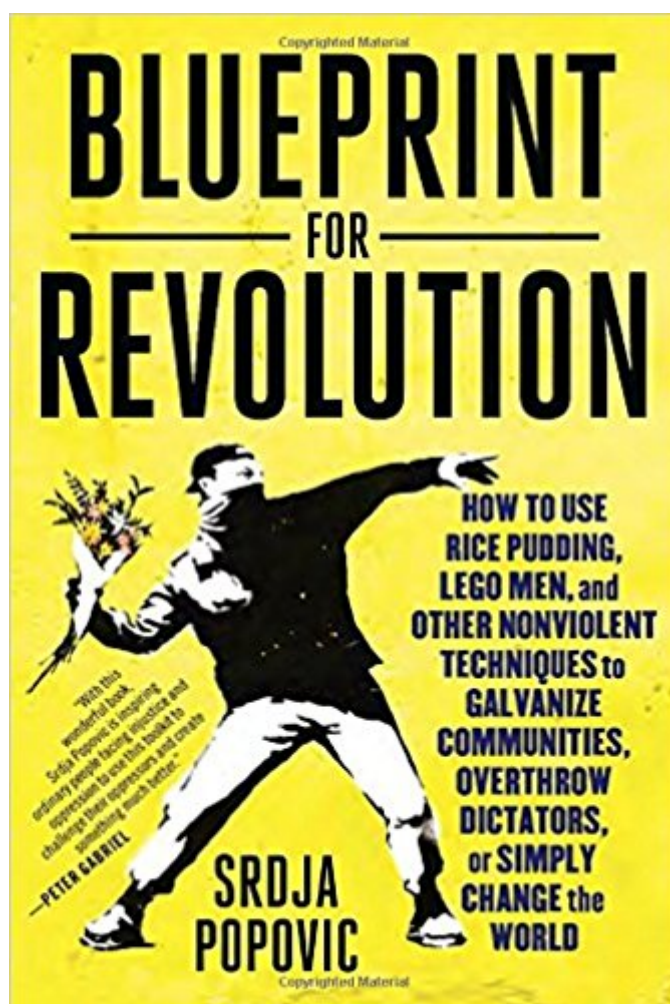


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# Blueprint For Revolution: How To Use Rice Pudding, Lego Men, And Other Nonviolent Techniques To Galvanize Communities, Overthrow Dictators, Or Simply Change The World





## Synopsis

An urgent and accessible handbook for peaceful protesters, activists, and community organizers— anyone trying to defend their rights, hold their government accountable, or change the world. *Blueprint for Revolution* will teach you how to

- make oppression backfire by playing your opponents' strongest card against them
- identify the "almighty pillars of power"
- in order to shift the balance of control
- dream big, but start small: learn how to pick battles you can win
- listen to what people actually care about in order to incorporate their needs into your revolutionary vision
- master the art of compromise to bring together even the most disparate groups
- recognize your allies and view your enemies as potential partners
- use humor to make yourself heard, defuse potentially violent situations, and "laugh your way to victory"

Praise for *Blueprint for Revolution*

- "The title is no exaggeration. *Otpor*'s methods . . . have been adopted by democracy movements around the world. The Egyptian opposition used them to topple Hosni Mubarak. In Lebanon, the Serbs helped the Cedar Revolution extricate the country from Syrian control. In Maldives, their methods were the key to overthrowing a dictator who had held power for thirty years. In many other countries, people have used what *Canvas* teaches to accomplish other political goals, such as fighting corruption or protecting the environment."
- "The *New York Times*— A clear, well-constructed, and easily applicable set of principles for any David facing any Goliath (sans slingshot, of course)"
- "By the end of *Blueprint*, the idea that a punch is no match for a punch line feels like anything but a joke."
- "The *Boston Globe*— An entertaining primer on the theory and practice of peaceful protest."
- "The *Guardian*— With this wonderful book, Srdja Popovic is inspiring ordinary people facing injustice and oppression to use this tool kit to challenge their oppressors and create something much better. When I was growing up, we dreamed that young people could bring down those who misused their power and create a more just and democratic society. For Srdja Popovic, living in Belgrade in 1998, this same dream was potentially a much more dangerous idea. But with an extraordinarily courageous group of students that formed *Otpor!*, Srdja used imagination, invention, cunning, and lots of humor to create a movement that not only succeeded in toppling the brutal dictator Slobodan Milošević but has become a blueprint for nonviolent revolution around the world. Srdja rules!"
- "Peter Gabriel— *Blueprint for Revolution* is not only a spirited guide to changing the world but a breakthrough in the annals of advice for those who seek justice and democracy. It asks (and not heavy-handedly): As long as you want to change the world, why not do it joyfully? It's not just funny. It's seriously funny. No joke."
- "Todd Gitlin, author of *The Sixties* and *Occupy Nation*

