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"The State of Nonprofit America gives us a much-needed assessment of one of the true treasures of American society—our private, nonprofit organizations—at a critically important moment in their development. All of those concerned about the special qualities of our society should read and ponder its message."

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The Resilient Sector makes available in an updated form the concise overview of the state of health of America's nonprofit organizations that Johns Hopkins scholar Lester Salamon recently completed as part of the "state of nonprofit America" project he undertook in cooperation with the Aspen Institute. Contrary to popular understanding, Salamon argues, America's nonprofit organizations have shown remarkable resilience in recent years in the face of a variety of difficult challenges, significantly re-engineering themselves in the process. But this very resilience now poses risks for the sector's continued ability to perform the tasks that we have long expected of it.

The Resilient Sector offers nonprofit practitioners, policymakers, the press, and the public at large a lively assessment of this set of institutions that we have long taken for granted, but that the Frenchman Alexis de Tocqueville recognized to be "more deserving of our attention" than almost any other part of the American experiment.

LESTER M. SALAMON is director of the Center for Civil Society Studies at the Johns Hopkins Institute for Policy Studies. He is the editor of The State of Nonprofit America (Brookings, 2002) and has written or edited more than twenty other books, including a leading textbook on nonprofit institutions, America's Nonprofit Sector: A Primer (The Foundation Center, 1999).