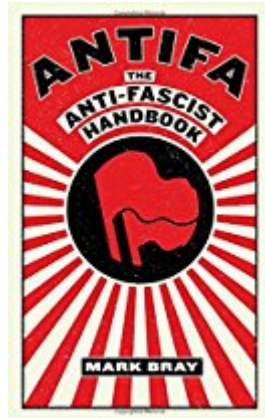


# Read Ebook [PDF] Antifa: The Anti-Fascist Handbook By Mark Bray



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"Focused and persuasive... Bray's book is many things: the first English-language transnational history of antifa, a how-to for would-be activists, and a record of advice from anti-Fascist organizers past and present."--THE NEW YORKER "Insurgent activist movements need spokesmen, intellectuals and apologists, and for the moment Mark Bray is filling in as all three... The book's most enlightening contribution is on the history of anti-fascist efforts over the past century, but its most relevant for today is its justification for stifling speech and clobbering white supremacists."--THE WASHINGTON POST, Carlos Lozada "An excellent primer and essential reading."--COUNTER PUNCH In the wake of tragic events in Charlottesville, VA, and Donald Trump's initial refusal to denounce the white nationalists behind it all, the "antifa" opposition movement is suddenly appearing everywhere. But what is it, precisely? And where did it come from? As long as there has been fascism, there has been anti-fascism — also known as "antifa." Born out of resistance to Mussolini and Hitler in Europe during the 1920s and '30s, the antifa movement has suddenly burst into the headlines amidst opposition to the Trump administration and the alt-right. They could be seen in news reports, often clad all in black with balaclavas covering their faces, demonstrating at the presidential inauguration, and on California college campuses protesting far-right speakers, and most recently, on the streets of Charlottesville, VA, protecting, among others, a group of ministers including Cornel West from neo-Nazi violence. (West would later tell reporters, "The anti-fascists saved our lives.") Simply, antifa aims to deny fascists the opportunity to promote their oppressive politics, and to protect tolerant communities from acts of violence promulgated by fascists. Critics say shutting down political adversaries is anti-democratic; antifa adherents argue that the horrors of fascism must never be allowed the slightest chance to triumph again. In a smart and gripping investigation, historian and former Occupy Wall Street organizer Mark Bray provides a detailed survey of the full history of anti-fascism from its origins to the present day — the first transnational history of postwar anti-fascism in English. Based on interviews with anti-fascists from around the world, Antifa details the tactics of the movement and the philosophy behind it, offering insight into the growing but little-understood resistance fighting back against fascism in all its guises.

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Review "Focused and persuasive... Bray's book is many things: the first English-language transnational history of antifa, a how-to for would-be activists, and a record of advice from anti-Fascist organizers past and present."--THE NEW YORKER "Insurgent activist movements need spokesmen, intellectuals and apologists, and for the moment Mark Bray is filling in as all three... The book's most enlightening contribution is on the history of anti-fascist efforts over the past century, but its most relevant for today is its justification for stifling speech and clobbering white supremacists."--THE WASHINGTON POST, Carlos Lozada "An excellent primer and essential reading."--COUNTER PUNCH "[Bray's] analysis is methodical, and clearly informed by both his historical training and 15 years of organizing, which included Occupy Wall Street...Antifa: The Anti-Fascist Handbook couldn't have emerged at a more opportune time. Bray's arguments are incisive and cohesive, and his consistent refusal to back down from principle makes the book a crucial intervention in our political moment." --San Francisco Chronicle About the Author Mark Bray is a historian of human rights, terrorism, and political radicalism in Modern Europe who was one of the organizers of Occupy Wall Street. He is the author of *Translating Anarchy: The Anarchism of Occupy Wall Street*, and the co-editor of *Anarchist Education and the Modern School: A Francisco Ferrer Reader*. His work has appeared in *Foreign Policy*, *Critical Quarterly*, *ROAR Magazine*, and numerous edited volumes. He is currently a lecturer at Dartmouth College.

