

An engaging and scholastic presentation of zines and modern culture

Notes from Underground (3rd Edition)

Zines and the Politics of Alternative Culture

by Stephen Duncombe

“A timely new critical study, Stephen Duncombe’s *Notes from Underground: Zines and the Politics of Alternative Culture* (1997), throws some light on the current state of zines and what’s at stake. Duncombe, a professor of American Studies and a zine-maker himself, locates zines within a wider bohemian tradition, and maps out both the potential and the limits of their cultural radicalism.” —*The Atlantic*

“Duncombe retains his respect and even admiration for the utopian sentiments that animate the ‘zine world, even as he unblinkingly diagnoses the contradictions and limitations of the political vision these publications offer.” —*Weekly Wire*

“This book took me a little by surprise with its in depth and analytical look at zine culture and it’s place in alternative culture. This zine starts with a great overview of what exactly zines are and then moves into discussing the community around zines and other aspects of their place in culture.” —*410 Media*

Much history and theory is uncovered here in the first comprehensive study of zine publishing. From their origins in early 20th century science fiction cults, their more proximate roots in ‘60s counter-culture and their rapid proliferation in the wake of punk rock, Stephen Duncombe pays full due to the political importance of zines as a vital network of popular culture. He also analyzes how zines measure up to their utopian and escapist outlook in achieving fundamental social change. Packed with extracts and illustrations, he provides a useful overview of the contemporary underground in all its splendor and misery.



Stephen Duncombe is a professor at New York University’s Gallatin School in the department of Media, Culture and Communications and is a lifelong political activist. He is the author, editor, co-author and co-editor of six books, including *Dream: Re-Imagining Progressive Politics in an Age of Fantasy*; *Notes From Underground: Zines and the Politics of Underground Culture*; *The Bobbed Haired Bandit: Crime and Celebrity in 1920s New York*; *the Cultural Resistance Reader*; *White Riot: Punk Rock and the Politics of Race*; and *(Open) Utopia*. He lives in New York City.

A small, innovative publishing house, **Microcosm Publishing** specializes in work designed to make the reader feel good about being alive, take an active role in bettering their life, and impact the world around them. Microcosm has developed a reputation for teaching self-empowerment, showing hidden histories, and fostering creativity through challenging conventional publishing wisdom with books and zines about DIY skills, food, politics, and art.

SUBJECT: Media Studies / Publishing / Social History

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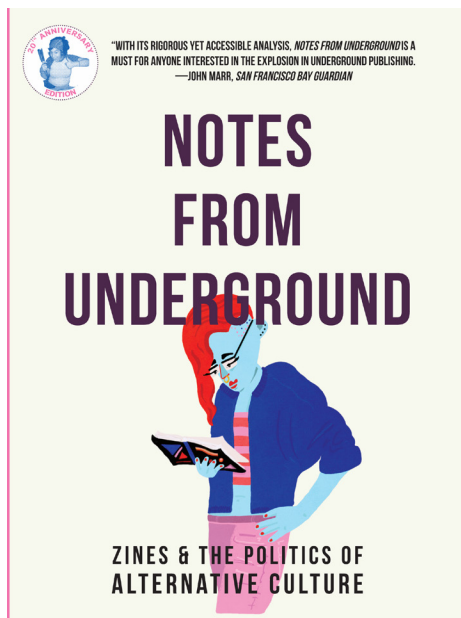
ART: b/w illustrations throughout

Marketing Notes

1. Even in this digital age, zines have remained popular, particularly among members of the counterculture, youth culture, the disenfranchised, and the under-represented
2. Zines expose the true nature of the national and global zeitgeist
3. Stephen Duncombe is an NYU professor who has written and editor numerous books

Comparative Titles

- *Make a Zine!: Start your Own Underground Publishing Revolution* Joe Biel 9781621067337 (Microcosm Publishing) \$9.95, 2017
- *Whatcha Mean, What’s a Zine?* Esther Watson & Mark Todd 9780618563159 (HMH) \$13.99, 2006



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