NEW BOOK RELEASE

**Helping People Help Themselves:**
*From the World Bank to an Alternative Philosophy of Development Assistance*

By David Ellerman
Foreword by Albert O. Hirschman

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*Helping People Help Themselves* grew out of David Ellerman's ten years at the World Bank—and particularly out of his three years as advisor and speechwriter for Joseph Stiglitz during Stiglitz's tumultuous term as the Bank's Chief Economist. The book provides a structural critique of the World Bank's approach to development assistance—but the main purpose is to lay the intellectual foundations for an alternative approach. The book takes a broad interdisciplinary approach drawing from educational theory, management theory, community organizing, psychology, and philosophy. While many thinkers are discussed, there is a focus on eight individuals who have wrestled with the fundamental conundrum of trying to give external help that promotes (rather than thwarts) self-help. Those individuals are: Albert Hirschman, John Dewey, Paulo Freire, E. F. Schumacher, Douglas McGregor, Carl Rogers, Saul Alinsky, and Søren Kierkegaard. *Helping People Help Themselves* might be considered the companion volume focusing on the World Bank to Stiglitz's *Globalization and Its Discontents* which focused on the IMF.

"Ellerman provides a compelling humanist understanding of how economic development aid can succeed, if only people and nations are enabled to help themselves."
— William Greider author, *The Soul of Capitalism: Opening Paths to a Moral Economy*

"A towering achievement. It outdoes Sen and Hirshman in its reach across economics, management theory, psychology, sociology, mathematics and philosophy. The result is a coherent alternative "way of seeing" the relationship between aid organizations based in rich countries and aid recipients based in poorer ones, and some practical suggestions on how to reengage the aid agencies more as "helpers" than as "doers". Along the way it fairly sizzles with insider insights into the workings of the World Bank."
— Robert Hunter Wade, Development Studies Institute, London School of Economics

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Bibliography

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