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# Until *Justice* Rolls Down

ORGANIZING CONGREGATIONS  
AROUND JUSTICE ISSUES



National  
**Benevolent**  
Association

# Purpose

To provide an overview of the church's role in social justice and explore how congregations can organize around issues of justice.

# Organizing

- The coordination of cooperative efforts and campaigning carried out by residents to promote the interests of their community.
  - The power lies within the community and is built from the bottom up (*grassroots*).
  - Community sets its own agenda and is self-determined.
  - Leaders are identified and power is built from within.

# Organizing in History

- First recorded strike for higher wages: Philadelphia 1786 by shoemakers.
- Industrial Revolution strikes led to unions
- Economic cooperatives
- Faith-based organizing
  - Civil Rights Movement
  - Prison Industrial Complex
  - Poor People's Campaign

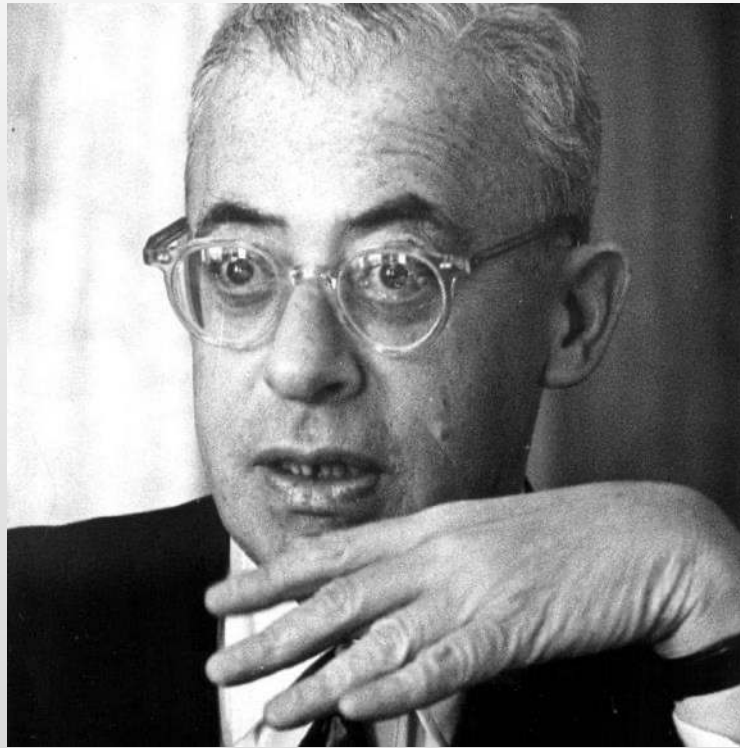
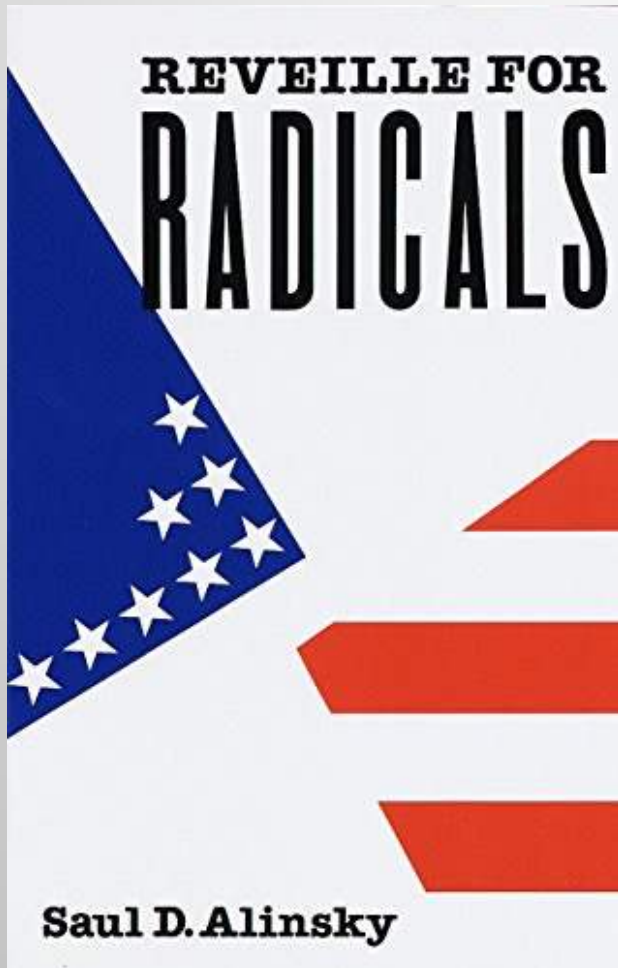


“Community organization...constitutes a conscious effort on the part of the community to **control** its affairs democratically and to **secure** the highest services from its specialists, organizations, agencies, and institutions by means of recognized interrelations.”

