



Together: The Rituals, Pleasures and Politics of Cooperation

By Richard Sennett

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Living with people who differ—racially, ethnically, religiously, or economically—is the most urgent challenge facing civil society today. We tend socially to avoid engaging with people unlike ourselves, and modern politics encourages the politics of the tribe rather than of the city. In this thought-provoking book, Richard Sennett discusses why this has happened and what might be done about it.

Sennett contends that cooperation is a craft, and the foundations for skillful cooperation lie in learning to listen well and discuss rather than debate. In *Together* he explores how people can cooperate online, on street corners, in schools, at work, and in local politics. He traces the evolution of cooperative rituals from medieval times to today, and in situations as diverse as slave communities, socialist groups in Paris, and workers on Wall Street. Divided into three parts, the book addresses the nature of cooperation, why it has become weak, and how it could be strengthened. The author warns that we must learn the craft of cooperation if we are to make our complex society prosper, yet he reassures us that we can do this, for the capacity for cooperation is embedded in human nature.

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Editorial Review

Review

“A whirlwind of big ideas. Sennett is a worthy warrior, armed with abundant evidence of our better natures.”—Connie Schultz, *Washington Post*
(Connie Schultz *Washington Post*)

“This humane work is broad in scope and will be of interest to sociologists, political scientists, and curious readers seeking hope for pursuing a more cooperative society.”—*Library Journal* (*Library Journal*)

“I envy any reader coming fresh to Sennett's work. Over four decades, his books have grown, volume by expert, companionable, readable volume, into a comprehensive diagnosis of the ailments of urban life and work, together with a series of hard-headed, historically rooted prescriptions for rescue and reform.”—Boyd Tonkin, *The Independent*
(Boyd Tonkin *The Independent*)

"Sennet argues that changes in the 'social triangle . . . of earned authority, mutual respect, and cooperation during a crisis,' have resulted in an uncooperative character type who is becoming more common in modern society, one who—in search of 'reassuring solidarity amid economic insecurity'—acts according to the 'brutally simple' paradigm of 'us-against-them coupled with you-are-on-your-own.' . . . Sennett's writing is engaging and he provides an interesting perspective on modern society."—*Publishers Weekly*
(*Publishers Weekly*)

Winner of the Zócalo Public Square Book Prize, awarded by the Center for Social Cohesion
(Zócalo Public Square Book Prize *Zócalo Public Square* 2012-03-19)

Selected as a *Choice* Outstanding Academic Title for 2011 in the North America category
(Choice Outstanding Academic Title *Choice* 2011-06-08)

From the Author

Praise for Richard Sennett's *The Craftsman*

"In *The Craftsman* [Sennett] compellingly explores the universe of skilled work, where 'the desire to do a job well done for its own sake' still flourishes."—Brian C. Anderson, *Wall Street Journal*

"An inquiring, intelligent look at how the work of the hand informs the work of the mind."—*New York Times Book Review* (Editors' Choice)

"A far-roving intellectual adventure."—Julian Bell, *New York Review of Books*

“Richard Sennett is a prime observer of society. . . . One of his great strengths, the thing that makes his narrative so gripping, is the sheer range of his thinking and his brilliance in relating the past to the present.”—Fiona MacCarthy, *The Guardian*

“[A] powerful meditation on the ‘skill of making things well.’ ”—*New Yorker*

Praise for Richard Sennett’s *The Culture of the New Capitalism*

"Hardly any social thinkers have given serious thought to the drastic changes in corporate culture wrought by downsizing, 're-orging,' and outsourcing. Fortunately, the exception—Richard Sennett—is also one of the most insightful public intellectuals we have. In *The Culture of New Capitalism* Sennett addresses the new corporate culture with his usual vast erudition, endlessly supple intellect, and firm moral outlook. The result is brilliant, disturbing, and absolutely necessary reading."—Barbara Ehrenreich, author of *Bait and Switch: The (Futile) Pursuit of the American Dream*

“[Sennett] has brilliantly pushed his thinking. . . . [A] triumph.”—Will Hutton, *The Observer*

About the Author

Richard Sennett founded and served as first director of the New York Institute of the Humanities and is now a professor of sociology at both New York University and the London School of Economics.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

George Sanders:

As people who live in typically the modest era should be change about what going on or info even knowledge to make them keep up with the era which is always change and move ahead. Some of you maybe can update themselves by examining books. It is a good choice for you personally but the problems coming to anyone is you don't know which one you should start with. This Together: The Rituals, Pleasures and Politics of Cooperation is our recommendation so you keep up with the world. Why, as this book serves what you want and need in this era.

Erin Weiss:

This Together: The Rituals, Pleasures and Politics of Cooperation is great guide for you because the content which is full of information for you who always deal with world and get to make decision every minute. This book reveal it data accurately using great organize word or we can point out no rambling sentences within it. So if you are read it hurriedly you can have whole facts in it. Doesn't mean it only provides straight forward sentences but difficult core information with splendid delivering sentences. Having Together: The Rituals, Pleasures and Politics of Cooperation in your hand like getting the world in your arm, data in it is not ridiculous just one. We can say that no guide that offer you world in ten or fifteen small right but this reserve already do that. So , this can be good reading book. Hello Mr. and Mrs. active do you still doubt this?

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