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Moving the Mountain: The Women's Movement in America Since 1960. Flora Davis.

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problems to be resolved but he contends that they can best be addressed by harnessing strengths rather than assuming that African Americans should be treated as passive recipients of services. For example, the plethora of local community development projects operated by African Americans shows how solutions based on a strengths perspective can address the community's pressing needs. Many other examples are given. This slim but important book contains important lessons and should be widely read.

Flora Davis, *Moving the Mountain: The Women's Movement in America Since 1960*. Champaign, IL: University of Illinois Press, 1999. \$21.95 papercover.

Social scientists have produced elaborate theories to explain social change. These theories often focus on wider, interpersonal social and economic forces emanating from the social fabric of society. While these forces play a critical role, the role of individual human effort is frequently overlooked or downplayed. This is unfortunate for, ultimately, social change depends on human action, and the struggles of those who seek to modify existing social arrangements.

Many academic analyses of the resurgence of feminism in the last thirty or so years have been published and they have shown that complex social and economic factors have contributed to what many feminist writers call the 'second wave' of the women's movement. Unlike the first wave, which was primarily focused on political rights, the second wave has been characterized by a more wide ranging attempt to address reproductive rights, promote economic equality and address the issue of poverty and deprivation among women.

In this engaging book, Flora Davis explicitly states her intention to avoid theoretical and academic speculation and to focus instead on the women who struggled and campaigned for enhanced rights. Davis offers a very readable and illuminating narrative showing how ordinary people confronted with injustice sought to right wrongs and change the prevailing culture which relegated women to subordinate roles in many sphere of social and economic life. They may not have changed the world but, to a significant extent, they succeeded in overturning deeply entrenched practices and beliefs.

The book offers personalized accounts of a variety of campaigns fought by women on several fronts. It begins with the airline stewardesses who successfully challenged the practice of retiring older women and those who married. Succeeding chapters range over the founding of NOW, the battle over the ERA, the rights of women in academic institutions, the enhanced representation of women in politics, abortion and lesbian rights and many other issues. Davis also emphasizes the fact that the struggle is not over. Indeed, the campaign for enhanced equality and rights has been vigorously opposed by those who believe that women should fulfill traditional maternal and housekeeping roles.

This is a wonderfully accessible and enjoyable book which should be read by all who are interested in the way personal struggles can create wider social movements that address social ills. Rich in detail and narrative, it will inspire and energize all of those who believe that it is possible to bring about meaningful social change.

Martha Shirk, Neil G. Bennett and J. Lawrence Aber, *Lives on the Line: American Families and the Struggle to Make Ends Meet*, Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1999. \$24.00 hardcover.

Readers may respond with little enthusiasm to the publication of yet another book on the subject of poverty in America. Poverty has become a major topic subject of scholarly research and numerous statistical analysis, policy analyses and ethnographic studies of poverty have appeared in recent years. While some may argue that little more needs to be said on the subject, the problem of poverty remains critical, limiting the life chances and aspirations of millions of people. The need for policy relevant research that may eventually result in effective action is an urgent one.

In this highly readable book, Shirk, Bennett and Aber examine different aspects of poverty. Shirk uses her journalistic skills to provide descriptive personal profiles of ten American families living in poverty. The ten families are drawn from different parts of the United States and include people of very different backgrounds and circumstances. Both urban and rural families are included. The profiles are reminiscent of Oscar Lewis's ethnographies and provide a particularly realistic account of that it is like to live in conditions of deprivation and adverse opportunity. Linking the profiles to statistical data about poverty, Bennett