Record Nr. UNINA9910795608903321

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Titolo In defence of philanthropy / / Breeze Beth

Pubbl/distr/stampa England:,: Agenda Publishing,, [2021]

©2021

ISBN 1-78821-262-2

Edizione [1st ed.]

Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (192 pages)

Disciplina 361.74

Soggetti Philanthropists

Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese

Formato Materiale a stampa

Livello bibliografico Monografia

Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index.

Nota di contenuto Cover -- Half-title -- Title page -- Dedication -- Cop

Cover -- Half-title -- Title page -- Dedication -- Copyright information -- Table of contents -- Acknowledgements --Introduction: the need for a defence of philanthropy -- The need for a defence of philanthropy -- My interest in understanding philanthropy -- The empirical basis for this book -- Criticism and generalized cynicism affect both askers and givers -- A justification of the role. purpose and value of philanthropy in society -- The problematic consequence of damaging the reputation of philanthropy -- Three critiques of philanthropy -- When and why did hyper-criticism of philanthropy emerge? -- The successful landing of hyper-criticism --The need for scrutiny and constructive critiques -- How the Covid-19 pandemic highlights the need for careful consideration of criticism --The positive potential of philanthropy -- 1 What is philanthropy? --The roles and impacts of philanthropy across time -- The ongoing contested terrain of philanthropy -- A diversity of causes and contexts -- Changes in who is called a "philanthropist" -- Changes in philanthropy causes and beneficiaries over time -- Philanthropic motivation over time -- The logic of philanthropy, the collective action problem and the impossibility of free gifts -- Explanations for the existence of the contemporary philanthropy sector -- The philanthropy paradox: greater public support for philanthropy than for philanthropists -- Longstanding mixed motives and the problem of generalizing about philanthropy -- Philanthropy's greatest achievements -- Historic greatest achievements -- Modern greatest

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