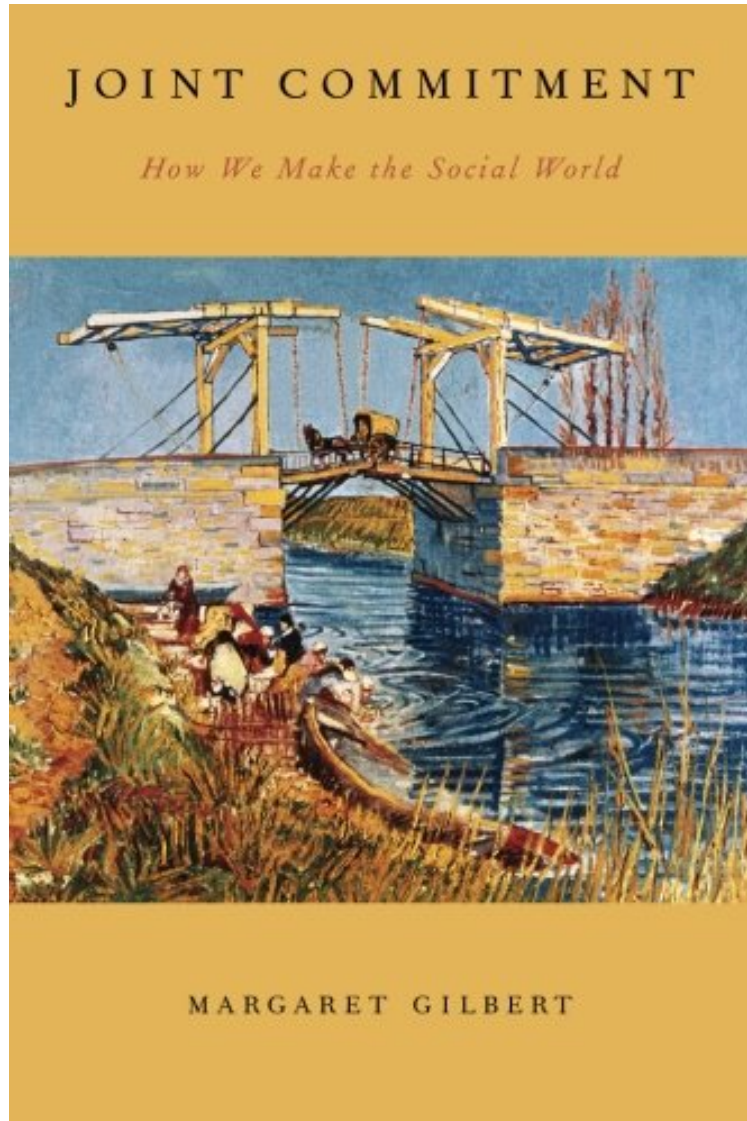


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## Joint Commitment: How We Make the Social World

Margaret Gilbert

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**Margaret Gilbert : Joint Commitment: How We Make the Social World** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Joint Commitment: How We Make the Social World:

In this wide-ranging collection of essays, distinguished philosopher Margaret Gilbert investigates the structure of our social world. People often speak of what we do, think, and feel, and of our values, conventions, and laws. Asking what we mean by such talk, Gilbert invokes the foundational idea of joint commitment. She applies this idea to topics

ranging from the mutual recognition of two people to the unity of the European Union, from marital love to patriotism, from promissory obligation to the rights of those who issue authoritative commands. Written clearly and without undue technicality, this richly textured collection of essays makes a powerful argument for the importance of joint commitment in our personal and public lives.

"As Gilbert sees it, joint commitments are centrally constitutive of collective actions and attitudes, the practice of promising, conventions, political obligations and so on as per the above set of chapter headings. As the sub-title suggests, joint commitment is evidently by her lights the most fundamental social concept. As is fitting, she applies it in a wide variety of contexts, and the result is a wide-ranging and lively set of essays. Importantly, she applies her theoretical notion to questions in political philosophy and thereby connects abstract theory to real world concerns, something most theorists in this sub-field have not yet done. While many of the essays are well-known to those working in the field, it is useful to have them collected in one place, not the least because it facilitates development of an overview of her oeuvre."-Seumas Miller, Notre Dame Philosophical s "Joint Commitment provides a rich account of how the social world comes into being through the activities in which we regularly engage...Gilbert has provided compelling considerations in favor of including both personal and joint commitments in our discussion of rational agency along with the familiar talk of reasons, endorsements, and the like." -- Ethics About the AuthorMargaret Gilbert is Melden Chair in Moral Philosophy and Professor of Philosophy at the University of California, Irvine. A founding figure in contemporary philosophy of social phenomena, her work has applications within moral, political and legal philosophy and social and political science. Her many books include *On Social Facts* (1989), *Sociality and Responsibility* (2000), and *A Theory of Political Obligation* (2006). She has been a member of the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, and held other distinguished research and teaching positions in the United States, Europe, and Scandinavia.