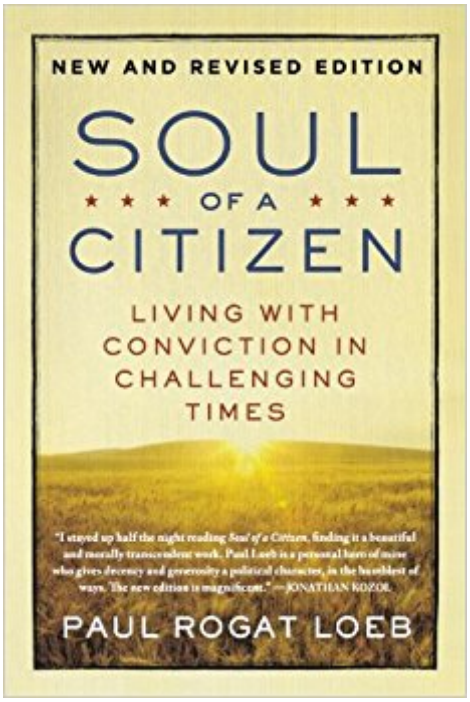
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Soul Of A Citizen: Living With Conviction In Challenging Times



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Synopsis

Soul of a Citizen awakens within us the desire and the ability to make our voices heard and our actions count. We can lead lives worthy of our convictions.A book of inspiration and integrity, Soul of a Citizen is an antidote to the twin scourges of modern life--powerlessness and cynicism. In his evocative style, Paul Loeb tells moving stories of ordinary Americans who have found unexpected fulfillment in social involvement. Through their example and Loeb's own wise and powerful lessons, we are compelled to move from passivity to participation. The reward of our action, we learn, is nothing less than a sense of connection and purpose not found in a purely personal life.Soul of a Citizen has become the handbook for budding social activists, veteran organizers, and anybody who wants to make a changeÃ¢â ¬â ¢big or smallÃ¢â ¬â ¢in the world around them. At this critical historical time , Paul Loeb's completely revised editionÃ¢â ¬â ¢and inspiring messageÃ¢â ¬â ¢is more urgently important than ever.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

These are indeed cynical times. But to hide behind the smugness of cynicism is a kind of self-imposed death sentence, explains writer and social commentator Paul Loeb. In fact, now is the ideal time for gathering all our strengths and wisdom as spiritual beings and applying ourselves to shaping a better world, he claims. Are we talking social activism here? Well, yes. But before you cringe from images of shrill, humorless, burned out activists, keep in mind that Loeb is talking about a new kind of activism--an exciting, spiritual model for creating social change. We don't have to be

pious or martyred saints (as he explains throughout one chapter), starving ourselves in the name of a cause or staging protests in freezing rain. We can be "good enough" activists, assuming the task of helping 10 people in need rather than taking on the globe. We can remember the power of storytelling when convincing an audience, rather than angrily spewing scary facts. We can replenish ourselves so that we do not burn out. We can emphasize themes such as community and forgiveness rather than separatism and blame. This is a deeply spiritual book, but make no mistake: Loeb's writing, research, and integrity are as solid as they come. Soul of a Citizen may well become The Handbook for activism at the turn of the century. --Gail Hudson --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Informed by his lifelong participation in peace, justice and environmental causes, Loeb (Generation at the Crossroads, etc.) offers Americans a new vision for personal engagement with societal issues. A Seattle-based scholar, he eloquently argues for a return to community involvement and social activism, which, he says, have declined since the 1960s and 70s. He gently chides former activists lost to private pursuits, fatigue and cynicism and warns of increasing social isolation and the widening opportunity gap between rich and poor, despite our robust economy. Throughout, Loeb emphasizes the psychological and spiritual importance of the human connection. Believing that personal stories, not politics, capture peoples attention, he seamlessly weaves in inspiring examples of unexpected heroism in ordinary people and successful activism. One such example is 100-year-old Hazel Wood, the grandmother of the environmental movement, who championed neighborhood, day care, economic inequity and pollution issues. Loeb challenges all citizens to take action on their concerns and suggests an activist model for our times, stressing a Zen-like satisfaction in the journey. Even readers who disagree with his liberal politics will find compassion, intelligence and thought-provoking wisdom here. Agent, Geri Thoma of the Elaine Markson Agency; $100,000 ad/promo; first serial to Redbook, Modern Maturity and Parents; 16-city author tour. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Fluff.. Required reading for a required class. Using it as a resource pained me.

Required for school.... hated the class.... the author of this book did well addressing the issue. Just not my cup of tea.

Had to buy this for a class. It was interesting.

As a professor to adult students matriculated in an accelerated BA program, my students and I found the book to be insightful. It truly captured the heart and passion of an advocate. I found it to be an informative resource for advocates that educates and inspires.

This book really is very good in my opinion. It presents you with all these problems that appear in our country or in the world yet it gives you hope that those things can change and that you have an impact on anything and everything you want to.

I LOVED this book! I just finished it and thoroughly enjoyed every word. I loved the way it made me feel--far from hopeless, but inspired, renewed and invigorated. It was philosophical yet practical, and I now somehow have the feeling that even doing a LITTLE to improve the world, is doing a lot. It's strange to read something and actually feel like a "better person" for having done so! I've never had that happen before. I feel better for wanting to become more active, better for being as active as I already am, (even though it isn't nearly as much as I'd like it to be,) and better for wanting to share what I've read with others. This book, which was a gift to me from a dear friend, will now be a gift FROM me to many deserving people!

Required for course, but readable & not mind-numbingly boring. I wouldn't have purchased this text if it wasn't required. "Okay" is as good as it gets.

It was in better condition than explained.

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