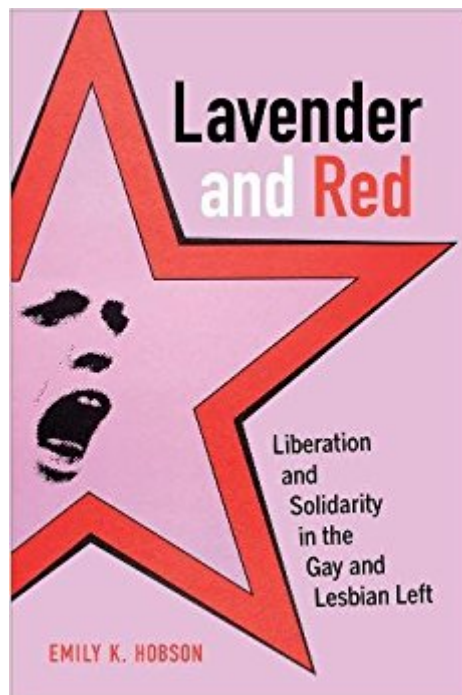




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# Lavender And Red: Liberation And Solidarity In The Gay And Lesbian Left (American Crossroads)



## Synopsis

LGBT activism is often imagined as a self-contained struggle, inspired by but set apart from other social movements. *Â Lavender and Red* recounts a far different story: a history of queer radicals who understood their sexual liberation as intertwined with solidarity against imperialism, war, and racism. This politics was born in the late 1960s but survived well past Stonewall, propelling a gay and lesbian left that flourished through the end of the Cold War. The gay and lesbian left found its center in the San Francisco Bay Area, a place where sexual self-determination and revolutionary internationalism converged. Across the 1970s, its activists embraced socialist and women of color feminism and crafted queer opposition to militarism and the New Right. In the Reagan years, they challenged U.S. intervention in Central America, collaborated with their peers in Nicaragua, and mentored the first direct action against AIDS. Bringing together archival research, oral histories, and vibrant images, Emily K. Hobson *Â* rediscovers the radical queer past for a generation of activists today.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Hobson succeeds in painting a rich portrait of a vibrant gay and lesbian left that flourished in the Bay Area in the 1970s and 1980s and saw itself as connected to the international left... the book has certainly made me rethink the way I write and teach LGBT history and has added some very necessary complications to that standard narrative." (Daily Kos 2017-03-26)"Hobson analyzes these tensions and recovers varying forms of political critique, strategy, and community. Through drawing

on oral histories and archival documents, including striking photographs, flyers, and political artwork, Lavender and Red lifts up a strain of gay and lesbian activism that had been all but lost to memory for most activists and scholars of today." (New Books Network 2017-03-16)

"Emily Hobson's illuminating book, *Lavender and Red*, transforms our understanding of queer history. Focusing on gay and lesbian internationalism and left solidarity politics in late Cold War San Francisco, she provides a deeply researched, surprising and compelling account of the ways a politics of affiliation can expand forms of organization, practices, vision and impact. The stories she tells offer us new historical narratives as resources for imagining new possible futures." — Lisa Duggan, author of *The Twilight of Equality?: Neoliberalism, Cultural Politics, and the Attack on Democracy* "*Lavender and Red* deftly tells the story of the other — word: Liberation. LGBTQ activists erupted in the 1960s committed to ending U.S. imperialism, militarism, racism, and all forms of oppression and exploitation. They fought not to win acceptance by the mainstream heteropatriarchal society, but to overturn it. By recovering the forgotten story of Gay Liberation, Emily Hobson revises the history of the U.S. Left and reveals a political and intellectual history of how queer radicals understood and re-fashioned anti-imperialist, nationalist, feminist, and Third World thought to imagine new meanings for sexuality, community, and emancipatory politics. After reading this astonishing book, the standard Stonewall to marriage equality narrative suddenly rings hollow." — Robin D. G. Kelley, author of *Thelonious Monk: The Life and Times of an American Original* "*Lavender and Red* shines illuminating light on two of the most important queer colors, reminding us that somewhere over the rainbow lie visionary dreams of radical sexual politics and transformational social justice. An inspiring account of the 1970s and 1980s, when a strong gay and lesbian left fought against racism, sexism, colonialism, and war." — Marc Stein, author of *Rethinking the Gay and Lesbian Movement* — "In this superb book, Hobson writes the political and intellectual history of the gay liberation and lesbian feminist movements that linked sexual liberation to radical solidarity — the mobilizations against imperialism, capitalism, and racism, demanding universal health care and — money for AIDS, not for war. — For too long, gay and lesbian activism in the 70s and 80s has been remembered as single-issue and racially white-washed. *Lavender and Red* is the antidote we've been waiting for." — Laura Briggs, author of *Reproducing Empire: Race, Sex, Science and U.S. Imperialism in Puerto Rico* — "Over the past decade, we have witnessed the emergence of revisionist work on the Black Power, antiwar, women of color feminist and gay liberation movements. Emily Hobson's *Lavender and Red* is a brilliant addition to this vital body of scholarship. She rewrites the history of political struggles of

the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s and, most impressively, intertwines them.â •â "Sherie M. Randolph, author ofÂ Florynce â œFloâ • Kennedy: The Life of a Black Feminist Radical Â "Lavender and RedÂ is a page turner, not the case for most well-researched academic works; this story of liberation and solidarity in the gay and lesbian left, focused on the San Francisco Bay area in the 1970s and 1980s, is inspiring as well as cautionary, a primer for social justice activists today as well as a solid history in the field of social movement history and theory."â "Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz, author ofÂ An Indigenous Peoples&#39; History of the United States

Lavender and Red is a remarkable book. The specific period and politics it covers hasn't really been written about in this kind of detail before, to the best of my knowledge. So if you're interested in queer history, the radical left, social movements, etc you're going to learn a ton about gay and lesbian left that you didn't know. Obviously people seriously studying social movements of the 70s and 80s are going to be interested, but I also think that this book will be incredibly useful of radical activists today. I was particularly fascinated with the in depth look at queer solidarity with the revolutions in Central America in the 80s. I've read about US solidarity efforts, and I've read about queer movements in the 80s, and yet all of this research was new to me. Genuinely eye-opening, even if you think you know left history. Please, get Emily Hobson's book! My hope is that she continues to write unique, penetrating books about radical social movements!

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