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WHEN WE FIGHT, WE WIN!

Twenty-First-Century Social Movements and the Activists That Are Transforming Our World

By Greg Jobin-Leeds and AgitArte

“Wonderful...inspiring...**WHEN WE FIGHT, WE WIN!** portrays vividly, and creatively, how alone we may seem small, but together we can become a powerful force to make a better world. **A timely and impressive work.**”

—Noam Chomsky, MIT professor of linguistics, emeritus

“As protests and demonstrations sprout across the land, young organizers and activists need to know why and how movements are sustained, and how they grow. **That resource has arrived.**” —Mumia Abu Jamal, author and activist

“If money media were as interested in communities and people as they are in profits and empires, the stories in this beautiful book would be as well-known as the nation's founding fables...**A guide to making change that will leave you smarter, inspired and more ready than ever to fight and win. Bravo.**”

—Laura Flanders, GRITtv

“**The art is consistently and effectively provocative...**” —*Kirkus Reviews*



In **WHEN WE FIGHT, WE WIN!:** *Twenty-First-Century Social Movements and the Activists That Are Transforming Our World* (The New Press; Trade Paperback Original; January 5, 2016; \$17.95), longtime social activist Greg Jobin-Leeds joins forces with AgitArte—a collective of innovative artists and organizers—to capture the stories, philosophies, tactics, and art of six of today’s most pressing movements: **immigrant rights, the LGBTQ movement, the fight for quality public education, the prison justice movement, the struggle for economic power, and the environmental movement.**

With a foreword by *Colorlines*’ Rinku Sen and an afterword by celebrated author Antonia Darder, **WHEN WE FIGHT, WE WIN!** weaves together personal interviews with today’s most successful activists and artists—from Patrisse Cullors-Brignac, Bill McKibben, Clayton Thomas-Müller and Karen Lewis to Favianna Rodríguez, Rea Carey, and Gaby Pacheco. Distilling the collective wisdom of hundreds of activists, academics, political organizers, and movement leaders, Jobin-Leeds found that 7 key practices emerged...

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These transformative organizers:

- Build organizations that are grounded in the most impacted communities
- Create transformative visions
- Tell powerful stories
- Go to the root cause of problems
- Reclaim the intersection of our struggles and identities
- Disrupt power, changing who has it and what to do with it once reclaimed
- Build solidarity and stand together

Each chapter of **WHEN WE FIGHT, WE WIN!** shows these attributes in action:

Chapter 1: Reclaiming Wholeness: the LGBTQ Movement

Paulina Helm-Hernández at Southerners on New Ground and Rea Carey at the National LGBTQ Taskforce show the cutting edge of a movement in which new conversations and definition about sexuality, gender and identity are emerging. Marriage equality is one step in a larger liberation movement that is thinking beyond the traditional fragmented male/female, gay/straight binary. Conversations with these transformers reveal something equally profound: their identities go beyond sexuality into race and class as well. They reclaim their wholeness as they celebrate love.

Chapter 2: Grounded in Community: The Fight for the Soul of Public Education

In Chicago, teachers, students, parents, and community leaders are creating a social economic movement, energized by a community-based teachers union, to defend public education against a powerful mayor seeking to privatize education and close schools in the most vulnerable neighborhoods. Chicago's organizing has become a nationally visible, exciting beacon of hope.

Chapter 3: Transforming Visions: Ending Mass Incarceration

The United States has more people in prison than any other country on the planet. The transformative visions of the prison justice movement challenge us to understand the racist and capitalist underpinnings of the prison industrial complex and to imagine a world without jails. Patrisse Cullors-Brignac (one of the founders of #BlackLivesMatter), Angela Davis, Michelle Alexander, and Walidah Imarisha powerfully illustrate incarceration's relationship to social control, and their words, art, visions, and actions inspire us to imagine what seemed impossible.

Chapter 4: The Power of Stories: The DREAMers and Immigrant Rights

Inspiring thousands of immigrants to come out of the shadows, the DREAMers are no longer afraid or ashamed of being undocumented. The Trail of Dreams—a youth-led immigrant group—marched from Florida to the White House, bringing attention to a national effort to make it possible for immigrant youth to remain in the United States and go to college. Their stories are helping to transform a broken immigration system and restore dignity to millions of undocumented Americans.

