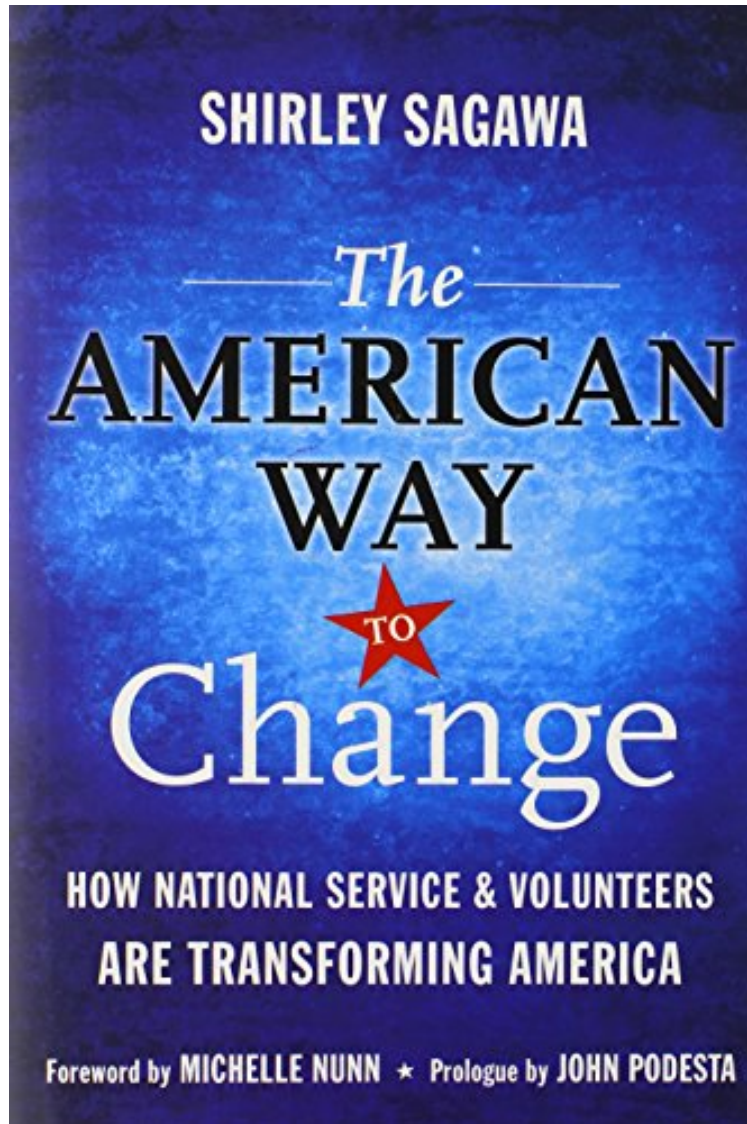


The American Way to Change: How National Service and Volunteers Are Transforming America

Shirley Sagawa

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Shirley Sagawa : The American Way to Change: How National Service and Volunteers Are Transforming America before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The American Way to Change: How National Service and Volunteers Are Transforming America:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. informative and inspirationalBy barbI loved this book! I am familiar with the service movement, but the author brought it into such sharp relief. I learned a great deal, but more

importantly, I was inspired by stories of individuals and effective programs. Sagawa makes a compelling case that service is a critical strategy for social change. Very inspiring!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Perfect gift!

By SusieQI bought this book as a gift for my daughter who is a VISTA with AmeriCorp. It will open your eyes to volunteering in America and in your own backyard.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A convincing, motivating, practical call to action

By David Andrew BlockSociety gives a smile and gentle pat on the head to the volunteer who reads a book to a child, clears trash from a park, or delivers meals to senior citizens. The nice guy or gal lending a helping hand through national service also gets a grateful thumbs up, though some scoff at the notion of being paid to do good.

But to Shirley Sagawa, service isn't nice; it's necessary. Strategically focused volunteering goes way beyond doing a good deed, she believes, and those performing national service are well worth the modest amounts we pay them to boost the impact of volunteers many times over and provide services that volunteers can't. Together, she argues in the book, they're a powerful force that can help solve challenges in childhood development, education, health, aging, poverty, natural disasters, the environment, and other critical areas.

