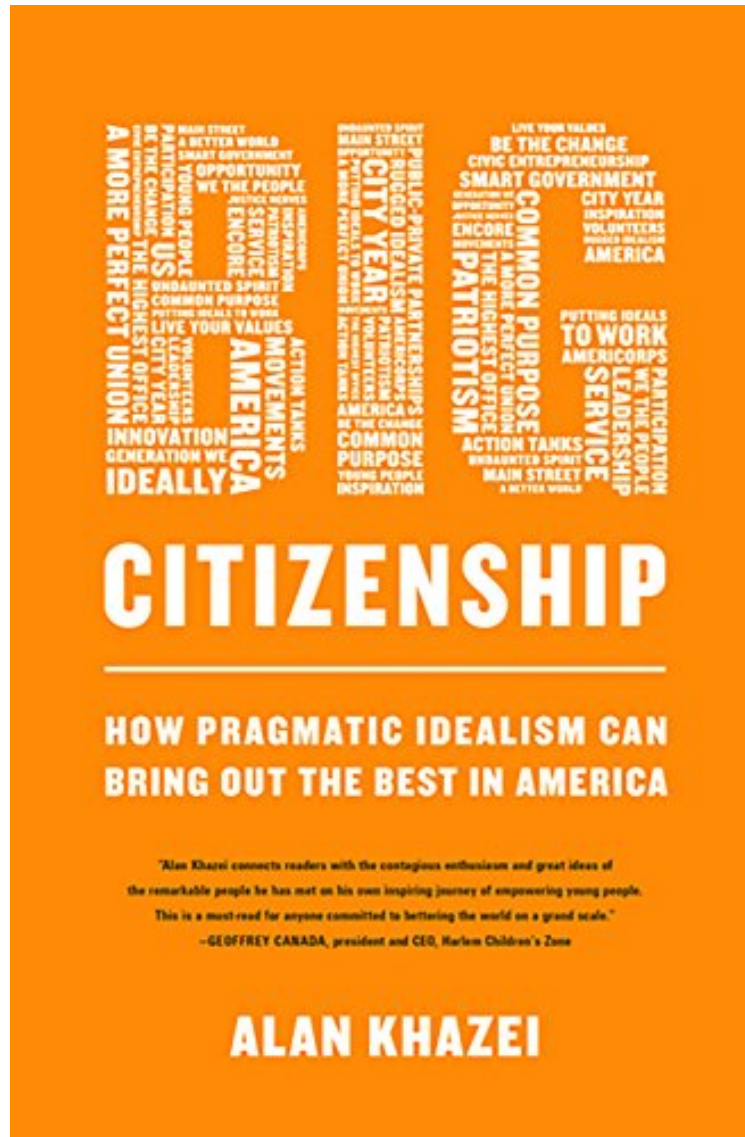


(Ebook free) Big Citizenship: How Pragmatic Idealism Can Bring Out the Best in America

# Big Citizenship: How Pragmatic Idealism Can Bring Out the Best in America

Alan Khazei

ebooks / Download PDF / \*ePub / DOC / audiobook



[Download](#) [Read Online](#)

#1046048 in eBooks 2010-08-31 2010-08-31 File Name: B003ZHVC7U | File size: 17.Mb

Alan Khazei : Big Citizenship: How Pragmatic Idealism Can Bring Out the Best in America before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Big Citizenship: How Pragmatic Idealism Can Bring Out the Best in America:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Excellent! By Greenleaf If you're concerned about where this country is headed, about our divided politics and seemingly selfish, materialistic culture, this is the book you've been waiting for. Alan Khazei turned down a career in corporate law to co-found City Year, a non-profit youth service group that

became a movement, blazing a new trail as a social entrepreneur. His story is a tonic for our times. Best of all, this isn't one of those tedious all-about-me memoirs that successful leaders often write to burnish their image and build the personal brand. It's written in a warm human voice that draws you in from the first page. Early on, recalling his childhood as the son of a hardworking immigrant family, Khazei says that as he boarded the school bus each day, his Italian-American mom would shout out, "I love you, Alan!" He was mortified, as any kid would be. "But," he continues, "I learned from her the power of unconditional love." And that's really the theme here. Love of others, love of community and country, love of freedom and all the possibilities it offers us to build a better world. In *Big Citizenship*, Khazei shows how to grasp that potential and DO something with it. This book isn't ultimately about him, it's about us and the enormous benefits we can reap, individually and collectively, by getting back in touch with our own idealism and putting it into practice. A great read, highly recommended. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Powerful Middle Way By Michael Zuckerman Alan Khazei's "Big Citizenship" comes from a lifelong change agent and should be required reading for anyone fed up with the same old Washington ways. In the book, Khazei (Kay-ZEE) shares his own story of growing up as a pragmatic idealist who wanted to reclaim the sense of common purpose that he and his friends believed had made America great in the first place. He explains how he founded the youth service non-profit City Year in 1988, helped save the AmeriCorps national service program from potentially disastrous budget cuts in 2003, helped usher in a new era of service by helping shape the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act in 2009, and most recently jumped into politics for the first time to run for the Democratic nomination in 2009's Massachusetts U.S. Senate primary. But Khazei's book also lays out a broad and ambitious vision for how our country can solve its problems: an approach anchored in the energy and ingenuity of the American people, as opposed to huge, impersonal institutions like Big Government or Big Business. For anyone tired of what seems to be a never ending debate between two extremes, Khazei's book should offer a powerful--and refreshing--middle path that is pragmatically distinct from each. At the end of the day, Khazei argues, it is up to each of us to "be the change we wish to see in the world." For anyone already being that change--or who wants to get started--Khazei's "Big Citizenship" is the book for you. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Must Read for Those Interested in Social Policy By Joel Even though I am highly familiar with the groundbreaking work of the national service organization City Year, which was co-founded by Khazei, I was still riveted by his account of the seat-of-the pants rise of the organization and how it became a model for the federally-funded AmeriCorps National Service Program. Despite being honest about numerous setbacks and challenges, what I love so much Khazei and his book is that both exemplify pure, unadulterated idealism. While all too often our hyper-cynical and irony-laden society gives the impression that idealism is for fools or suckers, his book is a refreshing celebration of the concrete, real-world, positive impact of dedicating your life to improve your neighborhood, your country, or your planet. I am also delighted that he made a passionate case for entrepreneurs and all Americans getting more involved in government and politics, which I agree is absolutely vital.

