

The State Is the Enemy

Essays on Liberation and Racial Justice

James Kelman

Incendiary and heartrending, the sixteen essays in *The State Is the Enemy* lay bare government brutality against the working class, immigrants, asylum-seekers, ethnic minorities, and all who are deemed of “a lower order.” Drawing parallels between atrocities committed against the Kurds by the Turkish State, and the racist police brutality, and government sanctioned murders in the UK, James Kelman shatters the myth of Western exceptionalism, revealing the universality of terror campaigns levied against the most vulnerable, and calling on a global citizenship to stand in solidarity with victims of oppression. Kelman’s case against the Turkish and British governments is not just a litany of murders, or an impassioned plea—it is a cool-headed take down of the State and an essential primer for revolutionaries.

James Kelman was born in Glasgow, June 1946, and left school in 1961. He travelled and worked various jobs, and while living in London began to write. In 1994 he won the Booker Prize for *How Late It Was, How Late*. His novel *A Disaffection*, was shortlisted for the Booker Prize and won the James Tait Black Memorial Prize for Fiction in 1989. In 1998 Kelman was awarded the Glenfiddich Spirit of Scotland Award. His 2008 novel *Kieron Smith, Boy* won the Saltire Society’s Book of the Year and the Scottish Arts Council Book of the Year. He lives in Glasgow with his wife Marie, who has supported his work since 1969.

ACCOLADES

“Probably the most influential novelist of the post-war period.”
—*The Times*

“Kelman has the knack, maybe more than anyone since Joyce, of fixing in his writing the lyricism of ordinary people’s speech ... Pure aesthete, undaunted democrat—somehow Kelman manages to reconcile his two halves.”
—*Esquire* (London)

“The greatest British novelist of our time.”
—*Sunday Herald*

“A true original ... A real artist ... it’s now very difficult to see which of his peers can seriously be ranked alongside [Kelman] without ironic eyebrows being raised.”
—Irvine Welsh, *Guardian*

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THE KELMAN LIBRARY

SUBJECT CATEGORY

Political Science / Colonialism & Post-Colonialism, Human Rights, Politics & State

PRICE

\$19.95/\$39.95

ISBN

9781629639680/9781629639765

PAGE COUNT

192

SIZE

5x8

FORMAT

Paperback/Hardcover

PUBLICATION DATE

11/2022

US DISTRIBUTION

Publishers Group West
1-866-400-5351

www.pgw.com • ips@ingramcontent.com

CANADA DISTRIBUTION

Publishers Group Canada
1-800-663-5714

customerservice@raincoast.com

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Turnaround Publisher Services Ltd
020-8829-3000 • orders@turnaround-uk.com

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510-658-3906

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