



# Unlocking the Iron Cage: The Men's Movement, Gender Politics, and American Culture

*Michael Schwalbe*

Download now

[Click here](#) if your download doesn't start automatically

# Unlocking the Iron Cage: The Men's Movement, Gender Politics, and American Culture

Michael Schwalbe

## Unlocking the Iron Cage: The Men's Movement, Gender Politics, and American Culture Michael Schwalbe

The mythopoetic men's movement grew quietly for ten years before Robert Bly's bestseller *Iron John* brought the movement to national attention. Reactions to the movement ranged from bemused or dismissive stories appearing in Sunday supplements and magazines, to outrageous lampoons on stage, to harsh criticism by many feminists. Bly and the mythopoetic claimed in turn to be misunderstood. What is the truth about these men and their movement? Why do these middle-class white men gather at rustic camps to beat drums, dance wildly, hold sweat lodge rituals, laugh and cry, and listen to old myths and fairy tales?

Based on Michael Schwalbe's three years of experience as a participant and observer at over one hundred meetings, as well as on interviews with active members, *Unlocking the Iron Cage* provides a revealing look at who these men are, what they do, why mythopoetic activity appeals to them, what needs it fills, where it succeeds, and where it fails. Schwalbe illuminates the theory behind the mythopoetic movement--which derives largely from Jungian psychology and the archetypal psychology of James Hillman--but for the most part he focuses on the rank-and-file participants. He finds mostly middle-class men trying to cope with the legacy of fathers who gave little emotional sustenance and with a competitive society they find unsatisfying, who sympathize with many of women's complaints about men and sexism (though Schwalbe also finds that many joined as a reaction to what they saw as feminism's blanket indictment of men), and who are searching for an alternative to the traditional image of a man as rational, tough, ambitious, and in control.

Schwalbe finds much of value in the men's quest. For instance, he highlights the religious appeal of mythopoetic activity, with its emphasis on finding one's personal truth, its gentle pantheism, its use of ritual to create emotional communion--all of which give the men the wide, inclusive path to spirituality they want. And he shows how Jungian psychology helps the men to redefine their feminine traits, especially their emotionality, as aspects of "deep masculinity." But he also levels some criticisms. He shows, for example, that the myths the men embrace--myths that tend to be devoid of women, or that portray women as beautiful prizes, or as hags, or cloying mothers--reinforce the presumptions of male superiority they claim to reject. If the mythopoetic movement seems absurd to an outsider, it is no more ludicrous than football--with fans shirtless in freezing weather, their faces painted, screaming themselves hoarse--and it is far less damaging to men's image of women or of themselves. In *Unlocking the Iron Cage*, Michael Schwalbe provides an understanding, insightful account of this often-maligned grass-roots movement, revealing both its potential for harm and the genuine value it has for many people.

 [Download Unlocking the Iron Cage: The Men's Movement, Gende ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Unlocking the Iron Cage: The Men's Movement, Gen ...pdf](#)

## **Download and Read Free Online Unlocking the Iron Cage: The Men's Movement, Gender Politics, and American Culture Michael Schwalbe**

---

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Harold Baughman:**

Why don't make it to be your habit? Right now, try to prepare your time to do the important take action, like looking for your favorite reserve and reading a reserve. Beside you can solve your problem; you can add your knowledge by the book entitled Unlocking the Iron Cage: The Men's Movement, Gender Politics, and American Culture. Try to face the book Unlocking the Iron Cage: The Men's Movement, Gender Politics, and American Culture as your friend. It means that it can to get your friend when you experience alone and beside that of course make you smarter than before. Yeah, it is very fortunated for yourself. The book makes you considerably more confidence because you can know everything by the book. So , let me make new experience in addition to knowledge with this book.

#### **Melody Grissom:**

Book will be written, printed, or highlighted for everything. You can realize everything you want by a book. Book has a different type. To be sure that book is important point to bring us around the world. Next to that you can your reading talent was fluently. A e-book Unlocking the Iron Cage: The Men's Movement, Gender Politics, and American Culture will make you to be smarter. You can feel more confidence if you can know about everything. But some of you think in which open or reading any book make you bored. It is far from make you fun. Why they can be thought like that? Have you in search of best book or suited book with you?

#### **Amy Petersen:**

Your reading sixth sense will not betray anyone, why because this Unlocking the Iron Cage: The Men's Movement, Gender Politics, and American Culture e-book written by well-known writer who knows well how to make book which might be understand by anyone who also read the book. Written in good manner for you, still dripping wet every ideas and writing skill only for eliminate your own personal hunger then you still hesitation Unlocking the Iron Cage: The Men's Movement, Gender Politics, and American Culture as good book not only by the cover but also by the content. This is one reserve that can break don't assess book by its deal with, so do you still needing an additional sixth sense to pick this specific!?! Oh come on your looking at sixth sense already said so why you have to listening to a different sixth sense.

#### **Roberto Garcia:**

Many people spending their time frame by playing outside using friends, fun activity using family or just watching TV all day long. You can have new activity to enjoy your whole day by reading through a book. Ugh, ya think reading a book will surely hard because you have to use the book everywhere? It alright you can have the e-book, taking everywhere you want in your Smartphone. Like Unlocking the Iron Cage: The Men's Movement, Gender Politics, and American Culture which is keeping the e-book version. So , try out this book? Let's view.

**Download and Read Online Unlocking the Iron Cage: The Men's  
Movement, Gender Politics, and American Culture Michael  
Schwalbe #YUSGANBO8RK**

## **Read Unlocking the Iron Cage: The Men's Movement, Gender Politics, and American Culture by Michael Schwalbe for online ebook**

Unlocking the Iron Cage: The Men's Movement, Gender Politics, and American Culture by Michael Schwalbe Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Unlocking the Iron Cage: The Men's Movement, Gender Politics, and American Culture by Michael Schwalbe books to read online.

### **Online Unlocking the Iron Cage: The Men's Movement, Gender Politics, and American Culture by Michael Schwalbe ebook PDF download**

**Unlocking the Iron Cage: The Men's Movement, Gender Politics, and American Culture by Michael Schwalbe Doc**

**Unlocking the Iron Cage: The Men's Movement, Gender Politics, and American Culture by Michael Schwalbe Mobipocket**

**Unlocking the Iron Cage: The Men's Movement, Gender Politics, and American Culture by Michael Schwalbe EPub**