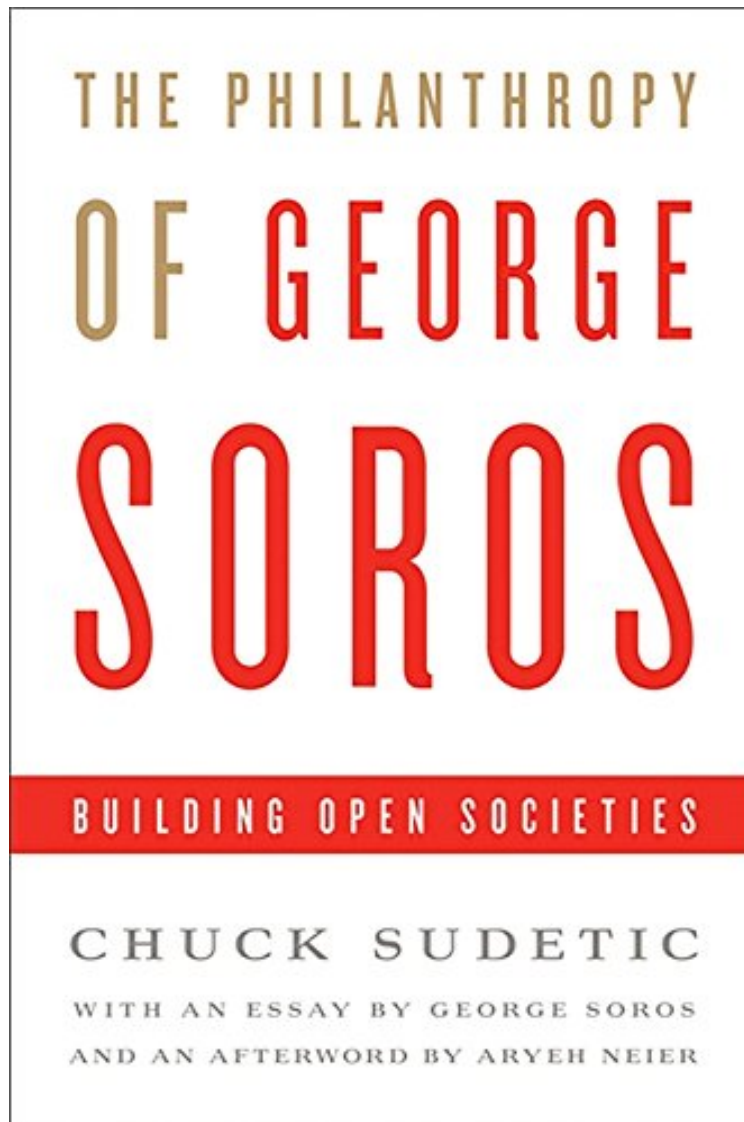


(Read ebook) The Philanthropy of George Soros: Building Open Societies

# The Philanthropy of George Soros: Building Open Societies

*Chuck Sudetic*

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**Chuck Sudetic : The Philanthropy of George Soros: Building Open Societies** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Philanthropy of George Soros: Building Open Societies:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A good surveyBy MecThis book is mixed. Part of it reads like press releases from Soros's foundations. Not bad: plenty of information (that is good): but no analysis or criticism. The other part, written directly by Soros, is superb: his insights and reflections.Overall, this book helped me build my own notions of philanthropy, and I'm happy I read it. But I want a more in-depth analysis.2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Less than expectedBy OGMI was expecting some real insights from MR. Soros in his book. It was

