

TOWARDS COLLECTIVE LIBERATION

Anti-Racist Organizing, Feminist Praxis,
and Movement Building Strategy

Chris Crass • Introduction by Chris Dixon
Foreword by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz

Towards Collective Liberation: Anti-Racist Organizing, Feminist Praxis, and Movement Building Strategy is for activists engaging with dynamic questions of how to create and support effective movements for visionary systemic change. This collection of essays and interviews presents us with powerful lessons for transformative organizing through offering a firsthand look at the challenges and the opportunities of anti-racist work in white communities, feminist work with men, and bringing women of color feminism into the heart of social movements. Drawing on two decades of personal activist experience and case studies of antiracist social justice organizations, Crass insightfully explores ways of transforming divisions of race, class, and gender into catalysts for powerful vision, strategy, and movement building in the U.S. today.

Over the last two decades, activists in the U.S. have been experimenting with new politics and organizational approaches that stem from a fusion of radical political traditions and liberation struggles. *Towards Collective Liberation* contributes to this project by examining two primary dynamic trends in these efforts: the anarchist movement of the 1990s and 2000s and white antiracist organizing efforts from the 2000s to the present as part of a larger strategy to build broad-based, effective multiracial movements in the U.S.

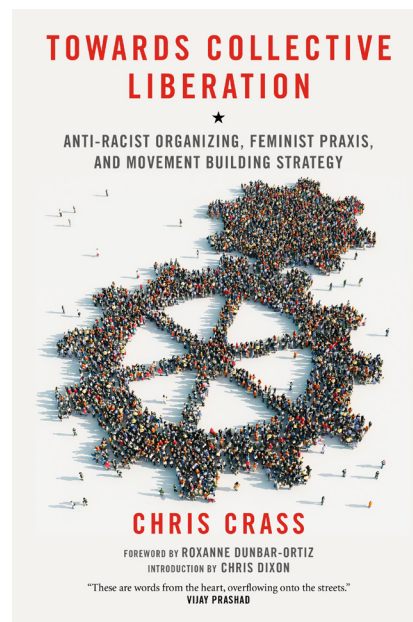
Crass's collection begins with an overview of the anarchist tradition as it relates to contemporary activism and an in-depth look at Food Not Bombs, one of the leading anarchist groups in the revitalized radical Left in the 1990s. The second and third sections of the book combine stories and lessons from Crass's experiences of working as an antiracist and feminist organizer, combining insights from the Civil Rights Movement, women of color feminism, and anarchism to address questions of leadership, organization building, and revolutionary strategy. In section four, Crass discusses how contemporary organizations have responded to the need for white activists to lead antiracist efforts in white communities and how these efforts have contributed to multiracial alliances in building a broad-based movement for collective liberation. Offering rich case studies of successful organizing, and grounded, thoughtful key lessons for movement building, *Toward Collective Liberation* is a must-read for anyone working for a better world.

ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

Chris Crass is a longtime organizer working to build powerful working class-based, feminist, multiracial movements for collective liberation. He has been an organizer with Food Not Bombs and Catalyst Project. From California, he currently lives in Knoxville, Tennessee, with his partner and their son.

Chris Dixon is a longtime anarchist organizer, writer, and educator who recently received his PhD from the University of California at Santa Cruz. He serves on the board of the Institute for Anarchist Studies and the advisory board for the activist journal *Upping the Anti*.

Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz grew up in rural Oklahoma, a child of landless farmers. A historian, writer, and professor emerita in Native American Studies at California State University, she is author of many Indigenous-related books and articles, as well as a memoir trilogy.



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