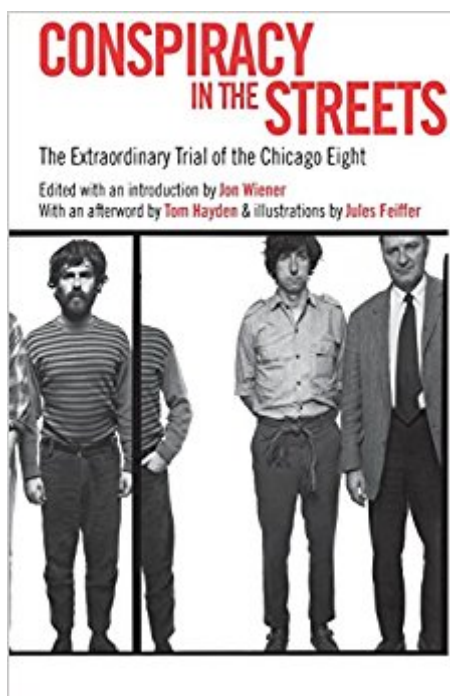


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Conspiracy In The Streets: The Extraordinary Trial Of The Chicago Eight



Synopsis

Michael Moore mocks George Bush and Al Franken ridicules Rush Limbaugh, but the mixing of play and politics today is polite and respectful compared to the carnival of contempt known as the Chicago Eight trial. Opening at the end of 1969, the trial brought Yippies, antiwar activists, and Black Panthers to face conspiracy charges arising from the massive protests at the 1968 Democratic National Convention. The defendants openly lampooned the proceedings, with Abbie Hoffman blowing kisses to the jury and the defense bringing a Viet Cong flag into the courtroom. The judge ordered Bobby Seale of the Black Panthers bound and gagged for insisting on representing himself. And an array of celebrity witnesses appeared, including Timothy Leary, Norman Mailer, Arlo Guthrie, and Allen Ginsberg, who provoked the prosecution by chanting "Om" on the witness stand. This book combines an abridged transcript of the trial with astute commentary by historian Jon Wiener. A foreword by defendant Tom Hayden examines the trial's relevance for protest today, and drawings by legendary cartoonist Jules Feiffer help re-create the electrifying atmosphere of the courtroom.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Jon Wiener is a contributing editor to The Nation and a professor of history at the University of California at Irvine. He is the author of Gimme Some Truth, Come Together, and Historians in Trouble (The New Press). He lives in Los Angeles. Tom Hayden was a California state senator for eighteen years and is the author of Irish on the Inside, The Zapatista Reader, Rebel, and Street

Wars (The New Press). He lives in Los Angeles. Jules Feiffer is a Pulitzer Prize-winning cartoonist, novelist, and playwright based in New York City.

Incredibly engaging -- I read it in an afternoon. I love that the author gets out of the way and leaves the story to the transcripts, but not before providing ample context for the events of the protests and subsequent trial. These transcripts are selections from the trial (ie. abridged) so I would be interested to know whether the author/editor was at all biased towards the defendants in selecting transcript excerpts.

Enjoyed the book very much

After watching the new anima-cumentary "Chicago Ten," I wanted to learn more about this colorful and pivotal moment in U.S. history. I found "Conspiracy in the Streets" a crucial (and very funny) companion to the documentary; one that gave me a deeper look at the men who-- with courage and humor, with great irreverence for power and deep reverence for people-- put the war in Vietnam on trial in 1969. The Chicago Ten film blends archival footage of the streets of Chicago with animated reenactments from the trial itself. Buy this book and you can read along with the animated versions of David Dellinger and Abbie Hoffman. Educational fun for the whole family!

Awesome book. Was very hard to put down. I even laughed out loud a few times. Highly recommended!

I wasn't expecting to laugh when I started reading, but I laughed at so many points. Not only the defendants' humor is hilarious at times, the prosecution almost never ceases to be ridiculous making a funny scene at times, and truly disturbing at others. Drawings are beautiful, and the cover itself sells the book I bet. Where each of the eight defendants ended up later in their lives was most amazing. Those stories may suggest how different these people must have been in core, yet the 60s could meld all into what government claimed to be a conspiracy.

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