“Here’s a tackle box, a tool belt, a veritable Leatherman for doing the big job that needs doing: redeeming our society. Sure it’s an optimistic vision — but that may be just what we need.” — Bill McKibben, author of The Age of Missing Information, The End of Nature, and Hope, Human and Wild.

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“Randy Schutt has written the book that we in the progressive social change movement have been waiting for. Inciting Democracy offers an inspiring vision and concrete action plan for pursuing effective progressive social change. It also provides a constructive critique of where we have been and an easily accessible analytical framework for understanding what we face. The book is destined to become a core and comprehensive guide for those seeking a better society, and it will make an excellent main textbook for any course on citizen advocacy. Thank you, Randy, for leading us to the next level of effectiveness and organizing.”
— Abigail Abrash, Program Director, New Hampshire Citizens Alliance; Instructor, Antioch New England Graduate School

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“Randy Schutt’s Inciting Democracy: A Practical Proposal for Creating a Good Society addresses the urgent civic question of how to best go about developing and sustaining a powerful and effective grassroots based social change movement. Schutt offers a compelling vision of what a “good society” might look like and how ordinary citizens can overcome five key obstacles to creating such a social order. Very highly recommended and informative reading for social activists and political reformers, the engaging and provocative text is enhanced with 71 figures, 44 sidebars, 270 quotations, 166 detailed endnotes, 233 annotated references, a bibliography of 110 cited works, and a comprehensive index.”
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Inciting Democracy offers a vision of what a good society might look like and explores how we can overcome five key obstacles to creating such a society. It offers a practical way to develop a large, decentralized education and support program (the Vernal Education Project) that would bolster grassroots movements so that people of goodwill can democratically and nonviolently transform society.

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Imagine a society free of terrorism and war. Imagine a society where no one lives in poverty. Imagine a society where it is safe to walk city streets at any hour of the day or night. Imagine a society where rape, murder, and domestic violence are extremely rare occurrences. Imagine a society where racism, sexism, and other irrational hatreds are virtually unknown. Imagine a society where people laugh freely, openly, and often.

If you wanted to create such a genuinely good society, what would you do? What resources would you need? How would you go about it?

These are the questions progressive activist Randy Schutt addresses and answers in this unique and remarkable book. Drawing on his many years of social change experience and his study of scholarly and activist literature, Schutt details the five main obstacles that hinder current change efforts. He then describes a way to overcome these obstacles democratically and nonviolently by means of mass education and powerful social change movements.

This visionary and inspiring book will convince you it is possible to create a good society, and it will show you a way to bring it into existence.