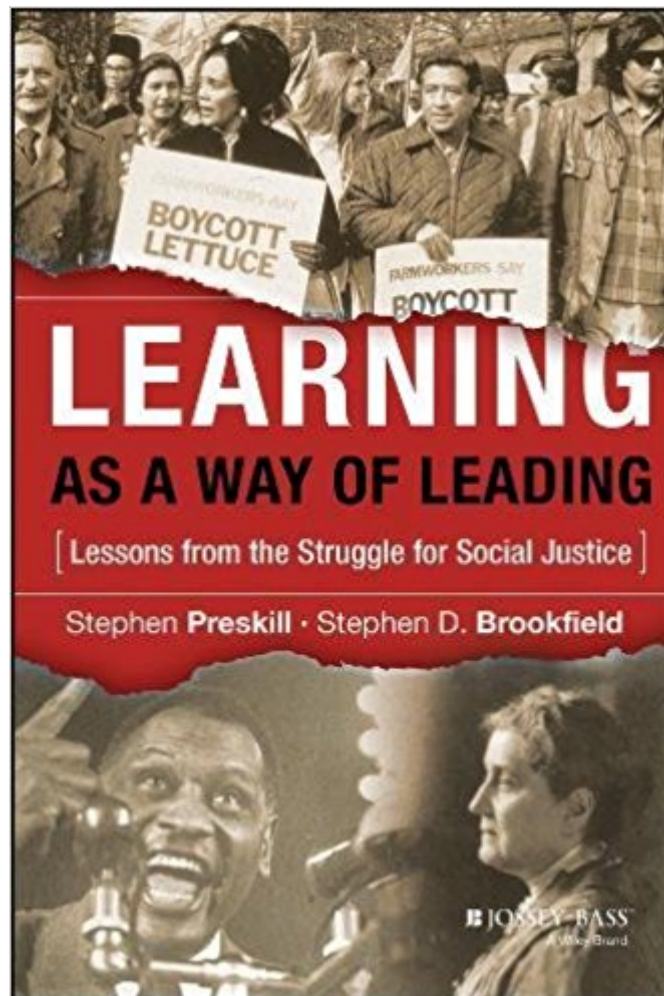


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# Learning As A Way Of Leading: Lessons From The Struggle For Social Justice



## Synopsis

This book offers a systematic look at the connections between learning and leading and the use of learning to inspire and organize for change. It explores two interrelated dimensions of learning leadership: the ways leaders themselves learn about leadership practice, and the way leaders foster the learning of those they work with. The book focuses on a number of important leadership activities and adopts a case study approach to illuminate how leaders themselves learn, how they impart knowledge to others, and how they support others in becoming more effective and enduring learners.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“What I like most about this book is the way Preskill and Brookfield model their own ideas about narrative, listening and being open to the contributions of others. They are good story tellers and have the ability to bring the personality and essence of their leaders to the reader. It is both a thought provoking book and a practical guide. It gives models, but urges us to reflect and analyze our own experiences. It is definitely grounded in adult learning principles, and pushes the limits of our current thinking. I will definitely introduce this model, Preskill and Brookfield’s ideas, to my doctoral students this fall. How could I not?”  
—The National Teaching and Learning Forum

Learning As a Way of Leading Learning As a Way of Leading explores a little-researched form of leadership study; social activism. In this groundbreaking book, Stephen Preskill and Stephen

D. Brookfield take an in-depth look at how social justice leaders learn, how they support other people's learning, and how this deepens their social impact. As the authors explain, the best leaders enjoy a capacity to be taught, to work collaboratively with followers, to listen and learn from people around them, and, in many cases, to lead by being led. Such leaders are developmental leaders, chiefly interested in drawing out the abilities and capacities of their followers. They do this by remaining open to what those followers can impart to them as much as by guiding them to new possibilities. *Learning As a Way of Leading* focuses on a number of important leadership tasks such as publicly modeling engagement in learning, viewing learning as a daily professional imperative, and communicating to colleagues the lessons learned. To demonstrate each of these activities, the book includes portraits of nine twentieth-century leaders—Jane Addams, Nelson Mandela, Septima Clark, Ella Baker, Myles Horton, Aldo Leopold, Mary Parker Follett, Paul Robeson, and Cesar Chavez—who exemplify the learning tasks identified in this pioneering resource. Each of the noteworthy leaders supported their co-workers in challenging the status quo, in expanding the boundaries of what can be accomplished together, and in raising standards of what we expect from each other, both intellectually and morally. *Learning As a Way of Leading* is an essential resource written for anyone who wants to make a difference for the public good by joining with others to bring about positive change.

Item was as described.

this book is a wonderful experience to live through as the history of the civil rights movement is examined to help leaders today find ways to overcome struggle in the workplace and in organizations, especially in schools.

Perfect condition!

It is worth

excellent

In contrast to most books on leadership I've read that focus mainly on white male business or military leaders, *LEARNING AS A WAY OF LEADING* makes a real contribution by exploring ONLY leaders in social justice movements. The authors examine a diverse group of movement

intellectuals (including Cesar Chavez, Nelson Mandela, Ella Baker, Paul Robeson, Jane Addams, and Septima Clark) to investigate how they put learning at the heart of their work. I could quibble with the selection and would have preferred to have had some more recent examples included, but the book's central message - that being a change agent sort of leader means you've got to do a lot of continuous learning - is one I support. I've read quite a few books on leadership but never found one that views supporting the learning of others as the most important work leaders do. This book is also written well. It zips along and if the authors are sometimes too uncritical about their chosen movement leaders, you forgive them (or at least I did) because their enthusiasm is contagious. These days so many people I talk to are cynical about politics and social action. But with the popularity of the Occupy Wall Street movement this book should get some good attention. It's a good read for anyone interested in social justice leadership.

I love this book. I am inspired every time I pick it up and re-read a chapter and reflect on the exemplar. (I am a bit sheepish that I didn't know who a couple of the exemplars were. I'm so glad that I do now!) I have encouraged colleagues to adopt this book as part of required reading in their courses on leadership (in social change, education, adult learning) and the feedback about it has been very positive. The writing style is conversational and accessible, and this makes it an easy book to return to when I need a little motivation. I highly recommend this book!

In *Learning as a Way of Leading*, Brookfield and Presskill provide a powerful model for an emerging approach to leadership. They provide specific and detailed examples of leaders in the United States who have accomplished critical, essential goals by appealing to the best in us. In most instances, these leaders have achieved their goals despite a serious lack of financial or official political resources. And the approach is not a miracle, but a model. In a country in which the political structure seems increasingly to fail the majority of citizens, this book, and the skills it describes, provide a way forward.

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