

# Comrades, Not Friends

## The Revolutionary Front, Antifascism, and Class Struggle

Emma Hagberg

Translated by Gabriel Kuhn

Preface by Tomas Rothaus

The Revolutionary Front spoke the online language fascists understand: violence!

The Revolutionary Front (RF), 2001–2015, was the most militant organization on the left in recent Swedish history. Staunchly working class, the first generation of RF members engaged in numerous street battles with Swedish fascists. When the fascists retreated from the streets, RF attacked them in their homes. The police cracked down on the organization in 2013, raiding the apartments of several alleged members at the crack of dawn. The courts handed out prison sentences of up to six and a half years. Two years later, the organization folded.

The Revolutionary Front uploaded videos of many of its actions and received widespread international attention. In Sweden, RF members appeared in videos of prominent hip-hop acts and were the subject of prime-time television documentaries. The Swedish security service declared them a threat to society. Within the left, RF members were controversial both for their level of militancy and their disregard for the norms of the leftist scene.

This book tells the story of the organization from the perspective of its members. It is based on interviews and written memories, and illustrated by articles from the RF website, photographs, banners, and posters. Pride in what RF has achieved is blended with self-critique. Internal tensions are not swept under the carpet.

*Comrades, Not Friends* documents one of Europe's most important antifascist, working-class organizations of the early twenty-first century. The questions it raises about militancy, class struggle, antifascism, political organizing, and revolutionary politics are universal.

### ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

**Emma Hagberg** is an activist, writer, and educator from Stockholm, Sweden, with years of experience in the extraparliamentary left. She has worked on a range of subjects, from the anarchist movement in Greece to antifascist mobilization in the Nordic countries. She lives in Stockholm.

**Gabriel Kuhn** is an Austrian-born writer and translator living in Sweden. He has authored and translated more than twenty books, many with PM Press.

**Tomas Rothaus** is a lifelong anarchist and antifascist as well as an athlete and a father. PM Press published his first three books, *Another War Is Possible*, *Argentina, a Tale of Two Utopias*, and *From Riot to Insurrection*.

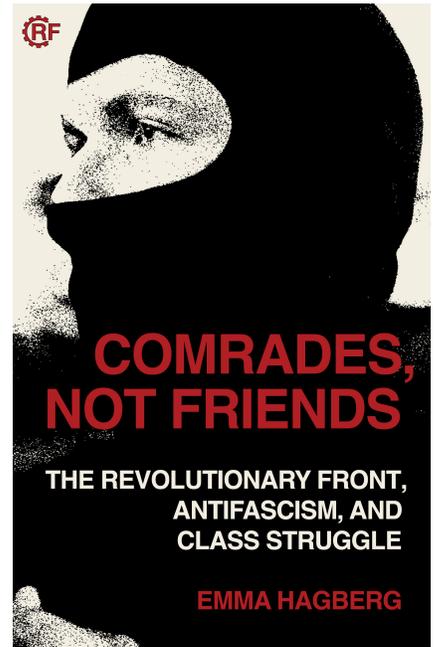
### ACCOLADES

"I just finished the book. All the memories almost got me teary-eyed. Everyone who was there has their own story to tell, me too, but you really captured the RF spirit and our diversity. Thanks and praises for a book that captures in a very honest way an important chapter in the history of the class struggle in Sweden!"

—former RF member

"*Comrades, Not Friends* sits you down to hear the stories of veteran anti-Nazi street-fighters in their own words. Their tales are exhilarating, their successes emboldening, and their failures and shortcomings illustrative. This captivating and engaging collection of interviews is a fantastic read and an invaluable resource for debating antifascist tactics and strategies for the twenty-first century."

—Mark Bray, author of *Antifa: The Anti-Fascist Handbook*



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