

Charity Begins At Home: Generosity And Self-interest Among The Philanthropic Elite

Teresa Odendahl

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Teresa Odendahl : Charity Begins At Home: Generosity And Self-interest Among The Philanthropic Elite
before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Charity Begins At Home: Generosity And Self-interest Among The Philanthropic Elite:

From Publishers WeeklyCharging that philanthropy primarily furthers the interests of the rich and their control over public and private funds through interaction with business and government, Odendahl, editor of America's Wealth and the Future of Foundations, in an impressively researched and provocative study, analyzes donation patterns of individuals, private foundations and corporations. A network of traditional philanthropic families, she charges, favors educational and cultural causes that aid their own social interests and fail to provide for human services severely strained by federal cutbacks. Among Odendahl's proposed reforms are more equitable estate and charitable-contributions tax-deduction laws, and stronger accountability of nonprofit cultural and philanthropic organizations. Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc.From Library JournalThis book is almost certain to anger the individuals it studies. Odendahl interviewed over 140 wealthy American philanthropists regarding their charitable

activities, and through interpretative analysis, she suggests that the rich support upper-class charitable interests, such as private colleges, while basic human services are neglected. Despite politicians' rhetoric, the private sector is unlikely to compensate for cutbacks in government social programs, she concludes. Reasonable objections can be made to some of Odendahl's interpretations, especially those that stray into psychoanalysis (is guilt reduction really a motive toward philanthropy?), but her argument is so passionate that it merits discussion. Both public and academic libraries will want this.- Gregg Sapp, Montana State Univ. Lib., Bozeman Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc.