



## The Rise and Fall Of The American Left

By John Patrick Diggins

W. W. Norton & Company. Paperback. Book Condition: New.

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Jonathan Yardley, Washington Post Born in America, the

American Left was nurtured by intellectuals and activists who

read Jefferson and Whitman before they read Marx or Mao. One

lesson this brilliant history teaches us is that the fury of radical

innocence and wounded idealism so peculiar to American

intellectual history springs from native soil. Nor is the American

Left a single phenomenon but four surprising eruptions

throughout the past century: The Lyrical Left, of the First World

War years; the Old Left, driven by the legacy of World War I, the

promise of socialism, and the Great Depression; the New Left of

the 1960s, combining a revolt against the banalities of middle-

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