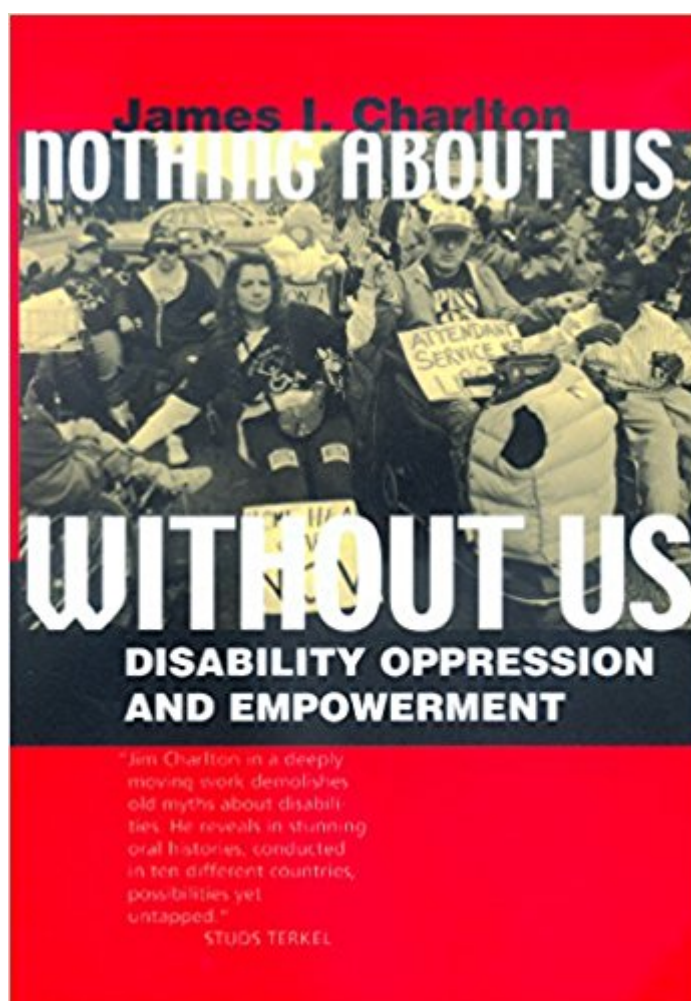


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# Nothing About Us Without Us: Disability Oppression And Empowerment



## Synopsis

James Charlton has produced a ringing indictment of disability oppression, which, he says, is rooted in degradation, dependency, and powerlessness and is experienced in some form by five hundred million persons throughout the world who have physical, sensory, cognitive, or developmental disabilities. *Nothing About Us Without Us* is the first book in the literature on disability to provide a theoretical overview of disability oppression that shows its similarities to, and differences from, racism, sexism, and colonialism. Charlton's analysis is illuminated by interviews he conducted over a ten-year period with disability rights activists throughout the Third World, Europe, and the United States. Charlton finds an antidote for dependency and powerlessness in the resistance to disability oppression that is emerging worldwide. His interviews contain striking stories of self-reliance and empowerment evoking the new consciousness of disability rights activists. As a latecomer among the world's liberation movements, the disability rights movement will gain visibility and momentum from Charlton's elucidation of its history and its political philosophy of self-determination, which is captured in the title of his book. *Nothing About Us Without Us* expresses the conviction of people with disabilities that they know what is best for them. Charlton's combination of personal involvement and theoretical awareness assures greater understanding of the disability rights movement.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Charlton, executive vice president of Chicago's Access Living, one of the largest centers for

independent living in the United States, has lectured extensively on the disability rights movement. Here, he analyzes the many factors including political and economic power structures that collectively contribute to disability oppression in both developed and developing countries. He also examines what the Civil Rights and feminist movements have taught disability rights advocates. He supports his ideas by extensively quoting and discussing the works of philosophers, economists, sociologists, and political activists. However, the most useful evidence comes from the disability rights activists themselves. Charlton interviewed approximately 50 of them from the Americas, Africa, Asia, and Europe, transcribing much of what they said. His introduction includes a detailed scope note and definitions of terms used, and the well-developed endnotes are also helpful. Recommended for large sociology and political science collections and subject specialists. Ximena Chrisagis, Fordham Health Sciences Lib., Wright State Univ., Dayton, Ohio Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.

