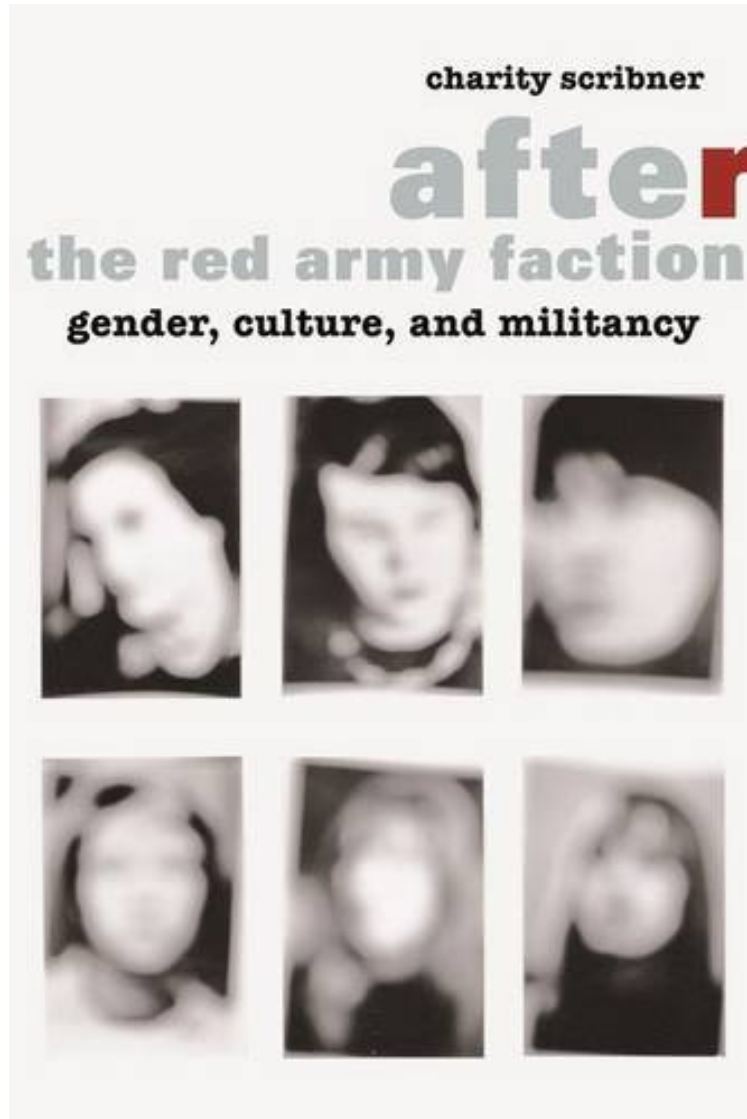


[FREE] After the Red Army Faction: Gender, Culture, and Militancy

After the Red Army Faction: Gender, Culture, and Militancy

Charity Scribner

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Charity Scribner : After the Red Army Faction: Gender, Culture, and Militancy before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised After the Red Army Faction: Gender, Culture, and Militancy:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Scribner only improves her thoughts as the book continues and I have a better understanding of feminismBy Peter WiseI had my doubts before reading - not so much as to the objectivity of the author, but my own fairly non-academic interest in the RAF and aesthetics. I'm a visual artist and spend less time theorizing than practicing (hmmm, not as the extreme dichotomy between thought and praxis of the

RAF, though.) I was pleasantly surprised to read really clear explanations of Adorno's work relating to the subjects at hand and that alone was worth the the book. It's a formidable task I think to explain the Frankfurt School, let alone their variations in theory, as well as the very complex subject of German history as it related. Unfortunately, some of the recent works cited are very expensive, only in German or simply unavailable, but I put enough trust in Scribner's concise and (again) clear descriptions that an unfamiliarity with the whole works cited didn't disrupt the narrative. I'm not sure whether the author lived through the 60s and 70s and I have to say her not being German somewhat diluted the validity of what she wrote - by this I mean, sometimes it is difficult for a non-contemporary to assess the zeitgeist of an era accurately and thereby provide mitigation for the RAF in this case. Nevertheless, Scribner only improves her thoughts as the book continues and I have a better understanding of feminism, too. A must read for maybe the very few still interested in the RAF as she makes the connections and importance clear between it and our present situation. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Devastating. Read this along with Scribner's "Requiem for Communism" ...By Peter Anastas Devastating. Read this along with Scribner's "Requiem for Communism" if you want an inside view of post-Communist Central and Eastern Europe. Scribner brings many disciplines to bear on her exploration of the roots and consequences of violence in the service of radical change. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By M. Fry must read

