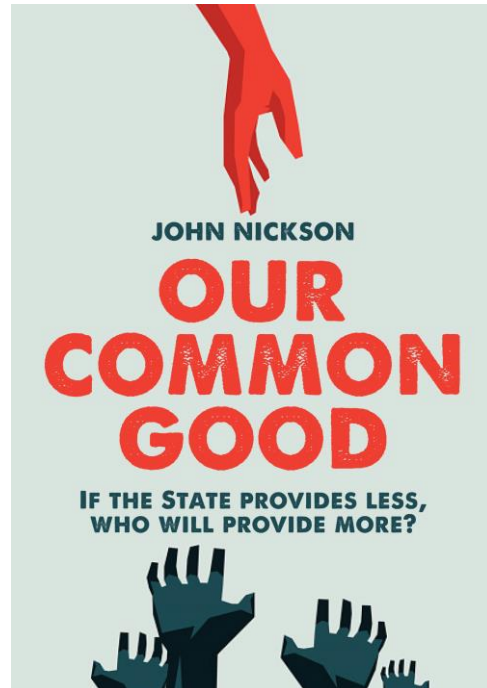


ADVANCE INFORMATION

OUR COMMON GOOD

If the State provides less, who will provide more?

John Nickson



Will future generations live in a civil society and liberal democracy?

In this important book John Nickson, one of the UK's most high profile charity fundraisers, argues that a retreating state poses a threat to civil society unless there is a greater commitment to create the social, cultural and intellectual capital needed to sustain it.

Charitable giving has not grown in Britain in real terms for thirty years despite a colossal growth in private wealth. Giving via foundations and businesses is not sufficient to fill a growing gap. The result is that the voluntary sector is not equipped to meet extra demand as the state provides less. This, in turn, requires a practical as well as a moral response from all of us if we are to bequeath civil society and democracy to future generations.

The challenges we face offer an opportunity to find new ways of solving problems and to create social capital. The lines between the public, private and voluntary sectors are becoming blurred. Nickson recommends that all who are committed to the common good should pool their resources. He talks to donors, foundations, social entrepreneurs, business leaders, charities and those they support and gives inspiring examples of how we may build a better and fairer society.

- A critical examination of the challenges facing civil society and the role of charitable giving and social enterprise in ensuring its future.
- Nickson consulted a wide variety of people actively engaged in the sector from funders to the charities themselves in writing this book, adding authority to his conclusions.
- Print and media coverage expected, serialisation anticipated.

John Nickson is one of Britain's most experienced fundraisers. He was Director of Fundraising for four national institutions (the British Council, English National Opera, the Royal Academy of Arts and Tate) and is a charity trustee and a donor. He is currently a trustee of The Royal College of Music, London Music Masters, Opera Rara and UK Community Foundations.

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