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# Through The Eyes Of Rebel Women: The Young Lords 1969-1976



## Synopsis

THROUGH THE EYES OF REBEL WOMEN: The Young Lords, 1969-1976 is the first account about the experiences of women members of the Young Lords, a "story within a story" told from the inside out. The Young Lords emerged in the late sixties to fight poverty, racial and gender inequality, and the colonial status of Puerto Rico. Women joined to build a people's justice movement and fought the "revolution within the revolution" believing that women's equality was inseparable from the society's progress as a whole. Written and edited by Iris Morales, THROUGH THE EYES OF REBEL WOMEN consists of essays, interviews, and primary source documents. Morales chronicles the revolutionary rise of the Young Lords, the role and contributions of women, the opening of branches in Puerto Rico, and the group's demise. Dr. Edna Acosta-Beltr n, distinguished historian and women's studies scholar, writes: "These women activists are ... the brave feminist warriors who battled for equality in intersecting (not isolated or separated) arenas of class, race, gender, ethnicity, and sexuality; part of that noble league of defenders of universal human rights." Ericka Huggins, human rights activist, former Black Panther Party member, and political prisoner, summarizes: "As I read this book, I was continually inspired by the history of the Young Lords and the great women within it. Iris Morales writes a story that parallels the story of the women in the Black Panther Party and women throughout the globe. The structural and interpersonal work we must do to uplift humanity always starts from the inside out!" Through the Eyes of Rebel Women is a must-read for everyone interested in the Puerto Rican and people's movements of the 1960s and 70s in the United States.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Dr. Edna Acosta-BelÃfÃ©n, distinguished historian and women's studies scholar, writes: "These women activists are ... the brave feminist warriors who battled for equality in intersecting (not isolated or separated) arenas of class, race, gender, ethnicity, and sexuality; part of that noble league of defenders of universal human rights." Ericka Huggins, human rights activist, former Black Panther Party member and political prisoner, summarizes: "As I read this book, I was continually inspired by the history of the Young Lords and the great women within it. Iris Morales writes a story that parallels the story of the women in the Black Panther Party and women throughout the globe. The structural and interpersonal work we must do to uplift humanity always starts from the inside out!"

Iris Morales is an educator and life-long community activist. She brings her legacy of social justice activism to her projects with young people, teachers, and media producers promoting human rights and the decolonization of Puerto Rico. For thirty years, Ms. Morales has built organizations dedicated to grassroots organizing, community empowerment, and media. As the founder and executive editor of Red Sugarcane Press, she publishes books about the Puerto Rican and Latin@ Diasporas in the Americas. Ms. Morales was a member of the Young Lords for five years serving as the organization's Deputy Minister of Education and a co-founder of its WomenÃ©ââs Caucus and WomenÃ©ââs Union. Her interviews and writings about the Young Lords have appeared in numerous books and magazines. She is also the producer, writer and co-director of the award-winning film, Ã Â¡Palante, Siempre Palante! The Young Lords, which premiered on public television and has screened across the United States and the Caribbean. Ms. Morales is an attorney, a graduate of New York University School of Law, and earned an MFA in Integrated Media Arts from Hunter College in New York.

As a historian of women and social movements in America, I find this book an extraordinary addition to the field. More importantly, as an activist, Morales's book is an inspirational field guide for the current generation as they (unfortunately) fight many of the same battles again in this era. Social movement is too often depicted as a history of a few extraordinary people. Morales makes it clear that social movement is the work of everyone. I recommend this book to everyone who is engaging

in our new struggle for civil rights in America.

I absolutely loved this book! I learned so much about the Young Lords, and the amazing women who were a part of it. Definitely worth the money.

amazing! Iris is such a powerful woman and I learned a lot about organizing and the legacy of the Young Lords through this book. Highly recommended.

As radio host of The Jordan Journal and Chair of the Behavioral & Social Sciences Department at Hostos Community college I have dedicated a near lifetime of participating and analyzing the literature on social movements that have transformed communities of color.

“Through the Eyes of Rebel Women: The Young Lords 1969-1976” by Iris Morales is a thorough well-reasoned retrospective on the history of Young Lords a radical group which has attained iconic status among Latina activists. As a leader of the group Morales, in a well-written examination of this group, gives us an insider’s view of these young idealists as they navigate through the challenges of American racism and sexism, struggle for the liberation of the Puerto Rican people, and in the process are themselves transformed. This book is the first book describing the experiences of the group’s women members “an untold herstory” are particular relevant given legacies of the movement in the Million Women’s March, Black Lives Matter, 35 Mujeres (Women) for Oscar, and more. As if this were not enough the author provides us with historical documents of the period as we witness these founding documents and language like “revolutionary machismo” change as the group’s male members confront their sexism. I have incorporated the book in our Department’s suggested readings and the book should be required readings for educators, historians, young people, and those seeking to understand how a little resourced generation of Puerto Rican women transformed a community and liberated the thinking of a people. Prof. Howard Jordan, Esq. Host The Jordan Journal and Chair Behavioral & Social Sciences Dept. - Hostos Community College.

it is important when the story is told about a people, it is told by someone who was there This book is a amazing account of a period in US history and is more important now then ever. The details are both readable and clear.. Ms. Morales gives the reader insight into the day to day work of the group,

She does not gloss over the struggle including the pitfalls and success. Anyone who wants to better understand what this group did and stood for, should read this book. The fact that a woman of color is telling this history about progressive women is so important.

As a poet, a mom and activist, I find this book to be a treasure chest of clarity and insight into how women navigate social movements often plagued with mansplaining, slow awakenings and increased awareness of the struggles of those most oppressed. In times of Trump and a return to hyper-patriarchal ideals of social life, this book is a guide and an important addition to organizers and especially women and mothers who are working at creating a sanctuary space and upholding feminist values that are under threat of extinction.

This book is so necessary. I am incredibly inspired by the Young Lords and, as an afro-latina, as a woman, as an organizer, finding this book added a beautiful layer to the story. If you've read or seen anything on the Young Lords, this is nothing like that. We've never had this perspective, that of the guerrillera! Thank you, Iris! For your work. For pushing to uplift the voices of women. For publishing this yourself and marching past limits!

A timely account of a movement for equality and justice that is as vital today as it was in the 1960's. As the struggle continues, the voices of seasoned rebel women and emerging organizers are necessary and cannot be silenced or ignored. Written with clarity and passion by a member of the Young Lords with contributions by other female activists, "Through the Eyes of Rebel Women" is a must read, especially for women finding their voice and their place in justice movements around the globe.

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