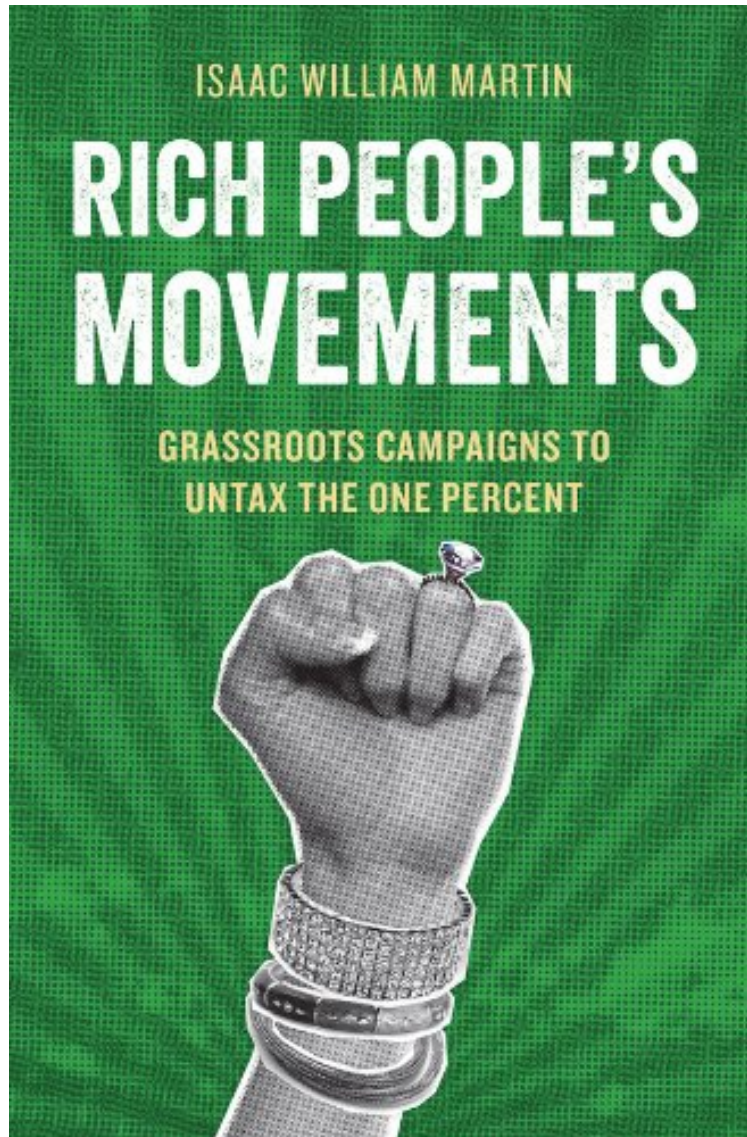


[Download] Rich People's Movements: Grassroots Campaigns to Untax the One Percent (Studies in Postwar American Political Development)

Rich People's Movements: Grassroots Campaigns to Untax the One Percent (Studies in Postwar American Political Development)

Isaac Martin

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Isaac Martin : Rich People's Movements: Grassroots Campaigns to Untax the One Percent (Studies in Postwar American Political Development) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Rich People's Movements: Grassroots Campaigns to Untax the One Percent (Studies in Postwar American Political Development):

18 of 18 people found the following review helpful. Couldn't be more timely.By P. TroutmanThe author, who is

successfully establishing for himself the implausible niche as the guy who writes compelling books about the history of American tax policy, couldn't be more timely as the latest iteration of the anti-taxation movement has gained enough numbers in the House of Representatives to grind much of the usual business of Congress to a near halt. This book goes back to the debates that led to the Sixteenth Amendment and the beginning of mass income tax in this country. It traces the ebb and flow of efforts by the non-wealthy to cut taxes on the rich, including in 1960s California [of course!] the short lived 'Tea Party'. It's clear that the author originally intended to find a few dull, stodgy dupes of the rich and was surprised—and pleased—to discover much deeper history filled with a Dickensque cast with an array of motivations. (I suspect that adherents of Tea Party philosophies might wish that their predecessors were a little less colorful.) This is an important book, well told. I suspect non-sociologists might be occasionally irked by what would feel like to them to be digressions when the storytelling is paused to analyze some bursts of quantitative data, such as the demographics of who supported which organization or the extent to which different corporate sectors contributed moneys. But these represent relatively few pages. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. An easy and interesting read

