



# Rules for Radicals: A Pragmatic Primer for Realistic Radicals

By Saul Alinsky

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First published in 1971, *Rules for Radicals* is Saul Alinsky's impassioned counsel to young radicals on how to effect constructive social change and know "the difference between being a realistic radical and being a rhetorical one." Written in the midst of radical political developments whose direction Alinsky was one of the first to question, this volume exhibits his style at its best. Like Thomas Paine before him, Alinsky was able to combine, both in his person and his writing, the intensity of political engagement with an absolute insistence on rational political discourse and adherence to the American democratic tradition.

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

"Alinsky is that rarity in American life, a superlative organizer, strategist, and tactician who is also a social philosopher."

—Charles E. Silberman

"He cannot be bought; he cannot be intimidated; and he breaks all the rules."

—*The Economist* (London)

"I consider him to be one of the few really great men of our century."

—Jacques Maritain

*From the Trade Paperback edition.*

#### From the Inside Flap

This primer tells the "have-nots" how they can organize to achieve real political power for the practice of true democracy.

#### About the Author

Saul Alinsky was born in Chicago in 1909 and educated first in the streets of that city and then in its university. Graduate work at the University of Chicago in criminology introduced him to the Capone gang, and later to Joliet State Prison, where he studied prison life. He founded what is known today as the Alinsky ideology and Alinsky concepts of mass organization for power. His work in organizing the poor to fight for their rights as citizens has been internationally recognized. In the late 1930s he organized the Back of the Yards area in Chicago (the neighborhood made famous in Upton Sinclair's *The Jungle*). Subsequently, through the Industrial Areas Foundation which he began in 1940, Mr. Alinsky and his staff helped to organize communities not only in Chicago but throughout the country. He later turned his attentions to the middle class, creating a training institute for organizers. He died in 1972.

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**Christine Emmons:**

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