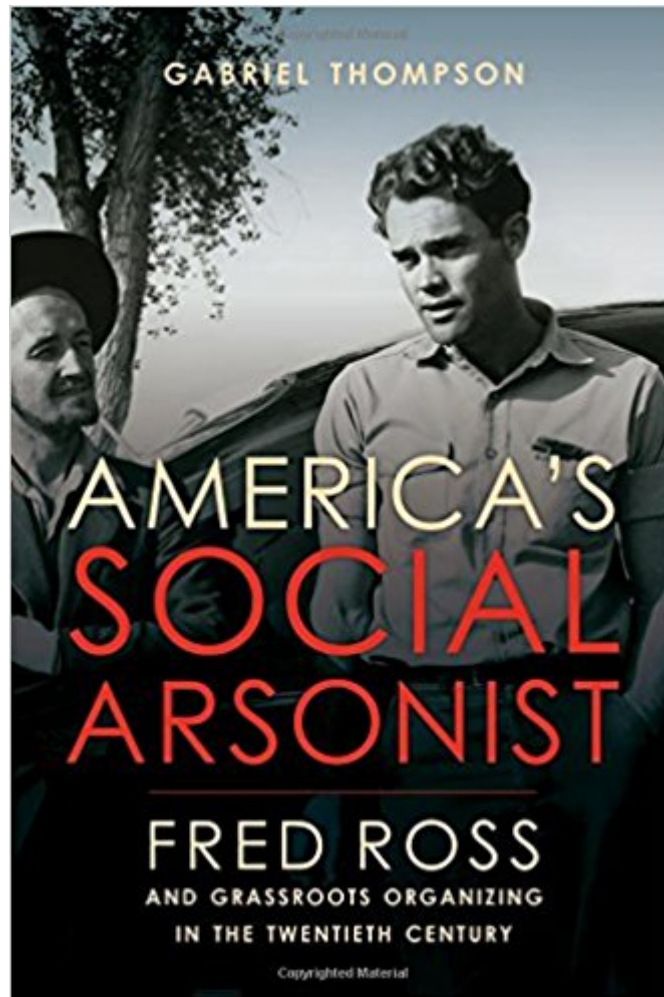


The book was found

America's Social Arsonist: Fred Ross And Grassroots Organizing In The Twentieth Century



Synopsis

"A good organizer is a social arsonist who goes around setting people on fire." — Fred Ross Raised by conservative parents who hoped he would stay with his own kind, Fred Ross instead became one of the most influential community organizers in American history. His activism began alongside Dust Bowl migrants, where he managed the same labor camp that inspired John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*. During World War II, Ross worked for the release of interned Japanese Americans, and after the war, he dedicated his life to building the political power of Latinos across California. Labor organizing in this country was forever changed when Ross knocked on the door of a young Cesar Chavez and encouraged him to become an organizer. Until now there has been no biography of Fred Ross, a man who believed a good organizer was supposed to fade into the crowd as others stepped forward. In *America's Social Arsonist*, Gabriel Thompson provides a full picture of this complicated and driven man, recovering a forgotten chapter of American history and providing vital lessons for organizers today.

Book Information

Hardcover: 296 pages

Publisher: University of California Press (March 29, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0520280830

ISBN-13: 978-0520280830

Product Dimensions: 6 x 1 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars — See all reviews (10 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #263,946 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #131 in Books > History >

Americas > United States > Immigrants #176 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Leaders &

Notable People > Social Activists #2772 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical > United States

Customer Reviews

When the topic of community organizing comes up, a single name comes quickly to mind: Saul Alinsky. Alinsky is often cited as the founder of the field, having made his name through a hugely successful campaign on the South Side of Chicago in the 1940s. Two books he wrote, *Reveille for Radicals* (1946) and *Rules for Radicals* (1971), cemented his reputation nationwide. During my own brief experience as a community organizer in the late 1970s, Alinsky's methodology dominated

the field, largely through his writings. Yet another man, working in the fields of California, much closer to me in Berkeley, was compiling a record to rival and perhaps surpass Alinsky's. He is the subject of an excellent new biography, *America's Social Arsonist: Fred Ross and Grassroots Organizing in the Twentieth Century*. Community organizing in rural California After brief periods as a teacher and social worker, Fred Ross found his way into community organizing through a series of posts with the New Deal's Farm Security Administration. As the manager of relief programs in a series of migrant camps set up to house the "Okies" made famous in John Steinbeck's classic novel, *The Grapes of Wrath*, Ross became familiar with poverty at its worst. During World War II, Ross worked for the War Relocation Authority, which managed the relocation of Japanese-Americans to internment camps throughout the West. In Cleveland, as the *Los Angeles Times* pointed out in its obituary, he was credited with persuading defense plant owners to hire [thousands of] Japanese-Americans, who were then freed from the camps to work. Following the war, Ross played a leading role in establishing the Community Service Organization (CSO) in South Los Angeles.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

America's Social Arsonist: Fred Ross and Grassroots Organizing in the Twentieth Century
Composing for the State: Music in Twentieth-Century Dictatorships (Musical Cultures of the Twentieth Century)
Roots to Power: A Manual for Grassroots Organizing, 3rd Edition
Organizing from the Inside Out, Second Edition: The Foolproof System For Organizing Your Home, Your Office and Your Life
Organizing from the Inside Out for Teens: The Foolproof System for Organizing Your Room, Your Time, and Your Life
Tangled Vines: Greed, Murder, Obsession, and an Arsonist in the Vineyards of California
Big Top Burning: The True Story of an Arsonist, a Missing Girl, and The Greatest Show On Earth
Impossible Subjects: Illegal Aliens and the Making of Modern America (Politics and Society in Twentieth-Century America)
Social Media: Master, Manipulate, and Dominate
Social Media Marketing With Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram and LinkedIn (Social Media, Social Media ... Twitter, Youtube, Instagram, Pinterest)
Social Security & Medicare Facts 2016: Social Security Coverage, Maximization Strategies for Social Security Benefits, Medicare/Medicaid, Social Security Taxes, Retirement & Disability, Ser
Social Media: Master Strategies For Social Media Marketing - Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube & LinkedIn (Social Media, Social Media Marketing, Facebook, ... Instagram, Internet Marketing Book 3)
Roget's 21st Century Thesaurus: Updated and Expanded 3rd Edition, in Dictionary Form (Roget's Twentieth-First Century Thesaurus in Dictionary Form)
Depression Folk: Grassroots Music and Left-Wing Politics in 1930s America
Activism, Inc.: How the Outsourcing of Grassroots Campaigns Is Strangling

Progressive Politics in America Understanding the Social Security Act: The Foundation of Social Welfare for America in the Twenty-First Century Carceral Fantasies: Cinema and Prison in Early Twentieth-Century America (Film and Culture Series) Jewish Artists and the Bible in Twentieth-Century America Collective Action for Social Change: An Introduction to Community Organizing Organizing for Social Change 4th Edition Organizing for Social Change: Midwest Academy Manual for Activists

[Dmca](#)