



A Bomb in Every Issue: How the Short, Unruly Life of Ramparts Magazine Changed America

Peter Richardson

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A *Mother Jones* "Best Book of 2009," *A Bomb in Every Issue* uncovers the largely untold story of *Ramparts* magazine, the spectacular San Francisco muckraker that captured the zeitgeist of the '60s and repeatedly scooped the *New York Times*, changing American journalism forever.

Launched in 1962 as a Catholic literary quarterly, *Ramparts* quickly transformed into a "radical slick," winning a George Polk Award in 1967 for its "explosive revival of the great muckraking tradition."

According to the *Los Angeles Times*, the magazine "not only blew the cover off the biggest stories of the era, it also helped set the ideological agenda for its core demographic, the New Left, and forced the mainstream press to follow its lead."

Ramparts' list of contributors—including Noam Chomsky, César Chávez, Seymour Hersh, Angela Davis, and Susan Sontag—formed a who's who of the American left. Although *Ramparts* folded for good in 1975, former staffers founded *Rolling Stone* and *Mother Jones* and include some of the most illustrious names in journalism (names like Robert Scheer, Jann Wenner, and Warren Hinckle), and *Ramparts* remains an inspiration to investigative journalists today.



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