Customer Reviews Most helpful customer reviews 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By G. Milner I am 5 chapters in and really enjoying this book. Well researched. Fills a void in leftist/anarchist scholarship. 68 of 82 people found the following review helpful. Be wary of the reviews. This is an important book, regardless of its average rating. By vgambit I should note that, at the time of writing, nearly every Amazon review of this book, regardless of rating or content, seems to be based, at best, solely on the titles of the book and its chapters. Very few reviews seem to reflect the content of any of the chapters, so I would take the book's overall rating and anything anyone says in the reviews or comments with a massive grain of salt. I imagine this will still be a good idea weeks/months down the line, or however long it takes for the more long-form reviews that are clearly (or provably) actually based on reading the book. Like another reviewer, I recently saw a discussion with the author on DemocracyNow. In order to avoid waiting for Amazon to carry it, I picked up the paperback edition locally. I haven't read it in its entirety yet, but I have skipped between a few chapters, and know enough at this point to strongly recommend this book, especially during these times of political strife in America. Many of the 1-3 sentence critical reviews mention that this book is "anti-free speech," but that very suggestion is questionable, because the very concept of free speech as applied to fascistic political discourse is described in chapter five, titled "'So Much for the Tolerant Left!': 'No Platform' and Free Speech." There are also many criticisms by supposed reviewers that the book advocates violent actions by antifa, but, in actuality, there is a discussion on that, as well, in chapter six, titled 'Strategy, (Non)Violence, and Everyday Anti-Fascism.' Other reviews say that antifa is a terrorist organization, when antifa is neither terrorist nor an organization; a distinction made very clear and obvious to anyone who has actually read the book. I'm about 15 pages into chapter six, and so far, it's mostly a rebuttal of Chenoweth & Stephan's "Why Civil Resistance Works: The Strategy of Nonviolent Conflict." I've not yet finished the chapter, but so far, among other things, he's already clarified that the very definition of "nonviolent resistance" as described in that book largely ignores the violent realities of its examples. I'll provide an excerpt here, from pages 179-180: "Nevertheless, data that ascribe such overwhelming

superiority to nonviolent methods must of course be taken seriously if our goal is success and not merely scoring rhetorical points. Yet, as the activist/scholar Ben Case pointed out in ROAR Magazine, the terms of this debate are seriously muddled. For example, the data set that Why Civil Resistance Works uses defines "violent" movements in terms of warfare without "variables for any type of violent action that falls below the threshold for war." The "radical flank effect" that the data set cites refers to armed insurgencies but "has nothing to do with the effect of protesters breaking windows or scuffling with police." In this book and subsequent work from Chenoweth, movements like the First Intifada in Palestine or the Tahrir Square movement in Egypt are cleanly categorized as "nonviolent" movements because of the "primacy of nonviolent resistance," despite the fact that they involved fierce conflicts with authorities and opposition thugs that were far more violent than smashing a few bank windows on an empty DC street." Bray then criticizes Chenoweth's assertion that anti-fascist violence is counterproductive, rebutting the lack of historical context of the claim, and counters that the mere political success of the left is frequently enough to drive fascist recruitment. One very current example he uses is that the election of Barack Obama in 2008 ultimately led to the election of Donald Trump in 2016. My advice for anyone considering purchasing this book is to find the author Mark Bray's recent interviews, either on DemocracyNow or elsewhere, as he largely summarizes some of the main points of the book, which the book elaborates on in great detail (450 citations). Again, the vast majority of the reviews you'll find of this book can be safely ignored. Each and every criticism levied against the book is already rebutted within its pages, which makes it obvious that the book's detractors haven't actually read it, and are concerned only with the fact that it challenges their preconceived notions. It's quite sad that they're afraid to challenge their beliefs on this matter. I'll close with another excerpt from the book: "In truth, violence represents a small though vital sliver of anti-fascist activity. There are three main arguments that anti-fascists use to justify their occasional violence. First, [...] anti-fascists make a historical argument based on the accurate observation that "rational debate" and the institutions of government have failed to consistently halt the rise of fascism. Given that fact, they argue that they only hope to prevent a sequel is to physically prevent any potential fascist advance. Second, they point to the many successful examples of militant anti-fascism shutting down or severely hampering far-right organizing since the end of World War II. Third, fascist violence often necessitates self-defense - although anti-fascists challenge conventional interpretations of self-defense grounded in individualistic personal ethics by legitimating offensive tactics in order to forestall the potential need for literal self-defense down the line. In other words, anti-fascists don't wait for a fascist threat to become violent before acting to shut it down, physically if necessary. As Murray from Baltimore ARA explained it, You fight them by writing letters and making phone calls so you don't have to fight them with fists. You fight them with fists so you don't have to fight them with knives. You fight them with knives so you don't have to fight them with guns. You fight them with guns so you don't have to fight them with tanks." 33 of 40 people found the following review helpful. You get what it says. By J. Hunter Antifa is a history of the Anti-Facist movement and puts into perspective the history, politics and organizing behind it. It gives a stronger context of its place in past and current politics and answers many current questions being asked of Antifa and gives some perspective on what free speech means in a greater context. Bray pulls no punches on the side he's taking or partisanship, however if you are interested in understanding many sides of the current climate it's an important read. Don't agree with everything? That's fine what kind of book do you seriously expect to read where you agree with everything unless you come with no real thought of your own. See all 47 customer reviews...

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