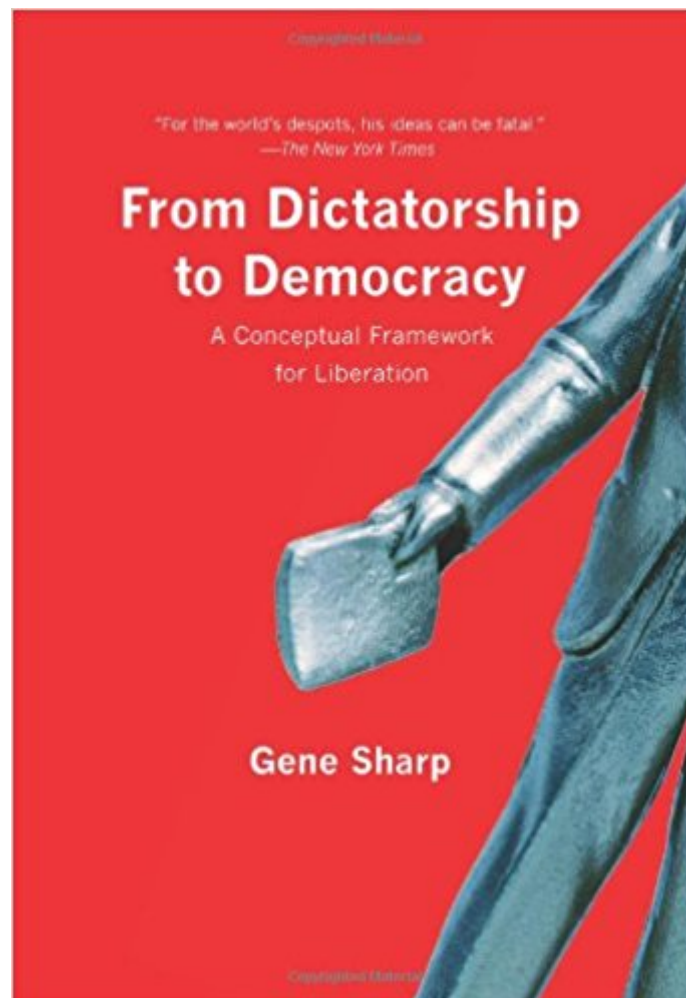




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From Dictatorship To Democracy: A Conceptual Framework For Liberation



Synopsis

Twenty-one years ago, at a friend's request, a Massachusetts professor sketched out a blueprint for nonviolent resistance to repressive regimes. It would go on to be translated, photocopied, and handed from one activist to another, traveling from country to country across the globe: from Iran to Venezuela; where both countries consider Gene Sharp to be an enemy of the state; to Serbia; Afghanistan; Vietnam; the former Soviet Union; China; Nepal; and, more recently and notably, Tunisia, Egypt, Yemen, Libya, and Syria, where it has served as a guiding light of the Arab Spring. This short, pithy, inspiring, and extraordinarily clear guide to overthrowing a dictatorship by nonviolent means lists 198 specific methods to consider, depending on the circumstances: sit-ins, popular nonobedience, selective strikes, withdrawal of bank deposits, revenue refusal, walkouts, silence, and hunger strikes. From Dictatorship to Democracy is the remarkable work that has made the little-known Sharp into the world's most effective and sought-after analyst of resistance to authoritarian regimes.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“That's the power of Sharp's work and this nonviolent struggle, it doesn't matter who you are—black, white, Muslim, Christian, gay, straight, or oppressed minority—it's useable. If they study it, anybody can do this.” —Srdja Popovic, director, Center for Applied Non Violent Action & Strategies --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

Gene Sharp advises governments and resistance movements around the world and is considered the most influential living promoter of nonviolent resistance to autocratic governments. He is Professor Emeritus of Political Science at the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth. He currently resides in East Boston.

Great book, great author. If you are interested in the subjects of insurgency and counterinsurgency, this is a must read. Sharp lays out how modern hostile regimes cannot be undermined with violence. He describes numerous techniques for mobilizing populations and maintaining the legitimacy of freedom movements.

Rarely does a book change your perspective. From Dictatorship to Democracy changed mine. While billed as a conceptual framework, it's the truths arising from interviews that show how individuals can catalyze change in their societies leading to peaceful regime change. And while I'm utterly impressed with the clear, political implications of this book, I am almost more amazed about how its insights can be applied to business transformation. From Democracy To Dictatorship, is not only the most accessible work of politics that I've read in some time, but also one of the most lucid roadmaps to reforming management practice that I have ever encountered.

Having entered the field in the 1960s reading insurgency and counter-insurgency, with "The Age of Martin Luther King" in a separate pigeon hole, reading this book was seeing many things I thought I knew - for the first time. It is not just nuts and bolts, though those are neat - this is a thoughtful, real world but also idealistic discussion of values, philosophy and politics. Perhaps less openly spiritual or theological language than Gandhi, King or The Fellowship of Reconciliation, but not hostile to those perspectives. I am looking at the author's other books, as this book shouts that its author is well worth reading in full.

a great read for those interested in changing the attitudes of narrow minded people. the foundations provided in this book and others by gene sharp give a new perspective on how to change the world without destruction and mayhem.

This is essential reading for anyone living in an oppressive regime such as ours in Venezuela. it is also highly recommended for those who are concerned and wish to help. It is a lucid and very accessible dissertation on why, whilst we don't need your guns, your support is indispensable.

Although some of the terminology is dated, the plea for non-violent struggle as apposed to violent coup is of universal appeal! Both liberal and conservatives will find something to like in this volume. The author makes a good case that, in most circumstances, non-violent action produces more lasting benefits and less destruction than violence.

awesome

An essential book for anyone interested in non-violent positive social change.

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