

Black Box

A Record of the Catastrophe, Volume Two

Edited by The Black Box Collective

As the serial disasters of capitalism's current crisis—economic, political, environmental—continue to batter the world, *Black Box: A Record of the Catastrophe* is a device for recording, analyzing, and transmitting events as they happen. But it offers neither dire predictions nor false hopes. Instead, it embraces the mystery of what might transpire. The word "catastrophe" has not always signified "disaster"; during the sixteenth century, especially in theater, it came to mean "a reversal of what is expected." *Black Box* is ultimately a documentary project, a record of the catastrophe, but it's an open question where the inquiry will take us. It may be a record of the disastrous end. Or it may be a record of the turning.

The second volume brings together reports from North African refugee camps in Europe; thinkers ruminating on Walter Benjamin while walking the streets of Palestine; a freezing night in Tucson, Arizona; a London cityscape that reflects the architectural power of finance capitalism; meetings of French Maoists in the 1960s; a film screening that never happened; and much more.

Contributors to *Black Box* include Mott Green, Byung-Chul Han, Isabella Gresser, Micaela Sahhar, Stuart Smithers, Miranda Mellis, Jonathan Stafford, Moniro Ravanipour, Eirik Steinhoff, Peter Wieben, Gunter Gassner, Matt Longabucco, Sam Dolbear, Oriel María Siu, Bhanu Kapil, Jacob Bard-Rosenberg, Maged Zaher, Neve, Roberto Harrison, Eske Mollgaard, Alejandro de Acosta, Blake Shaw, Ron Haas, William Kupinse, Luis Berríos-Negrón, Michael Paninski, Renee Simms, Andrea Lawlor, Teju Cole, and Sarah Rupp.

ABOUT THE EDITORS

The Black Box Collective emerged after several years of symposia, reading groups, philosophy camps, and wood splitting. The poets, journalists, academics, metaphysicians, artists, and strategists of the collective gather regularly at a retired dairy farm in the foothills of the Cascade Mountains north of Seattle to explore themes of consciousness, community, and circulation of the communizing current—and to discover and assemble a critique that will wake us from the dream world that is seamlessly reproduced by capitalist culture.

ACCOLADES

"*Black Box* subverts the implicit agenda of most media outlets to deny the truth or to distract us from it. The journal investigates what is a necessary step toward understanding what needs to be."

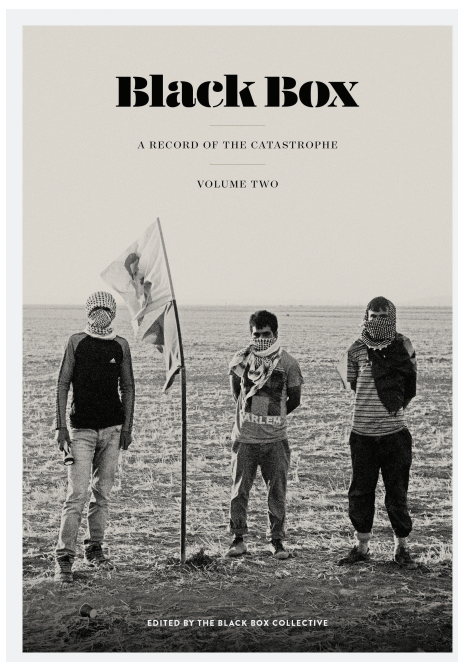
—Gabor Maté, MD, author of *In the Realm of Hungry Ghosts: Close Encounters with Addiction*

"What happens if you walk away? What happens if you don't? *Black Box* is both a philosophy of the street and a poetics of revolutionary encounter. Every page is voltage, orientation, verge."

—Bhanu Kapil, author of *Ban en Banlieue*

"*Black Box* is either our collectively written obituary or a time capsule of capitalism in its death throes. Let's make it the latter."

—Will Potter, author of *Green Is the New Red: An Insider's Account of a Social Movement Under Siege*



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