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Autore Ebbinghaus, Heinz-Dieter

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Ebbinghaus, G. H. Müller, and G. E. Sacks

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Altri autori (Persone) Muller, Gert H.

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Soggetti Politiska forhallanden

Konsroller - politiska aspekter Politiskt vald - genusaspekter Kvippliga rovolutionarer

Kvinnliga revolutionarer Kvinnliga terrorister

Terrorismus

Frau Politik Gewalt

Women terrorists

Women revolutionaries Women political activists

Social conditions

Sex role - Political aspects Politics and government

Political violence

Feminism - Political aspects

Feminism - Political aspects - Germany - History - 20th century Sex role - Political aspects - Germany - History - 20th century

Political violence - Germany - History - 20th century

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Introduction: "An excess of women's emancipation" : gender, political violence, and feminist politics -- The other half of the sky : revolutionary violence, the RAF, and the autonomous women's movement -- "Between a rock and a hard place" : the "betrayal" of motherhood among the women of the RAF and Movement 2nd June -- "Terrorist girls" and "wild furies" : feminist responses to media representations of women terrorists during the "German Autumn" of 1977 -- The gendered politics of starving : (state) power and the body as locus of political subjectivities in the RAF hunger strikes -- "We women are the better half of humanity anyway" : revolutionary politics, feminism, and memory in the writings of female terrorists -- Conclusion: "Can political violence be feminist?"

Sommario/riassunto

In the early 1970s, a number of West German left-wing activists took up arms, believing that revolution would lead to social change. In the years to come, the bombings, shootings, kidnappings and bank robberies of the Red Army Faction (RAF) and Movement 2nd June dominated newspaper headlines and polarized legislative debates. Half of the terrorists declaring war on the West German state were women who understood their violent political actions to be part of their liberation from restrictive gender norms. As women participating in a brand of systematic violence usually associated with masculinity, they presented a cultural paradox, and their political decisions were viewed as gender transgressions by the state, the public, and even the burgeoning women's movement, which considered violence as patriarchal and unfeminist. Death in the Shape of a Young Girl questions this separation of political violence from feminist politics and offers a new understanding of left-wing female terrorists' actions as feminist practices that challenged existing gender ideologies. Patricia Melzer draws on archival sources, unpublished letters, and interviews with former activists to paint a fresh and interdisciplinary picture of West Germany's most notorious political group, from feminist responses to sexist media coverage of female terrorists to the gendered nature of their infamous hunger strikes while in prison. Placing the controversial actions of the Red Army Faction into the context of feminist politics. Death in the Shape of a Young Girl offers an innovative and engaging cultural history that foregrounds how gender shapes our perception of women's political choices and of any kind of political violence.