

## Midwest Book Review by D. Donovan, Senior Reviewer

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*The Politics of Unity: An Invitation to the High Road*

By Michael Cuddehe

[www.politicsofunity.com](http://www.politicsofunity.com)

*The Politics of Unity: An Invitation to the High Road* offers a refreshing perspective that counters the divisiveness of current American political and personal lives, promoting a simpler perspective of not just political encounters but life itself. It's directed to those who would create a better world based on cooperative processes and it embraces an integrative process that stems from Michael Cuddehe's interest in the teachings of Maharishi Mahesh Yogi.

*The Politics of Unity* is not just a political treatise; it's about altering a life philosophy that seems to be individually, regionally, and globally headed for a breakdown.

Cuddehe's involvement in both political campaigns and spiritual reflection in the 1990s included a run for Iowa's U.S. Representative in its First District under the Natural Law Party. This led to ideals that stemmed from his opponent, developing the notion of public service and loyal opposition even against the odds of pervading corruption and divisiveness.

This revelation led to a closer examination of the forces at work in creating divisions and dead-ends, and the crafting of processes, values and ideas are presented here in the form of short essays packed with insights, but easily digestible.

From disparities in wealth and income to a pragmatic approach to problem-solving, each essay includes historical references, an overview of the issue(s), and survey of best practices for cultivating alternative courses of action, supporting an overall ethic of public service. It also considers why a balanced outcome to issues of public concern is so often lacking or blocked.

One needn't have a spiritual bent or even a political preference in order to absorb this clarification of how to remedy modern social and political approaches that no longer work. Cuddehe's discussions are balanced and rational invitations to constructive thinking: "*A circus-like media environment featuring headlines reminiscent of carnival barkers and one-sided, conflict provoking coverage of political issues and events have become the norm, feeding a trend of polarization that has reached levels not seen since the Civil War. The result has been a schism in national consciousness and competing, incompatible narratives on all matters in the public sphere, making it impossible to find resolution on any of an ever growing list of critical issues. It is not too much to ask to have honest, informative debate on the issues and decide collectively on our course of action. Nor is it too much to expect follow-up to that initial decision with a structured, unbiased method of measuring and reporting outcome over time, so adjustments can be made as needed.*"

Especially recommended for readers working in political circles in a cooperative effort for positive change, *The Politics of Unity* provides a formula for remedying the paradoxes of our times, and incorporates responsibility and consequences into a discussion of duty, human and natural law. Forces on all sides that work in various capacities on the edges of moral, and ethical and legal boundaries and what can be done to foster unity and encourage service-oriented characters will find it a thought-provoking call for change.