

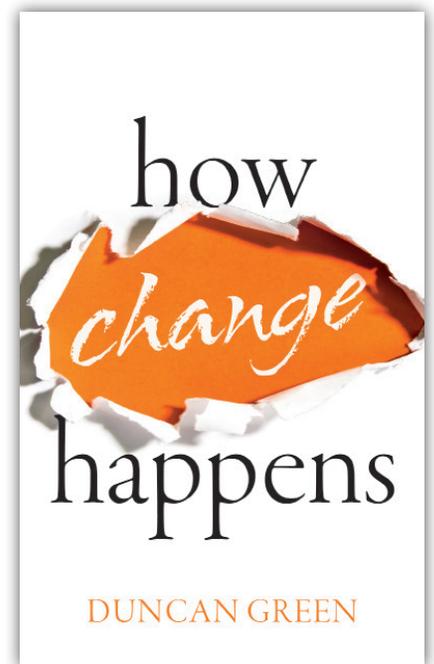
How Change Happens

Duncan Green

Human society is full of would-be ‘change agents’, a restless mix of campaigners, lobbyists, and officials, both individuals and organizations, set on transforming the world.

Striking then, that universities have no Department of Change Studies, to which social activists can turn for advice and inspiration. Instead, scholarly discussions of change are fragmented with few conversations crossing disciplinary boundaries, rarely making it onto the radars of those actively seeking change.

This book bridges the gap between academia and practice, bringing together the best research from a range of academic disciplines and the evolving practical understanding of activists to explore the topic of social and political change.



- Unique combination of on the ground experience with wide reading of academic literature
- Numerous new case studies and interviews with grassroots activists and organizations around the world

About the Author

Duncan Green is Oxfam GB's Senior Strategic Adviser. He also teaches on international development at the London School of Economics, where he is a Professor in Practice. His blog is one of the most widely read on international development, and is named after his book "From Poverty to Power".

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How Change Happens explores how political and social change takes place, and the role of individuals and organizations in influencing that change

Contents

1 Power and systems: Seeing the world in terms of complex systems, with their multiple connections and feedback loops, changes the way we perceive change (less predictable, more episodic) and how to influence it. Analyzing power unlocks our understanding of change: power and its renegotiation is the underlying factor that determines the evolution of many social and political systems.

Case Study: How the Chiquitanos of Bolivia won the right to a million hectares of land

2 Institutions and learning to dance: Institutions such as states (officialdom, the legal system, political parties) and the international system (both inter-governmental and large businesses) dominate many change processes. *How Change Happens* shows how those institutions are constantly evolving, how they drive change, and how they in turn can be influenced.

Case Study: The 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change

3 The role of individuals and organizations: Whether as grassroots activists or professional advocates and lobbyists, 'change agents' are everywhere. *How Change Happens* looks at how they achieve change and can improve their impact.

4 Putting it all together: *How Change Happens* sets out a 'Power and Systems approach', both to how activists need to think/feel/work, and to the kinds of questions they need to ask (and keep asking).

Who should read this book?

'Those who are purely interested in understanding better how societies change will find a treasure trove of theoretical insights and empirical evidence. Those who want to change the world through formal politics will learn a lot. Civil servants who want to make things better for citizens, or business leaders who want to do more than simply maximise profits will also find plenty of lessons.'

Cambridge economist Ha-Joon Chang, from the foreword