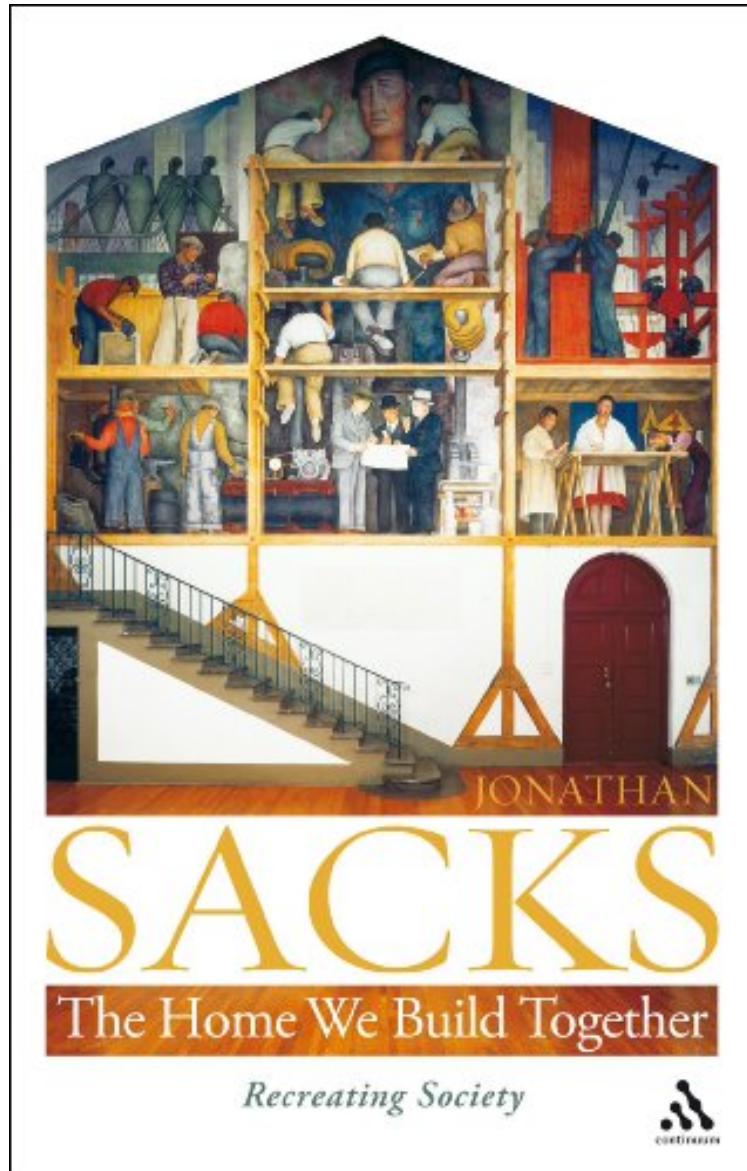


# The Home We Build Together: Recreating Society

*Jonathan Sacks*

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#328938 in Books Jonathan Sacks 2009-06-02 2009-06-02 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.44 x .83 x 5.511, .75 #File Name: 0826423493288 pages Home We Build Together | File size: 55.Mb

**Jonathan Sacks : The Home We Build Together: Recreating Society** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Home We Build Together: Recreating Society:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Good description of our Societal Problems - but solution is unrealistic...By BradBI certainly agree with Sack's description of the malaise and multiple problems in England (which I see as a corollary to the problems in the USA)--and how both of our countries got to this place. He claims that the

trends in both countries towards "valuing" individual and ethnic identities (Multiculturalism) has not strengthened our mutual nations. It has, instead, weakened our national identities (our "home") and turned us into a "hotel" with individual groups housed in independent and intolerant "rooms"--each seeking to further its own agenda. I see evidence of this every day in the news and in the dysfunctionality of our governments at all levels. As I was reading this book, I was dismayed to see a news blurb about how fewer and fewer schools require students to recite the "Pledge of Allegiance" to the American flag every day. What better example of loss of our national identity! Apparently, we are no longer the "melting pot" envisioned by our forefathers where all peoples were welcomed but were expected to become American in language, thought and action. Instead, we are now a "potpourri" of different flavors that will not mix. Likewise, he identifies several other trends which we all know are happening but refuse to actively address in our media, i.e., the "dumbing down" of America, the increasing lack of civility/courtesy towards others, the obscene influence of "big money" in our society and the growing trend of economic inequality - in short, the dissolution of the American dream. As a member of the "Boomer" generation, I certainly identify with his concerns. But I think his overarching solution to these problems is unrealistic. He believes that we simply need to go back to our Judaeo-Christian roots and re-adopt the moral lessons therein. That's all well and good--but I think, quite frankly, that "the cow has left the barn and she ain't coming back!" I think it's pollyanna-thinking to believe that we can go back to a 50's moral and community culture. The world has definitely changed. We are an interconnected, global community now. Like it or not, our countries are a mirror of this. And this process is accelerating. Some futurists have predicted that we will eventually become an integrated world civilization. On that journey, however, we will first fragment into separate "super-cultures" based on common cultural traits (ethnicity, religion)-- rendering our current nation-states and their boundaries meaningless. Once we have become sufficiently integrated (many years and conflicts into the future), everybody will be multi-ethnic, multi-lingual, humanist in their thinking and with allegiance to a world civilization. The USA and England would be long gone. Patriotism to a "nation-state" or blind allegiance to a religion would be seen as primitive anachronisms. Sound implausible? Look closely at today's trends and consider where they're going...

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. but not an easy read. I was glad I read The Great ...By R McBurnettIt's okay, indeed. A little denser than other books I read of his. On point, but not an easy read. I was glad I read The Great Partnership and To Heal a Fractured World, also by Jonathan Sacks, first. I fell in love with his writing and worldview in those two.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great book!By rena wolfmanRabbi saks does not disappoint his message is always clearA society we build together will be stronger if we respect each other's differences and try to change themWe can all contribute to building of a better society because of our differencesNot inspite of them.great book!

"Multiculturalism has run its course, and it is time to move on." So begins Jonathan Sacks' new book on the future of British society and the dangers facing liberal democracy. Arguing that global communications have fragmented national cultures and that multiculturalism, intended to reduce social frictions, is today reinforcing them, Sacks argues for a new approach to national identity. We cannot stay with current policies that are producing a society of conflicting ghettos and non-intersecting lives, turning religious bodies into pressure groups rather than society-building forces. Britain, he argues, will have to construct a national narrative as a basis for identity, reinvigorate the concept of the common good, and identify shared interests among currently conflicting groups. It must restore a culture of civility, protect "neutral spaces" from politicization, and find ways of moving beyond an adversarial culture in which the loudest voice wins. He argues for a responsibility- rather than rights-based model of citizenship that connects the ideas of giving and belonging. Offering a new paradigm to replace previous models of assimilation on the one hand, multiculturalism on the other, he argues that we should see society as "the home we build together", bringing the distinctive gifts of different groups to the common good. Sacks warns of the hazards free and open societies face in the twenty-first century, and offers an unusual religious defence of liberal democracy and the nation state.