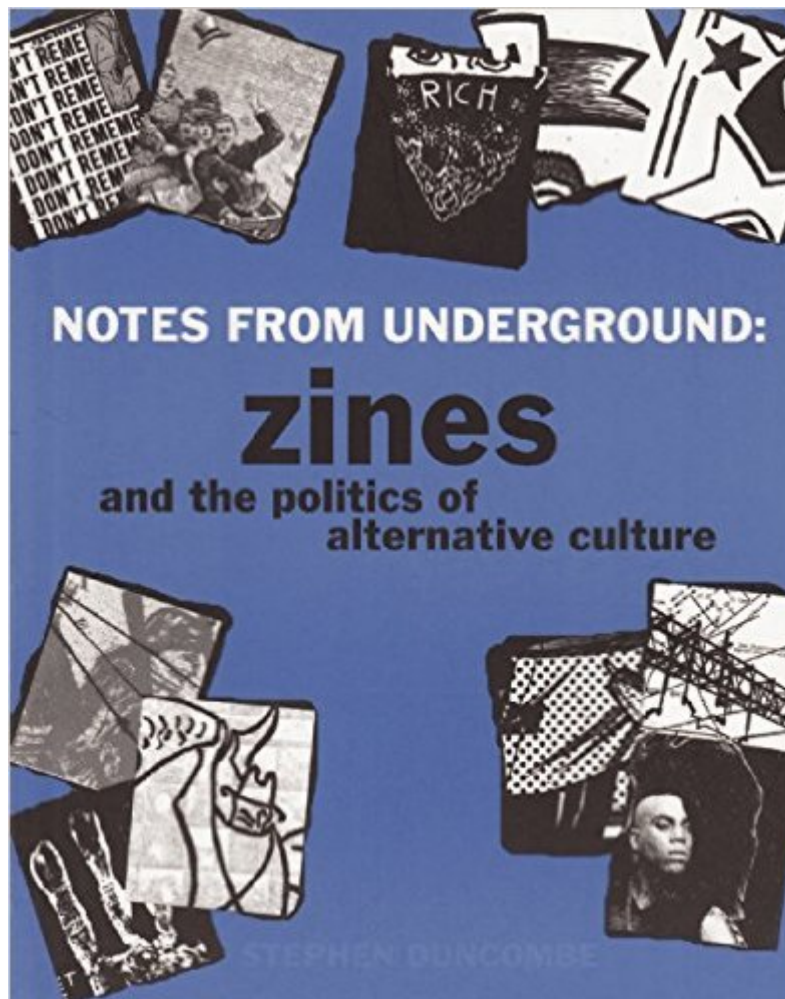


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# Notes From Underground: Zines And The Politics Of Alternative Culture



## Synopsis

Much history and theory is uncovered here in the first comprehensive study of zine publishing. From their origins in early 20th century science fiction cults, their more proximate roots in 1950s counter-culture and their rapid proliferation in the wake of punk rock, Stephen Duncombe pays full due to the political importance of zines as a vital network of popular culture. He also analyzes how zines measure up to their utopian and escapist outlook in achieving fundamental social change. Packed with extracts and illustrations, he provides a useful overview of the contemporary underground in all its splendor and misery.

## Book Information

Series: Zines

Paperback: 256 pages

Publisher: Microcosm Publishing; 2 edition (November 1, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1934620378

ISBN-13: 978-1934620373

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.6 x 7 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (9 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #387,637 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #110 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Genres & Styles > Comics & Graphic Novels](#) #139 in [Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > History & Price Guides](#) #331 in [Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Biographies & History Graphic Novels](#)

## Customer Reviews

Disagreeing with a recent online review, this book is valuable for its sociological scholarly analysis. Essentially every other book currently existing on the topic of zines is nothing more than a very limited and stilted collection of samples from zines every zinester worth their salt has already heard of ad nauseum. While Duncombe is a little heavy on the utopic and overly optimistic naivete in regards to the ability of alternative media subcultures to change the dominant mainstream as we know it, it was very refreshing to read a book about zines that didn't seem to feel the necessity to "dumb it down" for the zine kids, many of whom are exceptionally bright. This is certainly worth checking out if you do a zine and are into thinking, instead of regurgitating the same old, same old, as far too many zines do.

This is a sobering, inspiring book. Duncombe shows us the boundless potential of zines and zine culture. At the same time he diagnoses the failure of zines to reach out and become relevant to people outside our little "underground". All the effort and enthusiasm that we pour into zines is a small revolution, but if we all joined forces and poured that effort into a movement, we could truly change the system rather than just complaining and waging futile rebellion against it. This book should be required for any would-be revolutionaries, punks, zine creators, and thinking human beings.

underground culture born out of opposition to the mainstream media of the consumer culture and the alienation caused by the whole capitalist culture is analysed in Duncombe's book in great detail. The making of it, the meaning of it and the paradoxes and drawbacks it has are all introduced. Pros and cons well defined. Duncombe also draws the limits of the underground scene. I agree with his pessimism about fanzine writers doing nothing more than just being politics by themselves. [what I mean is fanzine writers don't need to take political action as making a fanzine is keeping them busy (mind and time)] What is most successful about this book is he didn't just write about the world of fanzines but explored through the social/economic/political structure of the USA. As a political science student and a fanzine writer I share his views concerning the new world order as an everchanging, imposing and even assimilating fact. (is it new?) Well, I really liked the book even though at times I felt like he is repeating all again well I guess this happens when explaining such complex things (as economic, political things not fanzines) Elif Ozgen

This certainly is one of the best works about Zines. Steve layout a bunch of topics which are rather unknown into zine's scene. The big amount of quotes reflects his commitment and background to perform this book. I still amazed of the number of quotes and interviews, which provides a wide vision of zine culture spreaded in USA. Still I feel a bit disappointed because of Steve just suggests the Zine scene in other countries. I'd like he wrote more about. Though his work is bloody comprehensive and interesting for those into Zines world.

I was happy to read that DIY communication is surviving amidst the clutches of Big Business! Having no idea what a "zine" was - in itself either tells you that I am completely removed from Bohemia and/or have been completely swallowed up by the mass of Big Business everything. But I clutched for that lifeline and reveled in the premise of freedom of speech as I read about the DIY zine

creators/communicators. Individuality and originality still lives?

YYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEESSSSSSSSSSSSSSSTake a walk with Duncombe - it's worth it.

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