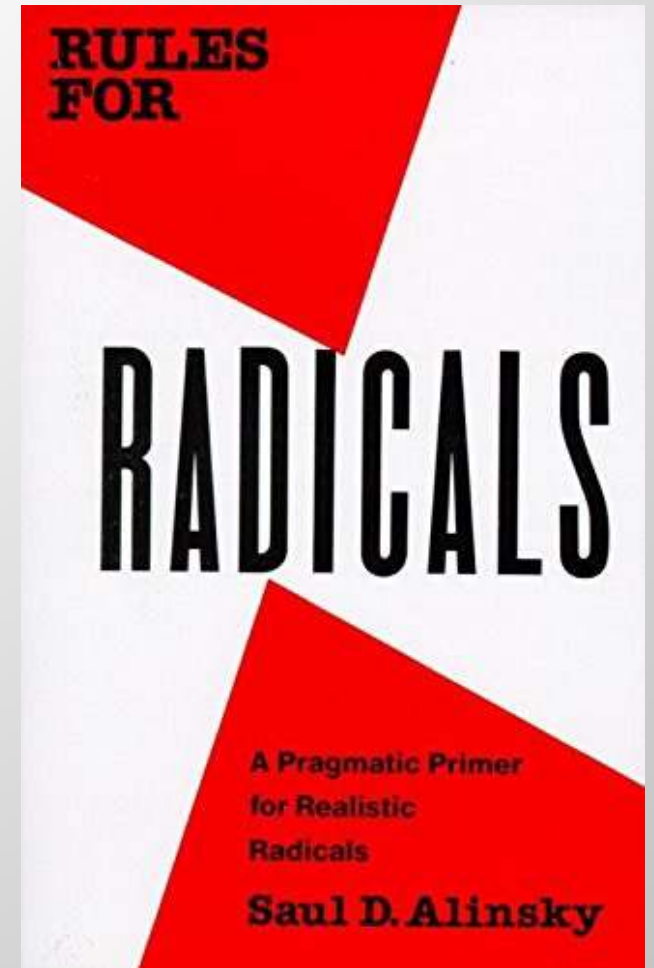
-Eduard C. Lindeman

# Saul Alinsky

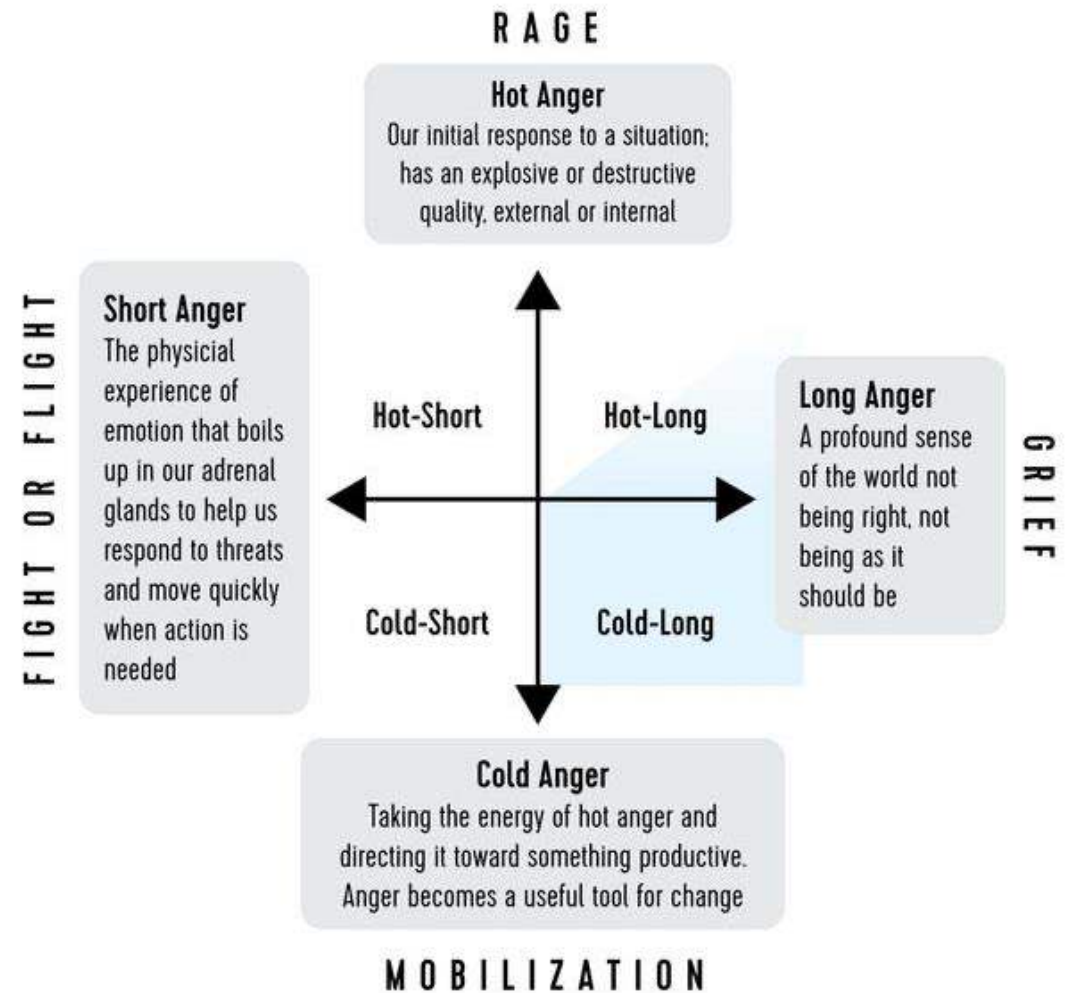
Father of Organizing



1909-1972




# Cold Anger in Organizing



# Faith-Based Organizing

Organizing around values that are based on a group's **faith and/or