"Focusing on the everyday life of people with disabilities, [Charlton] argues that barriers to independent living are embedded in the larger social and economic environment. His discussion is buttressed . . . by interviews with disability rights activists from the Americas, Asia, South Africa, and Europe. It is their experiences that make Charlton's arguments and policy suggestions come to life."--"Choice

The book *Nothing About Us Without Us: Disability Oppression and Empowerment* written by James I Charlton is profound. It really gives an insight to the history, psychosocial history of disabilities all around the world. It is a profound book (very deep) and at times difficult for sensitive people like me but it is a must read book. I would like for the people in Puerto Rico to read this book to really comprehend the story behind the movement of Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The community of Persons with Disabilities in Puerto Rico need to comprehend deeply the situation that is going on even in Puerto Rico. The system provided in the territory of the United States does not work. On the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico the ADA Law is not enforce. I personally cannot wait until the Ammendment to the ADA Act of 2008 is pass by the Senate and finally signed by the President of the United States. The "ADA Ammendment Act of 2008" was passed on the US House of Representatives overwhelmingly with 402 votes to 17 NAYS on June 26, 2008.

People with disabilities get dumped on, beat up, put upon, and patted on the head. Ever wonder why all the good folks who run those disability charities and NGOs are not disabled? Take back

your life with a new attitude. Stop being dumped upon, patted on the head, lied to, dissed and dismissed.

There are few books that can clarify the civil rights concepts and disability... This is one. I sat in a meeting of a government training program for Fair Housing investigations, and two of the lawyers/instructors as well as the Academy's Director stated that they do not need people with disabilities to be involved with the training or policy decision-making - now I give this book to persons who do not have a disability. What if we plan a celebration of women or Black History Month and only white males were invited?RedGimp

I gave this as a gift to a family member who specializes in disability law and advocacy. She is familiar with local "family level" issues, as well as the national political arena. She said she liked it a lot.

I'd thoroughly recommend this book. It provides a global overview of the disability rights movement, and includes interviews with many activists from different countries. I found it easy to read, and thoroughly interesting.

love it

I choose five stars, because I needed this book for my class. It shipped quickly and was very cheap. Just what I needed. It was in great condition and worked well for my class!

Even though America may be one of the world's most enlightened countries when it comes to treating people with disabilities with respect, we still have a very long way to go. As proven in "Nothing About Us Without Us", the revealing expose by James I. Charlton, so does the rest of the globe, to varying degrees. Listen to the voices of people with disabilities in different countries that carry the same messages of fear, shame, discouragement, and even hope: Maria Paulo Teperino: "There is a cult of the body in Brazil. We call it 'culto ao corpo'. Machismo is very strong, and it affects the way many men think of women. Because of its prevalence, machismo leads many men to believe that a disabled woman can't satisfy him. Many even believe that disabled women cannot have children." Fadila Lagadien: "In South Africa, families don't educate or support the education of disabled women because of the attitude that no man will pay a 'bola' (dowry) for a disabled

woman."Joshua Malinga: "I had an inborn attitude not to accept the attitudes at the institution. These ideas were very bad. For example, disabled people were told when to eat, when to sleep, that they couldn't make love, it was banned...By the mid-1970's I and a few others wanted to reject all these ideas and start our own organization. By 1965, I began organizing disabled people because I knew things were not right."Charlton's book reveals the often-ignored truth that 'things are not right' for people with disabilities all around the world. Whether it's being called a 'chirema' for 'useless' in Africa or being 'ai duan' (looked down upon because of your disability) in Asia, if you have one, then good luck NOT being treated as a second-class citizen or worse. Things are looking up, however...Rachel Hurst: "I decided I had to do something. I quickly realized that a single person never gets anywhere, so I tried to figure out how I could do something collectively." --London, England More and more people with disabilities are joining Rachel in organizing to stand up and fight for the human rights that other humans take for granted. After you read "Nothing About Us Without Us", I sincerely hope you will want to join them in their just cause.

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