Chapter 5: “When We Fight, We Win!”: The Struggle for Economic Power

Occupy Wall Street, anti-eviction activists, and the organizing of restaurant workers are three stories in the modern economic justice movement that inspire increasing activism. Thanks to their bold organizing and the larger movement, the notion of the 99 percent, the need to democratize who holds economic power, and alternatives that put people before profits are now part of the public narrative. These economic justice organizers are fighting to disrupt and change the inequitable status quo.

Chapter 6: Environmental Warriors: Going to the Root of the Problem

A global networked environmental movement is on the rise. Indigenous activist, Clayton Thomas-Müller, the LA Bus Riders Union, and 350.org are three of the stories that delve into how transformative organizing goes to the root causes of problems, as opposed to focusing only on short-term solutions. Bill McKibben speaks of “the perverse logic of capitalism: the fact that it’s extremely profitable to pollute.... There can be no real answer to our climate woes that doesn’t address the insane inequalities and concentrations of power that are helping to drive us toward this disaster.”

Emphasizing the value of collective power, Greg Jobin-Leeds says, “When we fight—building an organization, joining a community of activists—we win not only communal victories but also our own personal transformation, enabling us to discover common root causes to problems that had seemed unconnected before. **Understanding root causes can ally us with others—across issues, cultures, identities. This aggregates individual fights into broad movement struggles, and by working in solidarity together we can realize far-reaching, system change.**”

A visually rich and deeply inspiring book, **WHEN WE FIGHT, WE WIN!** gives a whole generation of readers the chance to celebrate and benefit from a remarkable decade of activism—a decade that shows just how ripe these times are for social transformation.

Greg Jobin-Leeds is co-chair of the Schott Foundation for Public Education. He has helped launch many high-impact social change organizations and lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts. **Deymirie Hernández, José Jorge Díaz, and José “Primo” Hernández** are members of **AgitArte**, an artist and organizing collective that facilitates projects of cultural solidarity with workers and marginalized communities that is based in San Juan, Puerto Rico and Boston, Massachusetts. To see a video about **WHEN WE FIGHT, WE WIN!**, go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kEDPMvKuNEA>. For more information, please visit www.WhenWeFightWeWin.com.



WHEN WE FIGHT, WE WIN! features Mumia Abu Jamal, Antwi Akom, Yirssi Bergman, Deepak Bhargava, May Boeve, Raul Botello, Michael Bronski, Jitu Brown, Adrienne Marie Brown, Rea Carey, Noam Chomsky, Sasha Costanza-Chock, Patrice Cullors-Brignac, Antonia Darder, Angela Davis, José Jorge Díaz, Farhad Ebrahimi, Marshall Ganz, Juan Gonzalez, Amy Goodman, David Goodman, Che Gossett, Noelle Hanrahan, Paulina Helm-Hernández, Deymirie Hernández, José “Primo” Hernández, Walidah Imarisha, John H. Jackson, Saru Jayaraman, Kevin “Rashid” Johnson, Van Jones, Rob Kampia, Andy Lane, Karen Lewis, Pauline Lipman, Adourthus MacDowell, Eric Mann, Claude Marks, Manissa McCleave Maharawal, Bill McKibben, Steve Meacham, Scot Nakagawa, Aloysius Nwanko, Lisa Owens, Gaby Pacheco, Lily Paulina, Ai-Jen Poo, Jackson Potter, Barbara Ransby, Gibrán Rivera, Rashad Robinson, Favianna Rodríguez, Carlos Saavedra, Julio Salgado, Rachel Schragis, Cassie Schwerner, Rinku Sen, Jessie Sharkey, Felipe Sousa-Rodríguez, Isabel Sousa-Rodríguez, Jeannette Taylor, Clayton Thomas-Müller, Janelle Treibitz, Urvashi Vaid, Evan Wolfson, and more.

100% of royalties from WHEN WE FIGHT, WE WIN! will go back to fund cultural projects by the activists and artists who continue the fight to win.

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**For a review copy of WHEN WE FIGHT, WE WIN!
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To arrange an interview with Greg Jobin-Leeds, AgitArte's Deymirie Hernández and José Jorge Díaz, and other featured activists, please contact: Jill Siegel, jill@jillsiegelpr.com, 917.670.1065