By Jane Lilly Lopez
Getting through most academic books is a real struggle -- even getting beyond the introductory chapter is often too much to bear. But this book read smoothly from start to finish, exposing the lesser-known history of rich people's activism in a way that is accessible to many audiences. If you're planning on being rich and politically active, want to know how to bring down the 1%, or are just looking for something informative and entertaining to read, look no further!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars

By Bill Legere
released

On tax day, April 15, 2010, hundreds of thousands of Americans took to the streets with signs demanding lower taxes on the richest one percent. But why? Rich people have plenty of political influence. Why would they need to publicly demonstrate for lower taxes—and why would anyone who wasn't rich join the protest on their behalf? Isaac William Martin shows that such protests long predate the Tea Party of our own time. Ever since the Sixteenth Amendment introduced a Federal income tax in 1913, rich Americans have protested new public policies that they thought would threaten their wealth. But while historians have taught us much about the conservative social movements that reshaped the Republican Party in the late 20th century, the story of protest movements explicitly designed to benefit the wealthy is still little known. *Rich People's Movements* is the first book to tell that story, tracking a series of protest movements that arose to challenge an expanding welfare state and progressive taxation. Drawing from a mix of anti-progressive ideas, the leaders of these movements organized scattered local constituencies into effective campaigns in the 1920s, 1950s, 1980s, and our own era. Martin shows how protesters on behalf of the rich appropriated the tactics used by the Left—from the Populists and Progressives of the early twentieth century to the feminists and anti-war activists of the 1950s and 1960s. He explores why the wealthy sometimes cut secret back-room deals and at other times protest in the public square. He also explains why people who are not rich have so often rallied to their cause. For anyone wanting to understand the anti-tax activists of today, including notable defenders of wealth inequality like the Koch brothers, the historical account in *Rich People's Movements* is an essential guide.

From Publishers Weekly
U.C. Davis sociologist Martin (*The Permanent Tax Revolt: How the Property Tax Transformed American Politics*) recounts a century of efforts to repeal or sharply curtail the federal income tax, which was instituted in 1913. His book pays homage and is a worthy counterpart to Frances Fox Piven and Richard Cloward's classic *Poor People's Movements*. The anti-tax movement, which defined the rich as the constituency sought to benefit and which was led by community organizers from the right, borrowed methods of mobilizing local groups from such liberal causes as women's suffrage. While the anti-tax advocates never succeeded, they had a real impact when their cause was linked with related initiatives, such as a federal balanced-budget amendment. (In 1982, the Senate passed a constitutional amendment that combined the two proposals, but it wasn't backed by a two-thirds majority in the House, as is required for it to be enacted.) And the movement influenced tax legislation—especially laws advanced by Coolidge, Reagan, and G.W. Bush, who were all sympathetic to the cause. Reagan's 1981 tax cut, for example, reduced marginal rates for the wealthiest from 70% to 50%. Martin explores the movement's influence on the GOP during the past 30 years, noting that the party has come to be dominated by anti-tax campaigners and predicting that rich people's movements will continue to influence public policy... and perhaps even increase... the extremes of inequality in America. 6 bw illus. (Sept.) "...deeply engages questions about the causes and consequences of movements and brings into sharp focus an influential set of movement campaigns that scholars have ignored... It is must read for anyone wanting to understand the causes and consequences of movements and their campaigns as well our current political predicament." -- Mobilization

About the Author
Isaac William Martin is Professor of Sociology at the University of California-San Diego. He is the author of *The Permanent Tax Revolt: How the Property Tax Transformed American Politics*.