

# Who's Afraid of the Black Blocs?

## Anarchy in Action around the World

**Francis Dupuis-Déri**

**Translated by Lazer Lederhendler**

Faces masked, dressed in black, and forcefully attacking the symbols of capitalism, Black Blocs have been transformed into an anti-globalization media spectacle. But the popular image of the window-smashing thug hides a complex reality.

Francis Dupuis-Déri outlines the origin of this international phenomenon, its dynamics, and its goals, arguing that the use of violence always takes place in an ethical and strategic context.

Translated into English for the first time and completely revised and updated to include the most recent Black Bloc actions at protests in Greece, Germany, Canada, and England, and the Bloc's role in the Occupy movement and the Quebec student strike, *Black Blocs* lays out a comprehensive view of the Black Bloc tactic and locates it within the anarchist tradition of direct action.

### ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

**Francis Dupuis-Déri** is a professor of political science and a member of the Institut de recherches et d'études féministes at the Université du Québec à Montréal. He has been active in anarchist-leaning collectives in Quebec, France, and the United States. He is the author of several books on social movements, feminism, and anarchism.

**Lazer Lederhendler** is a Canadian literary translator and academic. A four-time nominee for the Governor General's Award for French to English translation, he won the award in 2008.

### ACCOLADES

"A level-headed, carefully researched inquiry into a subject that reduces most pundits to foaming at the mouth."

—CrimethInc. Writers' Bloc

"Francis Dupuis-Déri's discussion of Black Blocs is intimately well-informed, truly international in scope, and up-to-the-minute. He treats the complex issues surrounding the tactic with an admirable balance of sympathy and sobriety. This book is the ideal antidote to the misinformation spread by the establishment, its defenders, and its false critics."

—Uri Gordon, author of *Anarchy Alive!*

"Wearing black to mask their identities, the Black Bloc fights injustice globally. Although little is known about these modern Zorros, this book critically reveals their origins and prospects. I heartily recommend it."

—George Katsiaficas, author of *The Subversion of Politics*



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### ◆ PM PRESS ◆

P.O. Box 23912 • Oakland, CA 94623  
www.pmpress.org  
info@pmpress.org  
(510) 658-3906

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