beliefs**, which has a mission based on social values of faith, and which most often draws its activists (leaders, staff, volunteers) from a particular faith group.

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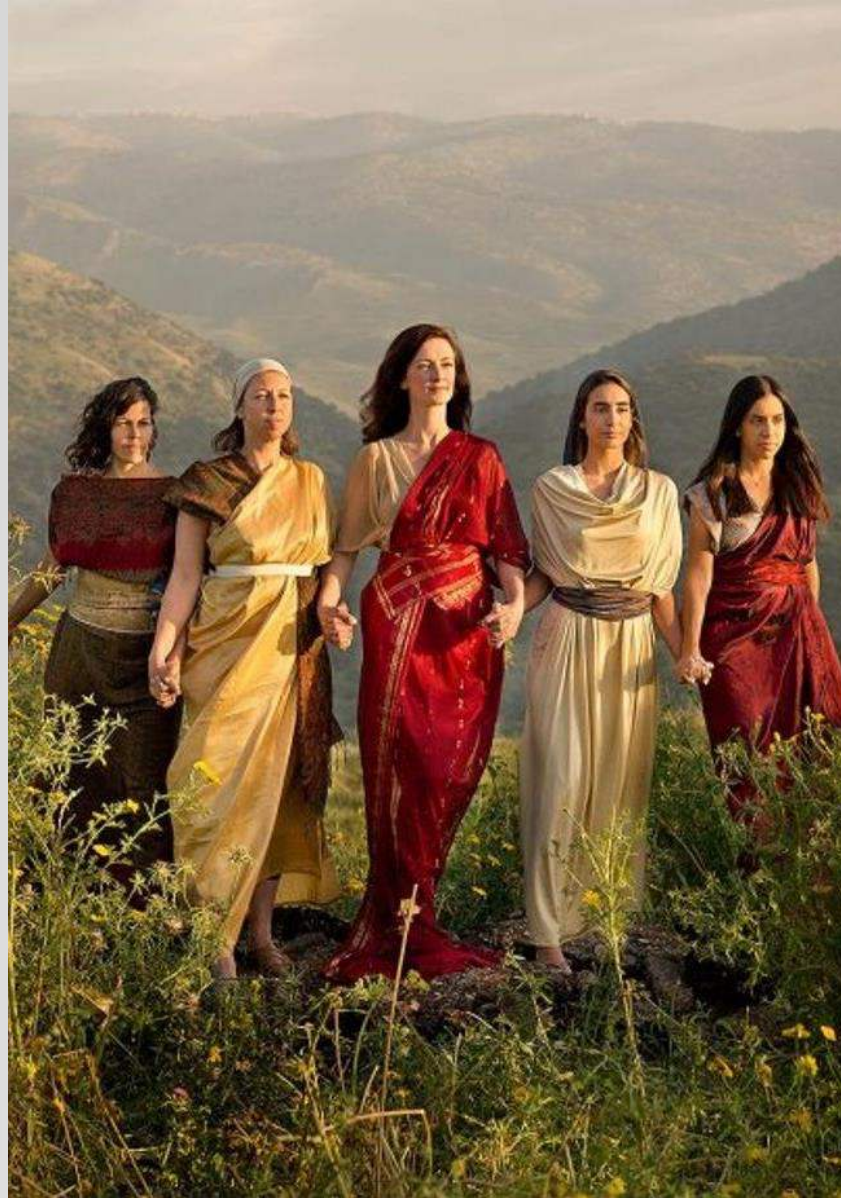
## The Exodus



