

BUILDING POPULAR POWER

Workers' and Neighborhood Movements in the Portuguese Revolution

John L. Hammond

Portugal's 1974 military coup brought down the longest established fascist regime in the history of the world and the only remaining colonial empire, and set loose a tremendous political upsurge by ordinary Portuguese citizens. People who had never discussed politics above a whisper shouted and debated their dreams. As they seized control of factories and neighborhoods, they took control of their lives.

In *Building Popular Power*, John L. Hammond describes those extraordinary days of workplace and community takeovers. He tells the story of how people called for, worked for, and embodied a new model of revolution based on popular power. Although their bid for revolutionary change was turned back and many of their initiatives strangled, their efforts and achievements made popular participation central to the attempt to construct socialism.

"Recounts ... how the revolution affected peasants, working people, the urban poor and neighborhood activists. We watch the exuberant construction of mass organizations, the empowerment of a people after 48 years of dictatorship, the creativity and uniqueness of an entirely unexpected revolution that was signaled by a song. And then we watch the gradual collapse."—Ruth Mackay, *Guardian*

"A first-class account of one of the most neglected revolutions of recent times.... A meticulous analysis of the process of popular mobilization and political radicalization."—D.L. Raby, *Science and Society*

"Of particular value in this analysis of neighborhood movements, worker control, and land occupations is Hammond's perspective on the relationship between consciousness and collective action."—Rick Fantasia, *Contemporary Sociology*

"By focusing attention on the worker and neighborhood movements mobilizing the mass of the Portuguese citizenry for the first time in Portuguese history, Hammond captures the essence of the radical phase of the revolution.... Much of what is dealt with in Hammond's book concerns social history many would like to forget. Yet this is a story, a body of experience, that is extraordinarily rich and important."—Lawrence S. Graham, *Social Science Quarterly*



João Abel Manta

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