



PEDAGOGY OF THE POOR

Building the Movement
to End Poverty

Willie Baptist and Jan Rehmann

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The Teaching for Social Justice Series



WILLIE BAPTIST serves as the Poverty Initiative Scholar-in-Residence and is the coordinator of the Poverty Scholars Program in New York City.

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“This exciting new work includes eyewitness and participant accounts of poverty campaigns and conditions, as well as scholarly perspectives, student reactions, and more. *Pedagogy of the Poor* is a must-read for activists, educators, social workers, and anyone interested in the future of human rights.” —**Ira Shor**, City University of New York

“We who are battling life-threatening water shutoffs, foreclosures, worsening and widening poverty, and government crises see our struggles as emblematic of the direction of the country and world. This pedagogy of the poor helps us grapple with and understand these problems and their solutions. This book should be one of the required tools of the movement.”

—**Marian Kramer**, Michigan Welfare Rights Organization

In this book, the authors present a new kind of interdisciplinary pedagogy that brings together antipoverty grassroots activism and relevant social theories about poverty. Closely linked to the Poverty Initiative at Union Theological Seminary, this unique book combines the oral history of a renowned antipoverty organizer with an accessible introduction to relevant social theories, case studies, in-class student debates, and pedagogical reflections. This multilayered approach makes the book useful to both social activists committed to eradicating poverty and educators looking for ways to teach about the struggles for economic and social justice. *Pedagogy of the Poor* is an essential tool of self-education and leadership development for a broad social movement led by the poor to end poverty.

Featuring a 5-part series of interviews with Willie Baptist, this important book examines:

- Firsthand examples of the poor organizing the poor over the past 3 decades.
- The effect of neoliberalism, high-tech capitalism, and the economic crisis on poverty.
- Theoretical lessons drawn from the Watts Uprising, Martin Luther King, Jr.’s Poor People’s Campaign, and the National Union of the Homeless.
- The role of religion and morality in the antipoverty movement.
- The relevance of hegemony theory and ideology theory for social movements.
- Resources, methods, and practices for teaching social justice.



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