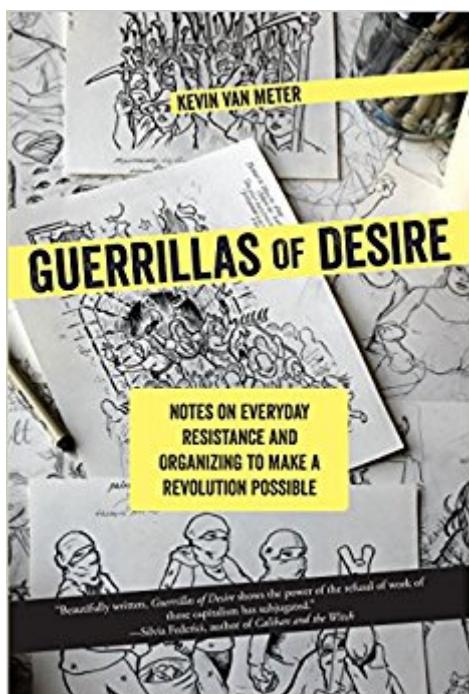


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# Guerrillas Of Desire: Notes On Everyday Resistance And Organizing To Make A Revolution Possible



## Synopsis

“Guerrillas of Desire is an important exploration of the revolutionary possibilities of our time.” George Caffentzis, author of *In Letters of Blood and Fire* “Beautifully written, Guerrillas of Desire shows the power of the refusal of work of those capitalism has subjugated.” Silvia Federici, author of *Caliban and the Witch* Behind the smiling faces of cashiers, wait staff, and workers of all sorts, a war is going on, usually without the knowledge of official political and labor organizations. Guerrillas of Desire begins with a provocation: The Left is wrong. It’s historical and current strategies are too-often based on the assumption that working and poor people are unorganized, acquiescent to systems of domination, or simply uninterested in building a new world. The fact is, as C.L.R. James has noted, they “are rebelling every day in ways of their own invention”: pilfering, sabotaging, faking illnesses, squatting, fleeing, and counter-strategizing. Kevin Van Meter maps these undercurrents, documenting the history of everyday resistance under slavery, in peasant life, and throughout modern capitalism, while showing that it remains an important factor in revolution and something radicals of all stripes must understand. Kevin Van Meter is an activist-scholar based in the Pacific Northwest. He is coeditor of *Uses of a Whirlwind: Movement, Movements, and Contemporary Radical Currents in the United States*.

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## Customer Reviews

“Guerrillas of Desire is an important exploration of the revolutionary possibilities of our

time. • George Caffentzis, author of *In Letters of Blood and Fire* “Beautifully written, Guerrillas of Desire shows the power of the refusal of work of those capitalism has subjugated. • Silvia Federici, author of *Caliban and the Witch* “This eye-opening book...makes us see the problem of organizing in a new and much more useful way.... We are already organized, Van Meter argues, we are already in revolt, and we always have been. The job of the organizer is to ask questions, to listen, and to cross-pollinate the wisdom of both open revolt and everyday resistance in communities everywhere. That is what makes revolutionary-becoming possible. Read this book, and put it into practice.” • Eric Laursen, author of *The People’s Pension* “Guerrillas of Desire offers a powerful and bold thesis regarding the continuous and enormously potent social force embodied in the everyday resistance of working people.... Kevin Van Meter has written a truly remarkable book that I urge you to study, to sit with, to argue with, and to struggle with in the days to come. I know I will.” • David Naguib Pellow, author of *Total Liberation* “Anyone interested in mutual translation between progressive political theory and social activism today must read this book.” • Mark Blasius, Professor Emeritus of Political Science, The City University of New York Graduate Center and Center for LGBTQ Studies “An ambitious work of theory and history that places autonomist Marxist ideas in direct conversation with contemporary anarchist practice, suggesting ways in which concepts such as class composition and everyday resistance, originally developed to analyze slave, peasant, and factory revolts, might aid modern day radicals operating within a bewildering political terrain marked by service work, toothless unions, insular affinity groups, and professional exchange agents.” • Andrew Cornell, author of *Unruly Equality* “Few have approached radical theory with the rigor and skill of Kevin Van Meter. Empowering, lucid, and inspiring, Guerrillas of Desire provides an exhaustive (and much needed) retooling of anarchism that will align the dreams of ‘becoming revolutionaries’ with the reality of everyday resistance.” • Alexander Reid Ross, author of *Against the Fascist Creep* “Looking for the political in the everyday and bringing anarchism into a productive dialogue with Autonomist Marxism, Kevin Van Meter challenges many of the left’s usual assumptions and forces a reconsideration of what we mean by ‘struggle.’” • Kristian Williams, author of *Our Enemies in Blue* “With an activist heart and deep critical understanding of a life lived in radical politics, Kevin Van Meter skillfully dissects stifling myths within US political movements and anarchism while chronicling the creative energy of self-activity. His liberatory beginnings and questions create open spaces for forging new paths or revisiting old ones in a quest for wider collective

liberation.â• scott crow, author of Black Flags and Windmills

Kevin Van Meter: Kevin E. Van Meter is an activist-scholar based in the Pacific-Northwest. He co-edited the collection *Uses of a Whirlwind: Movement, Movements, and Contemporary Radical Politics in the United States*. His work has appeared in the *Earth First! Journal*, *The Journal of Aesthetics and Protest*, *The Commoner*, and other radical and academic publications.

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