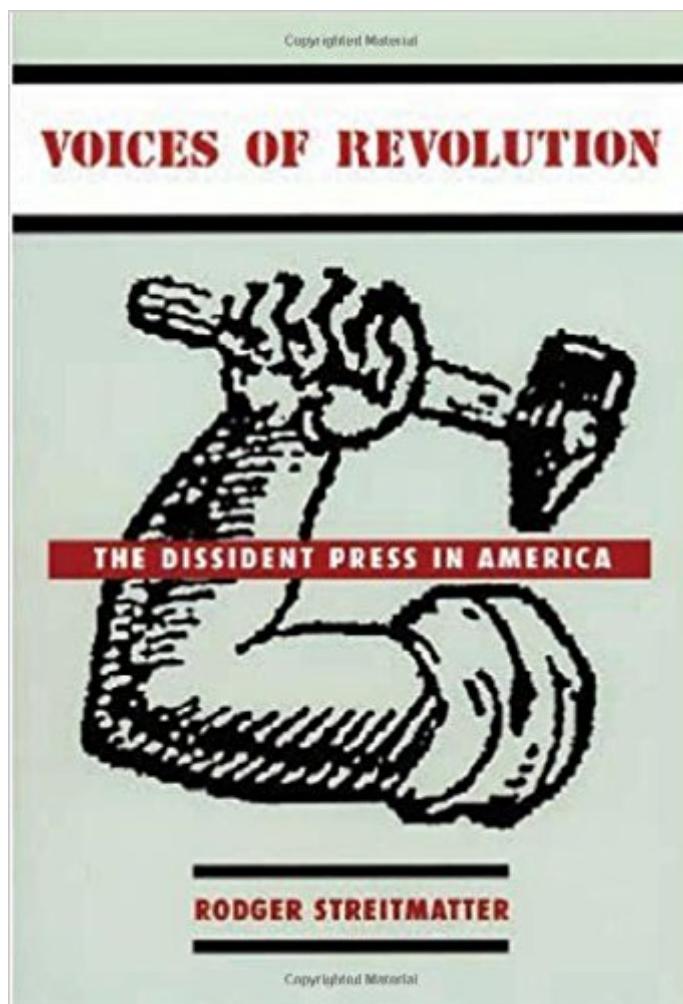


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# Voices Of Revolution: The Dissident Press In America



## **Synopsis**

Streitmatter tells the stories of dissident American publications and press movements of the last two centuries, and of the colorful individuals behind them. From publications that fought for the disenfranchised to those that promoted social reform, Voices of Revolution examines the abolitionist and labor press, black power publications of the 1960s, the crusade against the barbarism of lynching, the women's movement, and antiwar journals. Streitmatter also discusses gay and lesbian publications, contemporary on-line journals, and counterculture papers like The Kudzu and The Berkeley Barb that flourished in the 1960s. Voices of Revolution also identifies and discusses some of the distinctive characteristics shared by the genres of the dissident press that rose to prominence—*from the early nineteenth century to the late twentieth century*. For far too long, mainstream journalists and even some media scholars have viewed radical, leftist, or progressive periodicals in America as "rags edited by crackpots." However, many of these dissident presses have shaped the way Americans think about social and political issues.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Streitmatter (Mightier Than the Sword: How the News Media Have Shaped American History) presents 14 case studies that examine the effect that dissent or alternative periodicals had on American society from 1830 to the present, covering such important movements as labor, abolition, antilynching, birth control, socialism, the Vietnam War, and civil rights for African Americans, women, and gays and lesbians. Most of these publications resulted from the efforts of a dedicated

person or small groups of people. Streitmatter ties their life stories to the history of the periodical, presenting brief, well-written biographies of people like William Lloyd Garrison (*The Liberator*), Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony (*The Revolution*), Ida Bell Wells (*Free Speech*), and Huey P. Newton and Bobby Seale (*Black Panther*), among others. Each section closes with an essay highlighting common themes found in the publications, and the entire book closes with a brief discussion of 'zines and the Internet as distributors of dissenting points of view. Though overlapping somewhat with Lauren Kessler's older *The Dissident Press: Alternative Journalism in American History* (1984), Streitmatter's work also offers coverage of areas like the gay press and birth control publications. Recommended for all public and academic libraries. Stephen L. Hupp, West Virginia Univ. Lib., Parkersburg Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Dissident publications have been first to report on many emerging social issues, from abolition to AIDS. With no ad revenue to protect, they are free to probe controversial issues, according to Streitmatter, a journalism professor. He defines dissident publications as those that seek to effect social change and offer views that differ from the conventional press. Streitmatter presents 14 case studies in different chronological periods, with essays identifying the distinctive character of the publications and their relative success or failure at bringing about social change. He also profiles the individuals behind the publications. Streitmatter starts with material published by the American labor movement, including the *Working Man's Advocate*, which crusaded for shorter workdays and against child labor and debtor's prison. He moves on to the antislavery newspaper *Liberator*, published by William Lloyd Garrison; *Revolution*, published by Susan B. Anthony, which advocated women's rights; and the antilynching campaigns of *Free Speech*, edited by Ida B. Wells. Streitmatter concludes this fascinating book with a look at the future of dissident journalism, including the role of the Internet. Vanessa BushCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I learned a great deal from reading this book. I felt, before I started, that I knew about dissident presses. In reality, though, all I knew about was the abolition press, the women's press and the counterculture press. Now that I have finished reading this book, I know there are many more categories of dissident presses. The labor press and the socialist press and the anarchist press were strong in the 1800s and then came the birth control press and later the anti-Vietnam War press. I especially liked reading about the women's liberation press because so many of the issues were very different from what I expected. I learned so much from reading the book, and I strongly

recommend it to other people who want to learn about how dissent can change society.

I was looking for a book that would energize journalism students and would help them to see in journalism the potential for making a contribution to positive social change. This book was terrific in the classroom for those purposes. The students loved the narrative writing style and the book opened great questions on the role of advocacy in relation to social movements and the institutions of journalism. A truly important work as we in journalism education look for ways to encourage our students to consider alternatives to corporate-owned media!

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