

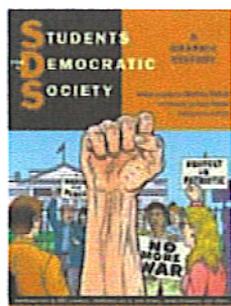
Students for a Democratic Society

A Graphic History

Written (mostly) by Harvey Pekar

Art (mostly) by Gary Dumm

Edited by Paul Buhle



Farrar, Straus and Giroux

Hill and Wang

224 pages

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Size: 6 x 8

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Black-and-White

Illustrations Throughout

\$22.00

Hardcover

The History of SDS as You've Never Seen It Before

In 1962 at a United Auto Workers' camp in Michigan, Students for a Democratic Society held its historic convention and prepared the famous Port Huron Statement, drafted by Tom Hayden. This statement, criticizing the U.S. government's failure to pursue international peace or address domestic inequality, became the organization's manifesto. Its last convention was held in 1969 in Chicago, where, collapsing under the weight of its notoriety and popularity, it shattered into myriad factions. Through brilliant art and they-were-there dialogue, famed graphic novelist Harvey Pekar, gifted artist Gary Dumm, and renowned historian Paul Buhle illustrate the tumultuous decade that first defined and then was defined by the men and women who gathered under the SDS banner. *Students for a Democratic Society: A Graphic History* captures the idealism and activism that drove a generation of young Americans to believe that even one person's actions can help transform the world.

QUOTES

"*Students for a Democratic Society: A Graphic History* will make old timers remember, discuss, argue and laugh, while the young will bubble with questions. For me, it brought back untold memories and induced visions of the next great wave of social activism!"—Michael James, JOIN/SDS organizer, founder of Rising Up Angry, and proprietor of Chicago's Heartland Cafe

"My own radical journey began with Mad Magazine, so it feels great that SDS should enter the culture of comic folklore thanks to Harvey Pekar and Paul Buhle. May this graphic history be an informing contribution as a new generation of SDS writes its own story." — Tom Hayden, founding member of the Students for a Democratic Society

"Hey! Did you know grandpa was a revolutionary? If you want the inside story from SDS veterans themselves, with a minimum of rhetoric and a maximum of sex, drugs, violence, and internal faction-fighting, check out this wonderful graphic history. Almost—but not quite—like being there. You'll laugh, you'll cry, and no cop will hit you over the head, either. Grandma and grandpa's bedtime stories are guaranteed to get the children dreaming of their own anti-imperialist movement." —Mark Rudd, a founder of the Weather Underground, the last National Secretary of SDS, and the Chairman of the Columbia University chapter of SDS during the 1968 student strike

"Students for a Democratic Society: A Graphic History brings the historical power of SDS to life for the new generation of SDS activists. At a time when the state repression and militarism of the 1960's and 70's finds its closest parallel in the Iraq War and the Patriot Act, this accessible book maps out the legacy of resistance our generation has inherited. This is mandatory reading for serious, young organizers who desire to combat oppression while avoiding the errors of their predecessors." —Senia Barragan, Brown University/Providence SDS

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Harvey Pekar is best known for his graphic autobiography, *American Splendor*, on which comic artist **Gary Dumm** collaborated. **Paul Buhle**, a senior lecturer at Brown University, was founding editor of the SDS journal *Radical America*.

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""**Students for a Democratic Society: A Graphic History**' (Hill and Wang, 211 pp., paperback, \$22) interprets a groundbreaking political group of the '60s with words, pictures, and passion. It offers versions of history told by former members of SDS eager to reclaim honor for a group that can lay claim to being part of the seedbed of the women's liberation and black power movements. After [writer] Harvey Pekar, artist Gary Dumm and editor Paul Buhle tell the chronological history of SDS, separate accounts of SDS activity in Chicago, Cleveland, Madison, Wis., and elsewhere round out the picture. Pekar has become an acute pop sociologist, and Dumm's neutral art only underlines the electrical charge of the times." -*The Boston Globe*

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"The SDS book powerfully dramatizes the broad panarama of mayhem and confrontation in the '60s. That's the best part of [it]: the history from below, telling us what we could never know otherwise about what life was really like in the belly of that beast." - *The Buffalo News*

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"In prismatically and personally treating the charged events associated with SDS, it has a resonance lacking in the conventional textbook... In addition, the frankness with which veterans of SDS here document their successes and, perhaps more important, their failures, suggests ways today's youths can organize for change without making the mistakes of their forebears." - *The Denver Post*

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""**Students for a Democratic Society**'... examines the leftist student organization from various vantage points, blending personal anecdotes, conventional history and what one might call field reports." - *Cleveland Plain Dealer*

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"The more fascinating portion is... devoted to shorter, personal accounts from... SDS members. A half-dozen... artists join [in] this section... a sort of cartoon oral history, [where] the political becomes personal and the book really comes alive. Viewed from 2008, after the disappearance of the draft, the legalization of abortion, the institutionalization of civil rights and other victories for the activists of the era, the world of the SDSers can seem a bit alien to those of us who weren't there, which makes a history like this – one that's as visual as it is verbal – so valuable. It's not quite like being there, and it's perhaps not even the next best thing to being there. But it is the next best thing to that, and perhaps as close as a book can ever hope to get you." - *Las Vegas Weekly*

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"[The book asserts that,] 'A significant chunk of SDSers joined and in some cases actually organized the women's liberation movement, the gay and lesbian movements, the environmental movement, and so on. These causes, still far from won almost a half-century later, had been essentially invisible before the era of SDS.' The most striking feature of '**Students for a Democratic Society**' may well be... [t]hat Americans are beginning to accept the idea that comics can be a legitimate vehicle for a discussion of socio-political history[; this] represents a radical shift in popular culture." -- *San Francisco Chronicle*

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"It's good comics and excellent history." - *Publisher's Weekly*

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"Marx famously commented that history repeats itself first at tragedy and then as farce; he never dreamed there would be a further cycle in which it would reappear yet again... as comix." - *The Nation*