Masterminded by women, the Red Army Faction (RAF) terrorized West Germany from the 1970s to the 1990s. Afterimages of its leaders persist in the works of pivotal artists and writers, including Gerhard Richter, Elfriede Jelinek, and Slavoj iek. Why were women so prominent in the RAF? What does the continuing cultural response to the German armed struggle tell us about the representation of violence, power, and gender today? Engaging critical theory, Charity Scribner addresses these questions and analyzes signal works that point beyond militancy and terrorism. This literature and art discloses the failures of the Far Left and registers the radical potential that RAF women actually forfeited. After the Red Army Faction maps out a cultural history of militancy and introduces "postmilitancy" as a new critical term. As Scribner demonstrates, the most compelling examples of postmilitant culture don't just repudiate militancy: these works investigate its horizons of possibility, particularly on the front of sexual politics. Objects of analysis include as-yet untranslated essays by Theodor Adorno and Jrgen Habermas, as well as novels by Friedrich Drennemann and Judith Kuckart, Johann Kresnik's Tanztheaterstück Ulrike Meinhof, and the blockbuster exhibition Regarding Terror at the Berlin Kunst-Werke. Scribner focuses on German cinema, offering incisive interpretations of films by Margarethe von Trotta, Volker Schlöndorff, and Fatih Akin, as well as the international box-office success The Baader-Meinhof Complex. These readings disclose dynamic junctures among several fields of inquiry: national and sexual identity, the disciplining of the militant body, and the relationship between mass media and the arts.

The saga of the Red Army Faction's decades-long war with the West German state hardly ended when the shooting stopped, as Charity Scribner's superb book explains. Instead, the conflict captured and even haunted the imagination of generations of German novelists, filmmakers, and visual artists, whose diverse works are themselves an integral part of the RAF's legacy. Scribner offers both incisive and inventive readings of an array of texts, showing how they labored and often struggled to articulate a post-militant politics to move beyond the moral hazards of armed struggle. After the Red Army Faction dramatically expands our understanding of what it means to "read" violence and come to terms with its many wounds. (Jeremy Varon, New School for Social Research, author of Bringing the War Home: The Weather Underground, the Red Army Faction, and Revolutionary Violence in the Sixties and Seventies) The most innovative discussion of the RAF to date. This book provides a much-needed, nuanced understanding of the influence of the RAF on German cultural memory and will revolutionize the study of militant politics and aesthetics. (Sabine von Dirke, University of Pittsburgh, author of "All Power to the Imagination!": Art and Politics in the West German Counterculture) Charity Scribner's *After the Red Army Faction* will be an important contribution to our understanding of the impact of the left-wing terrorism of 1970s West Germany, and in particular the Baader-Meinhof Group or Red Army Faction (RAF), on culture in West Germany and beyond. (Hans Kundnani, editorial director at the European Council on Foreign Relations, author of *Utopia or Auschwitz: Germany's 1968 Generation and the Holocaust*) How can 'postmilitancy' offer clues to understanding West Germany's RAF and its afterlives, all the more after 9/11? How might it suggest new directions for resistance when everyday life remains saturated with violence? Charity Scribner provides searching and compelling answers in this study that reaches across disciplines. (Belinda Davis, Rutgers University, University, editor of *Changing the World, Changing Oneself: Political Protest and Collective Identities in West Germany and the U.S. in the 1960s and 1970s*) Poised between an increasingly nostalgic tendency to romanticize the violent struggles of 1970s militants and our own deeply troubled response to the brutality of contemporary fundamentalisms, *After the Red Army Faction* provides us with an invaluable reflection on the complexities of past leftist terrorism and its continuing ramifications. With a keen eye for the ambiguities and blind spots of ideological extremism, Scribner examines German postmilitant culture through literature, film, dance, and the visual arts. Shunning easy cliché and superficial spectacle, she reminds us of the intellectual and human costs of the German armed

struggle and of the ways gender and sexuality inflected its attitudes and representation in the media. A brilliant piece of cultural history. (Tom McDonough, Binghamton University, State University of New York, editor of *The Situationists and the City*)

About the Author Charity Scribner is an associate professor at the City University of New York, where she teaches comparative literature at the Graduate Center and LaGuardia Community College. She is also the author of *Requiem for Communism*.