really more of a detailed account of his philanthropic arm getting in and out of countries and then a brief description of where they went right or wrong. It read similar to someones notes they took over the years and then slapped into a book. Mr Soros input into it all was very limited and seemed more of an afterthought that they needed to actually add some words from MR Soros to actually put his name on it. Dont buy if you want to understand his concept of building open societies as it wont shed much light on that topic.11 of 15 people found the following review helpful. 6 Star Special--Soros Out-Grows Broken SystemBy Robert David STEELE VivasUPDATE 3 July: Now online at the Soros Foundation website is a 1 hr 35 min video of George Soros and Aryeh Neier discussing the past twenty years as covered by the book. For those who don't wish to spend the time, my detailed notes (not a transcript but close) as well as a direct link to the entire Soros essay online are at Phi Beta Iota the Public Intelligence Blog, search for.On its own merits, without the Foreword from George Soros, this book is a solid five. With the most extraordinary Foreword, a Foreword that draws the lines of battle between a totally dysfunctional global governance and financial system of systems all lacking in integrity--where truth is not to be found--and the need for transparency, truth, and trust, the book goes into my top 10%, 6 stars and beyond.The essay is a \*major\* part of the book, the first 57 pages out of just over 335. The essay is available free online and is a "must read" item for any person who wishes to be part of restoring the Republic and laying the foundation for creating a prosperous world at peace. Searching for will lead directly to both the New York Review of Books and the GeorgeSoros.com offerings--select the latter to get the full article without subscription nonsense from the New York Review of Books.I confess to having lost faith in George Soros--he fell for the Barack Obama Show and wasted a lot of time and money on what ends up being the Goldman Sachs Show--to the point that Goldman Sachs not only continues to own the Secretary of the Treasury, but now has installed its own man in the role of National Security Advisor. The irony does not amuse me.This essay is phenomenal, and bears on the book at large, because Soros has finally put his finger of the sucking chest wound that I, John Bogle, William Grieder, and most recently Matt Taibbi have been sounding the alarm on: the lack of intelligence and integrity in the system of systems. Soros is halfway there; he is now outside the system looking in, and that is good news for all of us."I am looking for novel solutions in order to make an untidy structure manageable." "As I see it, mankind's ability to understand and control the forces of nature greatly exceeds our ability to govern ourselves." "The theory of reflexivity I have developed over the years was studiously ignored or disparaged by academic economists and to a lesser extent by financial regulators. Mervyn King, the governor of the Bank of England, dismissed it. All this has changed as a result of the financial crisis." "The change of attitude among academic economists was much more gratifying. There was a widespread recognition that the prevailing paradigm had failed and a willingness to rethink its basic assumptions." "Today our political discourse is primarily concerned with getting elected and staying in power. Popper's hidden assumption that freedom of speech and thought will produce a better understanding of reality is valid only for the study of natural phenomena. Extending it to human affairs is part of what I have called the 'Enlightenment fallacy.'" "Deliberately misleading propagandist techniques can destroy an open society." "The two trends taken together--the reluctance to face harsh reality coupled with the refinement in the techniques of deception--explain why America is failing to meet the requirements of an open society. Apparently, a society needs to be successful in order to remain open." "What can we do to preserve and reinvigorate open society in America? First, I should like to see efforts to help the public develop an immunity to Newspeak. Those who have been exposed to it from Nazi or Communist times have an allergic reaction to it; but the broad public is highly susceptible." "Second, I should like to convince the American public of the merits of facing harsh reality." That's enough in the way of quotes, I hope, to persuade one and all that this book is worth buying for the essay alone. Indeed, and this is no reflection on the author of the larger work or the story he tells across ten chapters, after reading the forward-looking essay by Soros, the larger story is clearly one of persistent and honorable success along many disparate paths, all lacking the coherence of intelligence with integrity in the public interest, all lacking the strategy analytic model that the Earth Intelligence Network (501c3) created in the aftermath of the United Nations High Level Panel on Threats, Challenge, and Change.The essay covers the future; the rest of the book is a history book, a biography of personal persistence, vision, and wide-ranging efforts across core challenge areas (natural resources, justice, poverty, tuberculosis, mental disability, human rights, drugs, and crime), but for me the blinding flash of insight across all of these is the same as I had when I studied the UN: brilliant successes in isolation and in the face of enormous resistance, but strategic incoherence overall.I credit Soros with NOT wanting to create a global monolith, and with being--and still being--intent on doing good without controlling, on nurturing and inspiring initiatives that would take on a life of their own and be self-supporting over time. What Soros missed with the first \$8 billion is what I have been focusing on since 1988: both government and banks and big business lack intelligence and integrity in the larger Buckminster Fuller and Russell Ackoff sense of the word. They "rule by secrecy," are a top-down command and control "because we say so" Weberian cluster of stove-pipes that hoard rather than share information, and so on.What has been missing from the Soros global campaign to date is the same thing that has been missing from the United Nations, the Red Cross, and other global "do good" enterprises: intelligence and integrity, with an absolute commitment to transparency as a facilitator of truth, and truth as a creator of trust, which brings its own intangible value (wealth) with it.The afterword by Aryeh Neier makes two key points that resonate with me:1. Western Governments failed to adapt and failed to understand that what Soros was doing,

