

<https://riulp.org/>

RED BOOKS DAY CALENDAR


12 red books
illustrated by
12 international
artists.

20 25



INTERNATIONAL UNION
OF LEFT PUBLISHERS

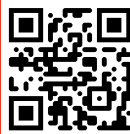
tricontinental



ARTWORK BY **KAEL ABELLO** (VENEZUELA)
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2025

JAN



RED BOOKS DAY



Red Books Day celebrates left books, their authors, and the people’s movements they ushered forward. Although it started in 2020, we have seen the concept of Red Books Day being adopted by more and more people and countries in the last half decade. The decision to celebrate the day on which the *Communist Manifesto* was published was contested among various sections of our movements. It was decided to celebrate 21 February as a result of the efforts of a group of left-wing publishers, but in the following years, communist parties, trade unions, farmers' movements, student and youth organizations, libraries and art and literature groups in various countries of the world came forward to implement this idea.

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2025

FEB



COMMUNIST MANIFESTO

KARL MARX [1818-1883]
FRIEDRICH ENGELS [1820-1895]

1848

GERMANY



The first book on the list is *The Communist Manifesto*, as Red Books Day commemorates its publication annually. Every year, on 21 February, Red Books Day marks the publication of the iconic text by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, which was first published in 1848. This international event honours the Manifesto's profound liberatory impact on people's movements throughout history and its enduring relevance today. It is also a moment to stand in solidarity with comrades facing ongoing attacks and oppression worldwide.

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ARTWORK BY **OTHMAN GHALMI** (MOROCCO)
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2025

MAR



DECOLONISING THE MIND:

The Politics of Language in African Literature

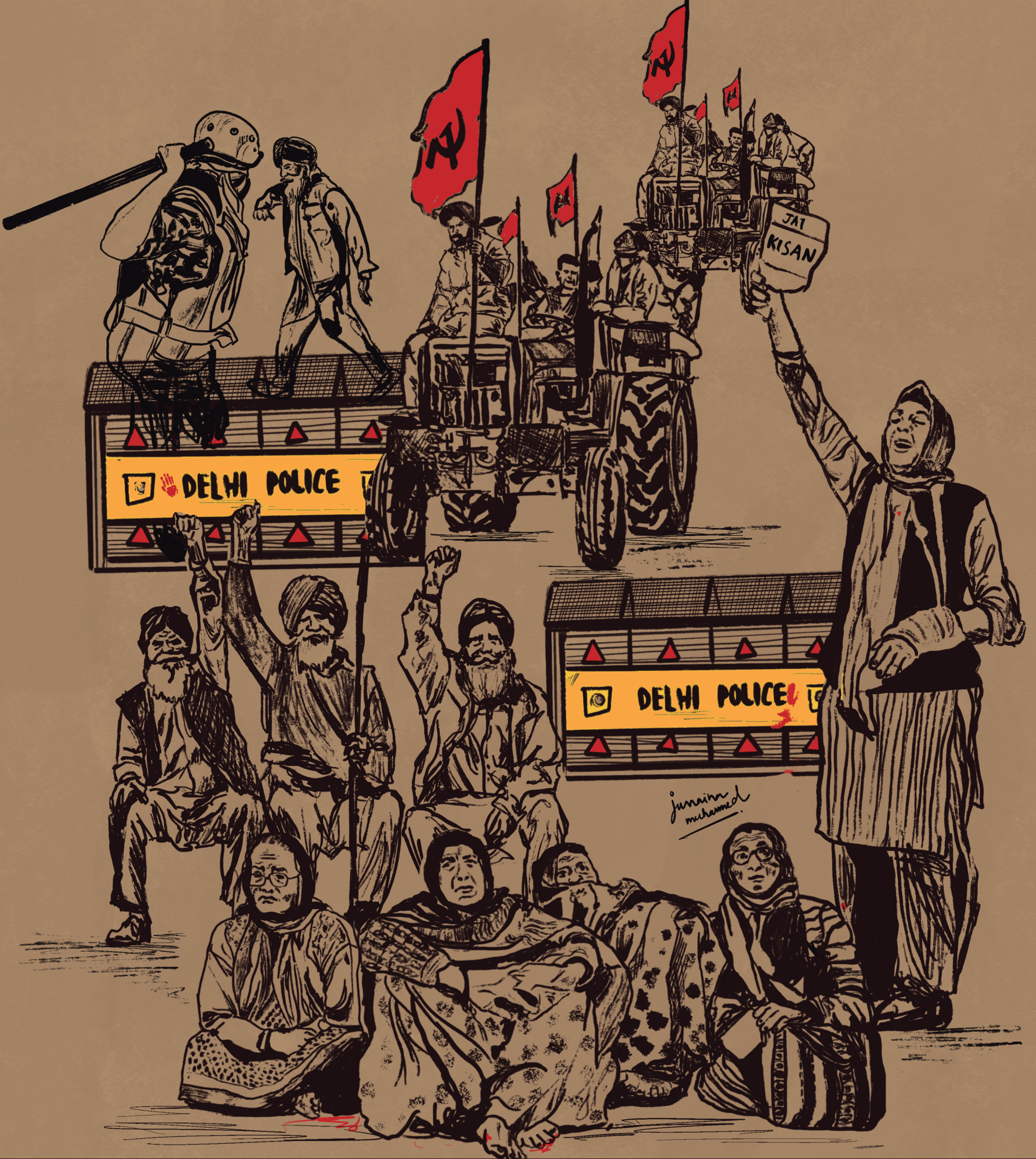
NGUGI WA THIONGO [1938-]