## The Disciples



## Daughters of Zelophehad





God organizes those called out of the world (**ecclesia**) through worship, fellowship, mutual instructions, encouragement, and prayer, and uses them to **reorganize the world**, across the categories of individuals, institutions, and societies (**diaconia**), in love and justice.”

-Hak Joon Lee, (2020)

# Why Organize?

“The church must be reminded that it is not the master or the servant of the state, but rather **the conscience of the state**. It must be the guide and the critic of the state, and never its tool.”

-Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

“The ultimate goal of God’s organizing is shalom, which Martin Luther King, Jr. called the **beloved community**-a just, loving, and reciprocal community where every life is respected and interrelated, which reflects the more nature of the triune life.”

-Hak Joon Lee, (2020)

Not Just...





# CHARITY



Provides a direct service in response to a crisis.  
It does not mitigate the issue.

# EDUCATION



Provides knowledge about a particular issue, its background, and trajectory.

# ACTIVISM




A visceral response to an injustice by putting one's body on the line to demonstrate a violation of a person or group of people.

# ADVOCACY



Addressing the need for and asking for change to policies and systems.





**Organized People  
+  
Organized Money**

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**POWER**



# Where Do I Start?

A Step-by-Step Approach

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## WHERE ARE YOU NOW?

### **Discern**

Context

Capacity

Commitment



## WHERE DO YOU WANT TO BE?

### **Clarify**

Self-Interest

Available Resources

Potential





# Build Relationships!!!!

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Teamwork Makes the Dream Work

# Community Engagement

- The process of working collaboratively with and through groups of people
- A vehicle for bringing about communal, systemic, institutional change
- Involves partnerships and coalitions and cannot be done in isolation

-(CDC, 1997)

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<b>Community Outreach</b>	<b>Community Engagement</b>
Short-Term	Long-Term
Marketing	Relationship Building
What can A do for B?	What can A and B do together?
One Group Benefits Most	Community Benefits
Transactional	Connecting
Directional	Cyclical

# Teambuilding

Identify

Identify Your Leadership Team

Equip

Equip Your Leadership Team

Engage

Engage Volunteers

Support

Equip Your Leaders & Team







“The organizer dedicated to changing the life of a particular community must first rub raw the resentments of the people of the community.”

– Saul Alinsky

# Resources

- Book List: <https://gamaliel.org/reading-list-for-first-year-organizers/>
- Lee, H. J. (2020). *God and Community Organizing: A Covenantal Approach* [E-book]. Baylor University Press.
- Baker, D. [National Benevolent Association]. (2019, September 23). *Webinar: The Justice Buffet* [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r6zKHKYqcLU&feature=youtu.be>
- *The Community: An Introduction to the Study of Community Leadership and Organization* (Lindeman 1921)
- "What is Community Engagement?" <https://aese.psu.edu/research/centers/cecd/engagement-toolbox/engagement/what-is-community-engagement>.
- Hamerlink, John Jr. "Community Outreach vs Community Engagement." <https://leadingdifferently.com/2019/06/06/community-outreach-vs-community-engagement/> June 6, 2019.
- <https://faithinaction.org/about-us/what-is-faith-based-community-organizing/>

# Connect with Disciples Women



[www.discipleswomen.org](http://www.discipleswomen.org)



<https://www.facebook.com/DisciplesWomen>



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National **Benevolent** Association

# Stay In Touch

Sign up at [NBACares.org/newsletter](https://NBACares.org/newsletter)

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National Benevolent Association



@NBAdisciples







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Around Issues of Justice

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