they should be doing. 2. Soros, uniquely among philanthropists, delegated decisions about HOW to spend to the indigenous managers. It is my sincere hope that the author, Chuck Sudetic, in bringing the essay and the history of the philanthropy of George Soros to the public in such a nice package, has earned the privilege of documenting what I believe will be an order of magnitude change in the future not just of how Soros helps the world, but of how the world helps itself--with alternative currencies, multinational information-sharing and sense-making that routes around the failed vestiges of the Treaty of Versailles and the Rothchild-Rockefeller-Sachs "axis of manipulation." If Soros makes the leap from Open Society to Open Everything, and focuses on the Open Square that many of us have been advocating for over a decade (open source software, open source intelligence, open spectrum, and open data access), three big things will happen: 1) corruption will be exposed and eradicated; 2) waste will be scrubbed from the system; and 3) we will create a world that works for 100% of humanity. Put most simply, I believe that the time is right for the creation of a World Brain and Global Game in which we connect all true cost information about products and services at every point in their life-cycle, to all human minds, and all human minds to one another, with an early emphasis on giving free cell phones to the three billion poorest (OpenBTS) backed up by regional and national call centers that educate the poor one cell call at a time, while serving as information sharing enterprises. With the imprimatur of George Soros, it should not be impossible to get Sir Richard Branson (his opposite in many ways) to fund "The Virgin Truth" as a global brand, to get Microsoft's CTO Norm Judah and prospective Microsoft CEO Reed Hastings to pay attention to "Operation Cloudburst," and finally, to get the regional organizations (ASEAN, UNASUR, AU, Shanghai Cooperative) to finally get serious about creating hybrid Multinational, Multiagency, Multidisciplinary, Multidomain Information-Sharing and Sense-Making Centres and networks for their respective political and socio-economic alliances (acronym is M4IS2--use to search and find the core online information base). Other books that I recommend with this one are: The Battle for the Soul of Capitalism: How the Financial System Undermined Social Ideals, Damaged Trust in the Markets, Robbed Investors of Trillions - and What to Do About It; The Soul of Capitalism: Opening Paths to a Moral Economy; Griftopia: Bubble Machines, Vampire Squids, and the Long Con That Is Breaking America; Ideas and Integrity: A Spontaneous Autobiographical Disclosure; Redesigning Society (Stanford Business Books); Reflexive Practice: Professional Thinking for a Turbulent World; The World Is Open: How Web Technology Is Revolutionizing Education (Wiley Desktop Editions); High Noon 20 Global Problems, 20 Years to Solve Them; A More Secure World: Our Shared Responsibility, Report of the High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change; Philosophy and the Social Problem: The Annotated Edition

With an Introduction by George Soros and an Afterword by Aryeh Neier, George Soros is one of the world's leading philanthropists. Over the past thirty years, he has provided more than 8 billion to his worldwide network of foundations: the Open Society Foundations, which have applied the concept of the open society, the cornerstone of Soros's thinking on democracy, freedom, and human rights, in the United States and abroad. This book, written by former New York Times journalist Chuck Sudetic, marks the first exploration of George Soros's innovative philanthropic strategies and unmatched commitment to building open societies in places where dictatorship and violent repression have been the rule for too long. Soros is widely lauded for his brilliant financial and economic insights and investment strategies. But his philosophy-driven philanthropy and its impact are unprecedented for a private individual, and have produced remarkable results. Soros's visionary efforts include: helping to topple communism in eastern Europe and the Soviet Union and attempting to foster civil society in China; initiating and nurturing global and local organizations fighting to overcome the driver of war, repression, and corruption in oil- and blood-diamond states; helping Sarajevo's people endure three years of siege during the Bosnian War; fighting resistant strains of TB in Russia's jails and Lesotho's mountains before the disease can devastate the world's great cities; undertaking the first attempt in history to help Europe's most downtrodden people lift themselves from poverty and segregation; supporting democratic resistance in Burma and building communities in Haiti's roughest slums; applying new methods for fighting poverty and drug addiction and reforming dysfunctional justice systems in Baltimore, New Orleans, and other U.S. cities. The Philanthropy of George Soros reveals the thought and practice behind a lesser-known dimension of this remarkable man's life, his goals for society, and his underlying vision for the future.

About the Author: Chuck Sudetic is a former reporter for The New York Times, and is the author of Blood and Vengeance, which was named a New York Times Notable Book and a "Book of the Year" by The Economist and the Washington Post. He has written for The Economist, Atlantic Monthly, Rolling Stone, Mother Jones, and other periodicals, and is a writer for the Open Society Institute.