



## Shut It Down

Stories from a Fierce, Loving Resistance

Lisa Fithian

Foreword by Frances Fox Piven

Political Science / Social Activism

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### A veteran activist's radical guide to nonviolent direct action and strategic civil disobedience

*Lisa Fithian, "the nation's best-known protest consultant" according to Mother Jones, shares behind the scenes stories of resistance and offers a handbook for those fighting for change now*

Lisa Fithian has shut down the CIA. She has disrupted the World Trade Organization and has camped in a ditch with Cindy Sheehan, the Gold Star mom who protested the Iraq War. She has stood her ground in Tahrir Square, occupied Wall Street, marched in the streets of Ferguson, and walked in solidarity with tribal leaders at Standing Rock.

In short, she has been in the trenches—and in many cases has been instrumental in digging those trenches—at some of the most important people-powered movements over the last several decades.

Fithian's brand of activism is inclusive and strategic, joyful and determinedly nonviolent. And there is method to her madness, inspired by complexity science and chaos theory.

"For Lisa the objective of protest is to disturb complex social systems, to interfere with ongoing institutional processes in a way that demands action by the authorities." Frances Fox Piven, a distinguished professor of political science at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, said in the foreword to Fithian's new book *Shut It Down: Stories from a Fierce, Loving Resistance*.

Or, as the *New York Times Magazine* put it, "You don't go to Fithian when you want to carry a placard. You go to her to make sure there are enough bolt cutters to go around."

Always with actionable information front of mind, Fithian has filled the pages of *Shut It Down* with instructions and inspiration for how movements can evolve as the struggle for social justice continues in the Trump era and beyond. The book also provides, for the first time, a space for Fithian to pass on her hard-earned knowledge and reflect on all the work that is yet to come.

"I want to share my experiences," Fithian said, "with organizers, dreamers, protectors, and everyday people who know that what's happening in their community, school, workplace, or world just ain't right, and have chosen to do something about it." In that way, the book is timely, thoughtful, and ultimately a powerful contribution to the literature of dissent.

"When Lisa tells a story, you are there," Fox Piven said, "and what's more, you learn how to create actions of resistance that together may yet save us."

**Author Availability:** Austin, TX, by phone or arrangement.

To request a review copy or author interview, please contact Christina Butt: (802) 295-6300 ext. 127, or [cbutt@chelseagreen.com](mailto:cbutt@chelseagreen.com)



**Lisa Fithian** is an anti-racist organizer who has worked for justice since the 1970s. Using creative, strategic, nonviolent direct action and civil disobedience, she has won many battles and trained tens of thousands of people while participating in a range of movements and mobilizations, including Occupy Wall Street, anti-WTO and corporate globalization protests all over the world, the climate justice movement, and more. She lives in Austin, TX.

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