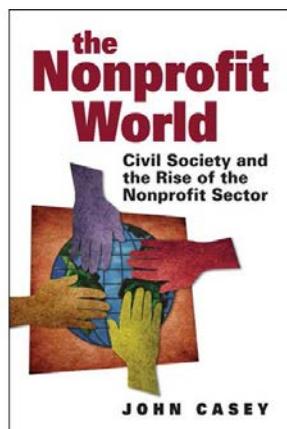


# Mapping the third sector

*The Nonprofit World: Civil Society and the Rise of the Nonprofit Sector* By Dr John Casey,  
Reviewed by **OLGA YOLDI**



*The Nonprofit World: Civil Society and the Rise of the Nonprofit Sector* is the title of the new book by Dr John Casey, a professor of Public Policy at the School of Public Affairs, Baruch College, City University of New York. This book provides a most comprehensive picture of the modern nonprofit world, its rise, evolution, characteristics, contradictions and its role in the development of civil society. It also provides detailed short case studies of a wide spectrum of nonprofits operating around the world.

The tone is engaging, easy to read as the author uses simple language to explain the concepts and terminology. His detailed analysis of the direct and indirect impacts of nonprofits on civil society in various cultures, geographies and political contexts provides an evidence-based appraisal of a sector that is constantly growing and evolving in an increasingly globalized and ever changing world.

The author has a long history working and researching the nonprofit sector around the world. As an academic, researcher, essayist and author, John Casey has published extensively and given numerous presentations on the fields of government and non-government relations, public policy, international policing and immigration. He has dedicated the book to his parents, Stephen and Agi Casey, who survived the Holocaust and Stalinism and went as refugees to Australia.

The book is a collection of thematic areas about the

sector's rise, evolution and diversity. It includes an international comparative study, a description of the diverse work carried out by nonprofits, the growth of the sector and factors that contributed to it. Casey writes about the work of international nonprofits in humanitarian aid that advocate on global issues and foster global communities. He describes the various management and leadership challenges facing nonprofits and examines the major trends that will have an impact on the future evolution of the sector.

He writes that all countries have witnessed a boom in the number of nonprofits. Domestic and international nonprofits are becoming essential partners to governments and influence all aspects of policy making, from social justice, economic development, human rights, to the delivery of aid. But as their reach expands and international politics change, they face multiple organizational, political and economic challenges and it is those very challenges that will shape and redefine the nonprofit sector of the future.

Casey points out that the concept of assisting those in need is not a modern invention. It is as old as human civilization itself. All major contemporary religions embrace the concept of assisting the less fortunate. But as populations grew and more secular societies developed in modern nation-states, networks of confraternities, mutual societies, guilds and other collective and philanthropic endeavors emerged in the 18th and 19th centuries. He cites early initiatives such as St Vincent d Paul Society, the Anti-Slavery Society and the Aborigines' Protection Society as early examples of global humanitarian aid and advocacy organisations. However the sector was suppressed or simply ignored during much of the 20th century even in democratic countries. But nonprofits are no longer the poor cousins but significant actors in the world stage and a growing sector.

Casey sees the growth as the consequence of deliberate, top-down developmental policies by governments who see nonprofits as instruments for achieving their own objectives. "No single ideology has dominated the discussions in favor of expanding nonprofit activities," he writes. "Conservatives consider them a key



*Dr John Casey*

source of nongovernmental initiative for counterbalancing state power and introducing market forces into the delivery of public services. Progressives see them as the embodiment of grassroots activism that can help ensure that social services are effectively delivered to those most in need.”

He writes that the work of nonprofits focuses on the services government and business are not willing or able to provide: welfare, health, education, culture, environment and leisure services, indeed by outsourcing services, governments’ growing reliance on NGOs may only increase in the future.

He attributes the growth to the fact that people are disillusioned with traditional politics and the new

organisations provide more rewarding style of political participation than membership of a political party. The impact of new technologies has made communication and resourcing easier. In many countries nonprofits enjoy more trust, loyalty and interest of citizens than other social institutions such as governments, unions, political parties or commercial businesses.

Casey writes about globalization, the globalization of ideas, the internationalization of the nonprofit sector, the US model and he dedicates a chapter to social enterprises (commercial businesses with social purposes and the revenue generating activities) and emerging trends.

This is a fascinating, must read book for those interested or involved in the nonprofit sector. It contains a wealth of information and valuable insights about the place of nonprofits in the global arena and the implication of their increasing importance in society. R

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# Whither the colonised after the colony?

*SAUDADE* By Suneeta Peres da Costa, Reviewed by **JOSHUA BIRD**



The long shadow of the colonial legacy is a well-explored topic in literature. But what becomes of the colonised after the empire has fallen, receding back like a tide leaving behind a country transformed and often

culturally damaged?

Post-colonial authors such as Chinua Achebe and Salman Rushdie have all explored life in societies touched by colonialism, often through the lens of the colonised. However, the novel *Saudade* by Australian author Suneeta Peres da Costa engages with the postcolonial question in a new, multifaceted way.

The novel follows the young Goan woman Maria-Cristina, living in Angola during the final years of Portuguese colonial rule. In the age of empires it was common for people from the Indian Subcontinent to be redeployed – often involuntarily – to serve imperial interests elsewhere. Sizeable Indian populations in modern-day Fiji, South Africa and Malaysia are the legacy of such policies.

In the case of *Saudade*, Maria-Cristina’s father is a labour lawyer who works to shield colonial plantation owners from claims by indigenous workforces. Thus he represents an active force of colonial exploitation rather than a passive colonial subject – in effect, both colonised