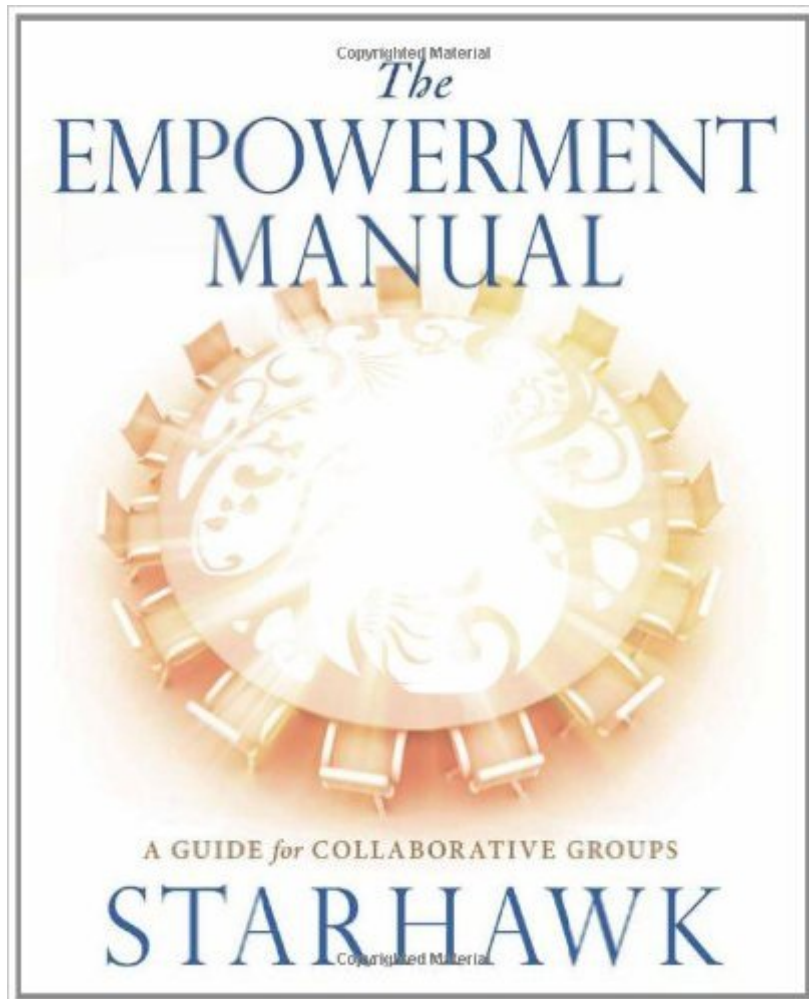


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The Empowerment Manual: A Guide For Collaborative Groups



Synopsis

A Transition Town group involved in preparations for peak oil and climate change; an intentional community, founded with the highest ideals; a nonprofit dedicated to social change—millions of such voluntary groups exist around the world. These collaborative organizations have the unique potential to harness their members' ideals, passions, skills, and knowledge—if they can succeed in getting along together. The Empowerment Manual is a comprehensive manual for groups seeking to organize with shared power and bottom-up leadership to foster vision, trust, accountability, and responsibility. This desperately needed toolkit provides keys to: Understanding group dynamics Facilitating communication and collective decision-making Dealing effectively with difficult people. Drawing on four decades of experience, Starhawk shows how collaborative groups can generate the cooperation, efficacy, and commitment critical to success. Her extensive exploration of group process is woven together with the story of RootBound—a fictional ecovillage mired in conflict—and rounded out with a series of real-life case studies. The included exercises and facilitator toolbox show how to establish the necessary structures, ground rules, and healthy norms. The Empowerment Manual is required reading for anyone who wants to help their group avoid disagreement and disillusionment and become a wellspring of creativity and innovation. Starhawk is the author of eleven previous books including the award-winning *Webs of Power*. A highly influential voice for global justice and the environment, she is deeply committed to bringing the creative power of spirituality to political activism.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book is well written, easy to use, and full of ideas for groups collaborating to accomplish something. I would absolutely recommend it to any group who has experienced frustration with the process of coming to agreement and getting things done.

This book is exactly what I need, exactly when I need it. Being part of Transition Joshua Tree, I am suddenly forced out of my solitary life and must associate with groups of people. Because of this book, I am finding it shockingly easy to change my mind about being part of a group. That windbag who talks and talks? A couple of easy to understand facilitating techniques takes care of him. Meetings that never end? Not when you use the guidelines in this manual. I now craft an agenda, and have a timeline for each segment and the era of the never-ending meeting has come to an end. Using the 4 Direction Mandala information has made me much more understanding of where the other people in the group are coming from and I can appreciate and use their strengths while filling in for their weaknesses. A heartfelt thank you to Starhawk for sitting in a million hours of meetings so that I did not have to. Another thank you for figuring all of this out so that I didn't have to do it the hard way. Collaborative groups are the future, and I now have the tools to move forward into the future. David Zimmerman/Susan Jordan

Extremely useful for cooperative group work; however my use of the exercises as written were deemed confusing by participants. We accomplished much using this system, but Starhawk isn't for every taste or group dynamic.

Star hawk gives excellent advice on running meetings along with real world examples. However, in one group the biggest problems were settled by a professional arbiter. How I wish my group had one too!

I have been struggling to understand why a group I belong to makes me want to walk away from it. I decided to take some time to figure out what exactly was bothering me about this group. Then I got to Chapter 5 of Starhawk's book and it was all there. A group with so much potential has terrifically horrible communication problems that cause a domino effect of conflict and other discord. I still have a lot to think about with this group but now I can use the concepts from the book to decide whether

to discuss the issues i see with the group.

I liked this book because it collects in one place a lot of excellent information about creating and sustaining a healthy community. I am a member of a group that is involved in this process right now. I am ambivalent about the 'story' part of the book, and the story did make the book more interesting. Ms Starhawk uses her many years of experience in creating community as the foundation of this book. Recommended to anyone who wants a new model of community.

This book is relevant to any group of people coming together for a common cause, whether it's in the work-place, a peaceful movement or activism. The catch in any realm of human interactions is human emotion and being triggered by each other. This is inevitable but workable. Starhawk beautifully articulates and even diagrams how to navigate these groups dynamics in a respectful manner for all involved. Don't pass this up, the next step in non-violent communication but taken to whole new level of appreciation.

This is a great introduction to multiple social theories. I am enjoying the insights provided by Starhawk. As someone who is part of a community that is trying to change the status quo on a small, local level, this title came to my attention in a timely way.

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