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

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Srdja Popovic is a Serbian political activist and executive director of the Centre for Applied Nonviolent Action and Strategies (CANVAS). He was a leader of the student movement Otpor!, which helped topple Serbian president Slobodan Milošević. He has taught at the Harvard Kennedy School, NYU, and the University of Colorado, among others. He lives in Belgrade.

Hands down one of the best books on social revolution I've ever read. If I had to choose a single word to describe this book that would be Empowering. It teaches you by way of demonstration from real life events anecdotes, how to, what works and what doesn't work when it comes to nonviolent movements for social and political change. These strategies and tactics and how they work on getting the scale tilted your way, will simply blow your mind! I found particularly enlightening how Popovic debunks the way most of us may underestimate the complexity of an effective social movement. Simply said, a social media campaign or a random flashmobe in front of your tyrant's palace, although useful tools, they by themselves most likely won't get you more than 15 minutes of socialmedia fame. Popovic goes beyond explaining you that every day ordinary people like you and me can create long lasting changes in our communities and how to do it, but also that your struggle doesn't end right after your dictator is toppled. In fact, your struggle continues by enforcing and securing those changes in the long term. Insightful, inspiring and empowering, *Blueprint for Revolution* will change forever the way you perceive power entities and social change. I strongly recommend this book as a must read to anybody who feels a call to do something for the welfare of any community.

Srdja Popovic knows what he's talking about. As one of the founders of Otpor!, he masterminded the nonviolence movement that eventually toppled the Serbian dictator Slobodan Milosevic. Later he and his colleagues consulted with the nonviolent movements in the Maldives, Egypt, and Burma. This book draws upon these frontline experiences: what worked, what didn't work, and how to do it better. Comedy works -- you can't laugh and be afraid at the same time, and oppressive regimes mostly want you to be afraid so they can control you. So create street theater that ridicules your adversary while being totally legal. Violence doesn't work. You're trying to hit a much bigger opponent at his strongest point. Also, all that dying makes it kinda unsustainable. Popovic conveys

his hard-earned wisdom with hilarity & great storytelling, making the daunting endeavor of revolution seem wholly accessible to ordinary folks. Adhere to the holy trinity of nonviolent discipline, unity and planning, he says, and you will go far. Some choice quotes: "...ordinary people don't take to the barricades because things are bad. In order for your average citizen to really get engaged with an issue, he needs to think that it's unfair or wrong." "When you think of power, remember that exercising it comes at a cost, and that your job as an activist is to make that cost rise ever upward until your opponent is no longer able to afford the charges." "This is brilliant stuff, folks -- a manual for both the suburban mom trying to stop the megamall next door, and the activists aiming to topple a ruthless dictator. Read it, live it, and make good stuff happen.-- Ali Binazir, M.D., M.Phil., author of *The Tao of Dating: The Smart Woman's Guide to Being Absolutely Irresistible*, the highest-rated dating book on Amazon for 4+ years

I learned some surprising things from this book -- such as how to get people on your side initially who otherwise wouldn't be motivated to take action for your cause. It's extremely practical and includes examples from various continents and decades, and on various scales -- from overthrowing a dictator to stopping development of a shopping mall. It's clear that the strategies apply broadly, not just to the author's situation in Serbia. In addition to all this, it's written with humor, so it's enjoyable to read. The humor is sometimes cheesy, but the author acknowledges it, which is a joke on a joke. The only unfortunate thing about reading this book is that I can see mistakes being made by people on my side of some very important current issues. So my challenge is to figure out what actions I will take. I'm going to re-read the book to get re-inspired.

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