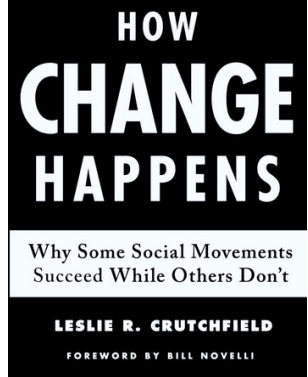


Highlights

THINKING IN SYSTEMS



A Bolder Way Forward: Thinking in Systems

- If we are serious about ensuring that Utah women and girls thrive, we need to create change by 2030, with a checkpoint in 2026. This includes a shift from *outputs* to *outcomes*. To do this we need to utilize systems thinking, which is that “the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.”
- Systems are made of interrelated, interdependent parts, but they cannot be understood as a function of isolated components.
- In Utah, we have been working hard on related efforts for the past few decades using the “parts” strategy, but not moving together as a system. This is the key to more boldly advancing a common cause ...it is leading from the middle and bringing the efforts, initiatives, and voices together that are working on specific areas of focus. (Dr. Susan R. Madsen)

Definition of Systems

- A system is an interconnected set of elements that is coherently organized in a way that achieves something. (Donella H. Meadows)
- Systems need to be understood not by focusing on what each part is doing, but on how each part is interacting with the rest. (Frances Westley)
- Every well-functioning system is about the relationship between the parts that make it work. The parts themselves need to be in good working order, but alone, they are powerless to achieve the greater goal or purpose.

The Whole is Greater Than the Sum of its Parts

- The systems lens enables individuals to see how the various parts of a social change movement adds up to a whole greater than the sum of its parts. It also frees them from only focusing on bilateral dynamics that traditionally defines social change campaigns in terms of contentious battles between deeply entrenched opponents. Most importantly, thinking in terms of systems helps everyone see more clearly what makes the successful movements work and what makes others seem to falter.
- Most importantly, thinking in terms of systems helps others see more clearly what makes the successful movements work and what makes others seem to falter.

You Have the Power to Create Change

- Change happens not by chance. It is determined by individuals and the organizations and networks that bind them together in common cause.
- What unites the eclectic groups of people who made the changes featured in this book: each was compelled in its own unique way to stand up, speak out, and take the lead on behalf of a cause the group cared about. Just like each of them, you have the power to change things, too.

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Leslie R. Crutchfield