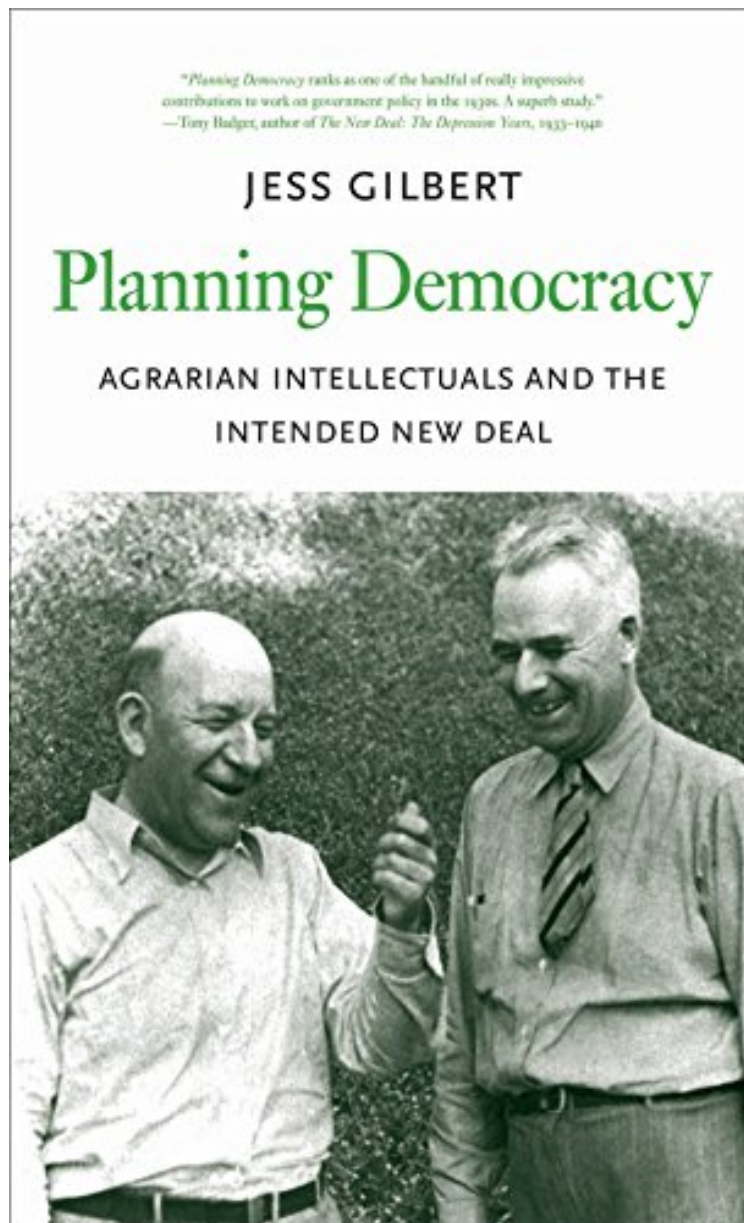


(Free download) Planning Democracy: Agrarian Intellectuals and the Intended New Deal (Yale Agrarian Studies Series)

Planning Democracy: Agrarian Intellectuals and the Intended New Deal (Yale Agrarian Studies Series)

Jess Gilbert

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Jess Gilbert : Planning Democracy: Agrarian Intellectuals and the Intended New Deal (Yale Agrarian Studies Series) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Planning Democracy: Agrarian Intellectuals and the Intended New Deal (Yale Agrarian Studies Series):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Read!By Constance M.LOVE this book! This book helped me understand the work my grandfather (Bushrod Allin) and his fellow social scientists did to help farmers during the New Deal. This book is and will be a prized part of my collection of family memorabilia to be passed down to future generations of the Allin family.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. What Might have BeenBy William KostlevyGilbert's PLANNING DEMOCRACY is an important corrective to the claims that the "high modernist" elites who constructed New Deal programs had little or no regard for the input of ordinary citizens on New Deal agricultural programs. Focusing on the "intended or Third New Deal" of 1938-1942, Gilbert explores the democratic vision of Henry A. Wallace, M. L. Wilson, Howard Tolley, L. C. Gray, Carl C. Taylor and Bushrod W. Allin. These Midwestern economists who worked in the creative Bureau of Agricultural Economics with roots in the tradition of University of Wisconsin labor economist John R. Commons sought to use "democratic planning for rural life which involved the active participation of farm men and women." Sadly this innovative program ran afoul of the Farm Bureau Federation and the general retreat from reform that came with US involvement in the Second World War. Still "the Intended New Deal" is a reminder that a more just society was a distinct possibility and these resources remain available to folks with a vision for a truly participatory democracy.

Late in the 1930s, the U.S. Department of Agriculture set up a national network of local organizations that joined farmers with public administrators, adult-educators, and social scientists. The aim was to localize and unify earlier New Deal programs concerning soil conservation, farm production control, tenure security, and other reforms, and by 1941 some 200,000 farm people were involved. Even so, conservative antindash;New Dealers killed the successful program the next year. This book reexamines the erarsquo;s agricultural policy and tells the neglected story of the New Deal agrarian leaders and their visionary ideas about land, democratization, and progressive social change.

Idquo;We are unlikely ever to have a superior account of the effort to square democratic participation with technical expertise. Gilbert's searching history of the lsquo;agrarian intellectualsrsquo; in Roosevelt's New nbsp;Deal administrationmdash;what they achieved and how they were undonemdash;is definitive, scrupulously documented, and revelatory. The genuine commitment of these men to local, participatory planning only nbsp;highlights how far we have now drifted from their vision."mdash;James C.nbsp;Scott, author of Seeing Like a State and The Art of Not Being Governed