

The Struggle Within

Prisons, Political Prisoners, and Mass Movements in the United States

**Dan Berger • Foreword by Ruth Wilson Gilmore and
Afterword by dream hampton**

The Struggle Within is an accessible yet wide-ranging historical primer about how mass imprisonment has been a tool of repression deployed against diverse left-wing social movements over the last fifty years. Berger examines some of the most dynamic social movements across half a century: black liberation, Puerto Rican independence, Native American sovereignty, Chicano radicalism, white antiracist and working-class mobilizations, pacifist and anti-nuclear campaigns, and earth liberation and animal rights.

Berger's encyclopedic knowledge of American social movements provides a rich comparative history of numerous social movements that continue to shape contemporary politics. The book also offers a little-heard voice in contemporary critiques of mass incarceration. Rather than seeing the issue of America's prison growth as stemming solely from the war on drugs, Berger locates mass incarceration within a slew of social movements that have provided steep challenges to state power.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR and CONTRIBUTORS

Dan Berger is an assistant professor of comparative ethnic studies at the University of Washington Bothell. His work on race, prisons, media, and American social movements has appeared widely in popular and scholarly journals. He is the author of *Captive Nation: Black Prison Organizing in the Civil Rights Era*, forthcoming from the University of North Carolina Press (2014). Berger is also the author or editor of three previous books: *Letters From Young Activists*, *Outlaws of America: The Weather Underground and the Politics of Solidarity*, and *The Hidden 1970s: Histories of Radicalism*. A longtime activist, Berger is a cofounder of Decarcerate PA.

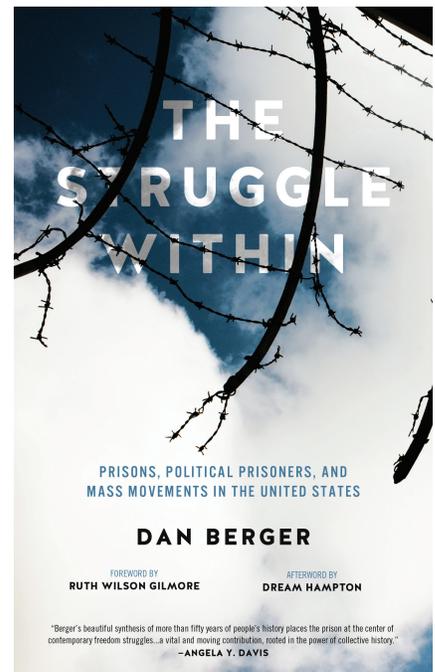
Ruth Wilson Gilmore is a professor of geography at the CUNY Graduate Center. She is a member of the founding collective of Critical Resistance, one of the most important national anti-prison organizations in the United States. She examined how political and economic forces produced California's prison boom in *Golden Gulag: Prisons, Surplus, Crisis, and Opposition in Globalizing California*, which was recognized by ASA with its Lora Romero First Book Award.

dream hampton has written about music, culture, and politics for twenty years. Her articles and essays have appeared in *The Village Voice*, *The Detroit News*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *Essence*, and a dozen anthologies, most recently *Born to Use Mics: Reading Nas's Illmatic*. A longtime member of the human rights organization Malcolm X Grassroots Movement, hampton helped to organize the Black August Hip Hop Concert Benefit to raise awareness about U.S. political prisoners. hampton directed *The Black August Hip Hop Project*, a film about the concert series, political prisoners, and MXGM.

ACCOLADES

"*The Struggle Within* powerfully demonstrates that the issue of political prisoners is not about individuals but about the deep and enduring bonds of community resistance. Berger's beautiful synthesis of more than fifty years of people's history places the prison at the center of contemporary freedom struggles. This book is necessary reading for all who wish to revive a radical tradition in the face of the prison's coercive attempt at erasure. *The Struggle Within* is a vital and moving contribution, rooted in the power of collective history."

—Angela Y. Davis, author and former political prisoner



SUBJECT CATEGORY

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