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978-1-108-73595-7 — Student Revolt in 1968: France, Italy and West Germany
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STUDENT REVOLT IN 1968

Student Revolt in 1968 examines the origins, course and dissolution of student protest at three universities in the 1960s – the Free University of Berlin in West Germany, the campus of Nanterre in France, and the Faculty of Sociology at Trento in Italy. It traces how student revolts over space, speech, sociology and cultural democratisation catalysed a dynamic protest movement within universities in the mid-1960s that expanded dramatically beyond the university in 1968. Differing visions of democratisation – mass access to education, the dissolution of high culture, the democratic control of the university – clashed and competed in a radical re-evaluation of the meaning of university education and democratic culture. The study also evaluates the most ambitious experiments in higher education in the 1960s – the ‘Critical Universities’ of West Berlin and Trento, which sought to establish democratic control of higher education before dissolving in the politics of social revolution – and offers a new and clear-sighted perspective on the 1960s.

BEN MERCER is Lecturer in the School of History at the Australian National University. He is the author of numerous journal articles, including in *French Politics, Culture & Society*, *Journal of the History of Ideas* and *Journal of Modern History*, and a contributor to *The Oxford Handbook of European History 1914–1945* (2016).

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France, Italy and West Germany

BEN MERCER

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Contents

<i>Acknowledgements</i>	<i>page</i> vii
<i>List of Abbreviations</i>	ix
Introduction: History, Myth and Memory of 1968	i
PART I EDUCATION AND CULTURE	23
1 The ‘Devouring Monster’: The University in the 1960s	25
2 ‘New Managerial Class’ or ‘Social Doctor’? The Ambiguities of Sociology	47
3 ‘Books for All’: The Democratisation of High Culture	67
4 ‘Knowledge Is Over’: The Intellectual Politics of 1968	88
PART II THE POLITICS OF REVOLT	105
5 ‘The Space of Autonomy Must Be Created’: The Politics of Democracy	107
6 ‘We Represent Nothing’: The Crisis of Representation	130
7 ‘We Began to Talk’: The Seizure of Speech	155
PART III CRISIS OF THE UNIVERSITY	175
8 ‘Question, Doubt and Criticise’: Free Speech at the Free University	177
9 ‘Student Power’: Vietnam at Trento	206

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[More Information](#)

vi	<i>Contents</i>	
10	‘An Asylum for Delinquents’: The Space of Revolt at Nanterre	230
11	‘A Golden Ghetto’: The Critical University	254
	Conclusion	285
	<i>Select Bibliography</i>	290
	<i>Index</i>	296

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Any work of history that attempts a comparative analysis of this range runs the risk of intriguing everyone but pleasing no one, inviting the interest of three historiographical fields but disappointing specialists of each. It can only be hoped that the benefits of comparison outweigh the inevitable deficiencies of the presentation.

Abbreviations

AStA	Allgemeiner Studentenausschuß
CGT	Confédération générale du travail
CLER	Comité de liaison des étudiants révolutionnaires
FDP	Freie Demokratische Partei
FNEF	Fédération nationale des étudiants de France
Intesa	Intesa Universitaria Cattolica
JCR	Jeunesse communiste révolutionnaire
JEC	Jeunesse Étudiante Chrétienne
JUC	Jeunesse Universitaire Chrétienne
MSI	Movimento Sociale Italiano
NPD	Nationaldemokratische Partei Deutschlands
PCF	Parti communiste française
PCI	Partito Comunista Italiano
PSI	Partito Socialista Italiano
PSIUP	Partito Socialista Italiano di Unità Proletaria
PSU	Parti Socialiste Unifié
SDS	Sozialistische Deutsche Studentenbund
SFIO	Section française de l'Internationale ouvrière
SHB	Sozialdemokratische Hochschulbund
SPD	Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands
UEC	Union des étudiants communistes
UGI	Unione goliardica italiana
UJC(ml)	Union des jeunesses communistes marxistes-léninistes
UNEF	Union nationale des étudiants de France
UNURI	Unione nazionale universitaria rappresentativa
VDS	Verein Deutscher Studenten Berlin-Leipzig