Alan Khazei has pioneered ways to empower citizens to make a difference throughout his life. As a young graduate from Harvard Law School, he turned down lucrative offers from corporate law firms to found a non-profit called City Year with his friend, Michael Brown. City Year allowed young people to serve their communities--first in Boston, now in twenty cities across the U.S. and in Johannesburg, South Africa, and London, U.K.--through mentoring, tutoring, and leading children. It also allowed Khazei to be at the forefront of a generation of innovators who invented new methods of social entrepreneurship. Khazei not only built and ran a hugely successful organization with Brown, he explored how social change could be achieved through Congress, popular movements, and motivated alliances of groups. Khazei led the effort to defend AmeriCorps and then through his second organization, Be The Change, Inc., worked to secure its longterm future through the passage of the bipartisan Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act. This journey--from the most local of grassroots engagement to the halls of Washington--is extraordinary in itself and a vital model for anyone despairing that change can ever be effected in a sclerotic political system. It can. Khazei has already proved it.

From Publishers Weekly As a young Harvard law graduate, Khazei resolved to serve his country by creating an urban organization in the style of the Peace Corps called City Year. Based in Boston, City Year has grown from a few volunteers into a massive operation with branches in 20 cities filled with young people eager to serve where they live. Khazei offers a touching memoir of what young entrepreneurs with vision can do to change not just communities but the world. Much of the book is dedicated to the pursuit of this ideal, with reference to Khazei's past efforts, Save AmeriCorps and Be the Change, allowing him to offer words of wisdom to other civically-minded would-be entrepreneurs. The late inclusion of a run for the United States Senate comes as a distraction, but may offer a further level of inspiration for readers. Khazei's *Citizenship* is an accessible motivational tale that is short on concrete advice but long on heart. END Jim Collins, author of *Good to Great*, co-author of *Built to Last* "Alan Khazei is the walking definition of a Big Citizen. One of the great entrepreneurs in America, he has created not just an idea, not just an organization, not just an impact--he has helped launch an enduring great movement that carries forth with

exponential momentum. Read. Learn. Be inspired."Former Senator Harris Wofford "You can read Alan Khazei's extraordinary book forward or backward, starting with his personal saga of social invention in founding City Year and becoming a major leader in the movement for national service, or you can start with his concluding section that conveys his larger vision of a Service Nation in bold detail. But read it. Khazei has rolled into one ball his rich experience and creative ideas that will challenge and inspire those ready to be big citizens, and make social entrepreneuring contagious."Geoffrey Canada, President and CEO, Harlem Children's Zone "Alan Khazei connects readers with the contagious enthusiasm and great ideas of the remarkable people he has met on his own inspiring journey of empowering young people. This is a must-read for anyone committed to bettering the world on a grand scale."Jeff Swartz, CEO of the Timberland Company "BIG CITIZENSHIP is not a 'feel good' book, not even a 'do good' book, but an invitation and challenge to 'be good,' written by one of the most accomplished social entrepreneurs of this generation—or any other generation. Alan Khazei lives the change he seeks to create, and Big Citizenship is the story telling invitation to each of us to be the Big Citizen we can each of us be."Doris Kearns Goodwin, Pulitzer Prize-winning author and presidential historian "Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others," Robert Kennedy famously wrote, "he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope." No one better exemplifies the truth of these words than Alan Khazei, the co-founder of City Year. In this stirring call to arms, Khazei lays out a path for the renewal of America, which should provoke conversation, debate and action."Brad Meltzer, author of The Tenth Justice "Forget the debate between big and small government. BIG CITIZENSHIP gives an alternative—and far more inspiring—answer. From being one of the creators of City Year, to his work preserving AmeriCorps, Khazei knows exactly how idealism works."Rosabeth Moss Kanter, professor, Harvard Business School, and author of Confidence and SuperCorp "BIG CITIZENSHIP is a brilliant tour de force and force for change. Alan Khazei masterfully weaves together a big idea for the future of America with his personal journey as a savvy leader building a successful national organization and social movement. His engaging story will both inspire and yield practical models for action."Boston Globe, August 31, 2008 "Alan Khazei extols the virtues of volunteerism and service in 'Big Citizenship,' a combination memoir and call to action that lays out a framework for everyday people to solve major social issues."Educated Quest, September 22, 2010 "A very appropriate and useful book for a student interested in public and non-profit management or an executive who is considering a role in serving others."