Consistent with the policy acumen she put to good use in helping draft the legislation that created the Corporation for National and Community Service, Sagawa argues calmly but forcefully that we can't afford to neglect service in our arsenal of problem-solving strategies. Whether it's helping low-achieving kids do better in school, reducing recidivism among parolees, helping the unemployed secure stable employment, or reducing the risk of disease and infirmity among the elderly, service should be viewed as a cost-effective tool in our social toolkit, and we can either invest in the infrastructure needed to put it to good use now -- or pay a bigger price down the road. Whether you're a deficit hawk or a believer in "big" government, it seems like an easy choice to make. You can read my full review of the book at[...]

How ordinary citizens dedicated to service can change the face of America's most critical issues

What if the nation were able to capitalize on the energy of Americans willing to serve and volunteer for a year or more? This inspirational book tells the stories of real people who have dedicated themselves to service and the nonprofits that engaged them. It shows how selflessness and service have transformed lives and communities, and can address similar problems throughout the country. The author profiles successes, demonstrates measurable effects, and shows how impact is made. This book describes how we can achieve change, through action at both the community and organizational level. Filled with illustrative examples and key lessons

Highlights programs such as Teach for America, City Year, and Community Health Corps

Shows how nonprofits can create successful service programs to tackle different issues

The book shows what America would look like if programs like these operated at scale across the country not just in one or two neighborhoods, but wherever they were needed.

From the Inside Flap

What if our nation were able to capitalize on the energy of Americans willing to serve and volunteer for a year or more? The American Way to Change offers a compelling vision of national service that clearly illustrates what this means for our country. Throughout the book, Shirley Sagawa (a leading expert on the topic) profiles real people who have performed national service, examines the organizations they have worked with, and reveals the often profound impact these local heroes have made through their efforts. Using powerful stories of transformation, the book shows how anyone can change their community through service. The book highlights dedicated people such as Washington D.C. public school chancellor Michelle Rhee who began her career as a Teach For America corpsmember, teaching in an inner city school in Baltimore. She went on to found the New Teacher Project, which has placed thousands of teachers in difficult-to-fill jobs and sparked important reforms in teacher hiring. She is a nationally recognized school system leader, pursuing reforms once thought impossible in a large city district. America could be transformed if programs like the New Teacher Project operated at scale not just in one or two neighborhoods, but wherever they are needed. Filled with illustrative examples and key lessons, the book describes how to achieve change through action at the community and organizational level and shows how service programs can tackle a variety of issues. The American Way to Change speaks to ordinary citizens who want to make a difference and offers a clear road map for achieving extraordinary results.

From the Back Cover

Praise for The American Way to Change

"The stories of everyday people changing the nation through service come to life in this book. Shirley Sagawa has been at the center of service policy for two decades, and if we follow the blueprint she offers, together we can solve the pressing problems of our day." Alan Khazei, founder, Be the Change, Inc., and co-founder, City Year

"We are at a critical moment when real change is needed. Service can play a central role in that transformation, and this book spells out how everyone can participate." Lisa Paulsen, president and CEO, Entertainment Industry Foundation

"Shirley Sagawa has written an invaluable how-to book for accomplishing nothing less than the transformation of our nation." Marguerite Kondracke, president and CEO, America's Promise Alliance

"Sagawa vibrantly showcases our new opportunity to leverage civic energy to make a lasting impact. Policy makers, community leaders, and volunteers: this is your road map." Karen Baker, Secretary of Service and Volunteering for the State of California

"In this book, the godmother of national service and volunteerism takes her ideas to the next level and outlines a new approach to national problem solving one that asks each of us to help reshape America." Jeanne Shaheen, New Hampshire state senator

"Sagawa offers a compelling case for the idea that citizen service is a critical

strategy for solving the pressing problems of our time." AnnMaura Connolly, steering committee member, Voices for National Service "Sagawa shows how we can improve the quality of life in America's communities through policies that encourage a lifetime of service." Stephen Goldsmith, chairman, the Corporation for National and Community Service, and author of *The Power of Social Innovation* "This book highlights some of the most innovative and successful programs of our time and should be read by any policymaker or active citizen who is looking for effective strategies to solve our most critical social problems." Harris Wofford, former Pennsylvania state senator, and author of *Of Kennedys and Kings*, and former CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service

About the Author Shirley Sagawa is a fellow at the Washington think tank Center for American Progress. She has been called a "founding mother of the modern service movement" in the United States and has served as head of the Obama transition team for the Corporation for National and Community Service. She continues to advise the administration and congress regarding national service policy. Shirley also consults and advises numerous nonprofits on volunteering and service and served as a staff member of the White House during the Clinton Administration.