1986 | **KENYA**



Ngũgĩ wa Thiong’o (born 1938) is a Kenyan author and activist known for *A Grain of Wheat* and *Decolonising the Mind*. In *Decolonising the Mind* (1986), which we celebrate as a red book, he argues that African writers should use native languages instead of colonial ones to resist imperialism and reclaim cultural identity. The book blends personal and national politics, post-colonial theory, and literary criticism, showing the power of language in oppression and liberation. For Wa Thiong’o, who embraced Marxism in the 1970s, the writer’s role in a neocolonial nation is inherently political.

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2025

APR



KADANA KANA

NAVEEN KUMAR

INDIA



Kadana Kana translates to 'Battle-front', symbolising both peasant struggle and a grain-threshing yard. The book covers the historic Kisan movement against three black laws, offering firsthand accounts of the farmers' protests at Delhi's borders. It highlights their resilience, unity, and creative initiatives like langars and cultural programs. Authored by activist Naveen Kumar, it conveys the movement's essence to Karnataka, filling gaps in local media coverage.

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2025

MAY



HAYDEE SPEAKS OF THE MONCADA

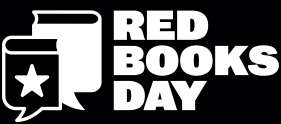
HAYDEE SANTAMARÍA [1922-1980]

1967 | **CUBA**



Haydee Speaks of the Moncada is Haydee Santamaría's most well-known text, originally a talk given at the University of Havana on 13 July 1967. It has been expanded over time with additional documents and writings, offering a deeper insight into one of the central figures of the Cuban Revolution. Santamaría's life—her participation in the July 26 actions, imprisonment and torture, and role in founding Casa de las Américas, and as the leader of the Latin American Solidarity Organization—embodies the history of Cuba's common people. As poet Roberto Fernández Retamar said, 'The highest moments of Haydee's life will no longer belong only to her biography: they will belong to the history of Cuba'. The Moncada event shaped Haydee's life, and as she put it, 'There is only one date: before Moncada and after Moncada'.

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2025

JUN



THE STRUGGLE AGAINST FASCISM

CLARA ZETKIN [1857-1933]

1923 | GERMANY



From Germany, we propose Clara Zetkin's 1923 report, *The Struggle against Fascism*. It analyses the rise of fascism in 1920s Europe, highlighting its appeal to the masses and its contradictions. Zetkin critiques the confusion surrounding fascism among workers and political leaders and calls for a unified struggle against its ideology. She also addresses the growing impoverishment of the proletariat and the repression of progressive organisations, drawing striking parallels to today's rising inequality and the increasing influence of right-wing parties in Europe.

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ARTWORK BY **GABRIELA BARRAZA** (ARGENTINA)
ESCUELA DE FORMACIÓN POLÍTICA JOSÉ CARLOS MARIÁTEGUI
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2025

DEFENSE OF MARXISM

JOSÉ CARLOS MARIÁTEGUI
[1894-1930]

1927 - 1929

PERÚ

This book compiles essays by José Carlos Mariátegui published in *Amauta* between 1927 and 1929. The essays respond to Henri de Man, a Belgian social democrat who had renounced Bolshevism. Mariátegui critiques the positivist perspective within Marxism, challenging determinism, bureaucratism, and the materialism-idealism debate. He emphasises revolutionary humanism as a solution to the crisis of economism. He argues that socialism arises not from passive progress but through the active revolutionary praxis of an awakened proletariat. Mariátegui defends Bolshevism while subtly critiquing certain aspects.



JUL




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2025




HALLA BOL:

The Death and Life of Safdar Hashmi

SUDHANVA DESHPANDE

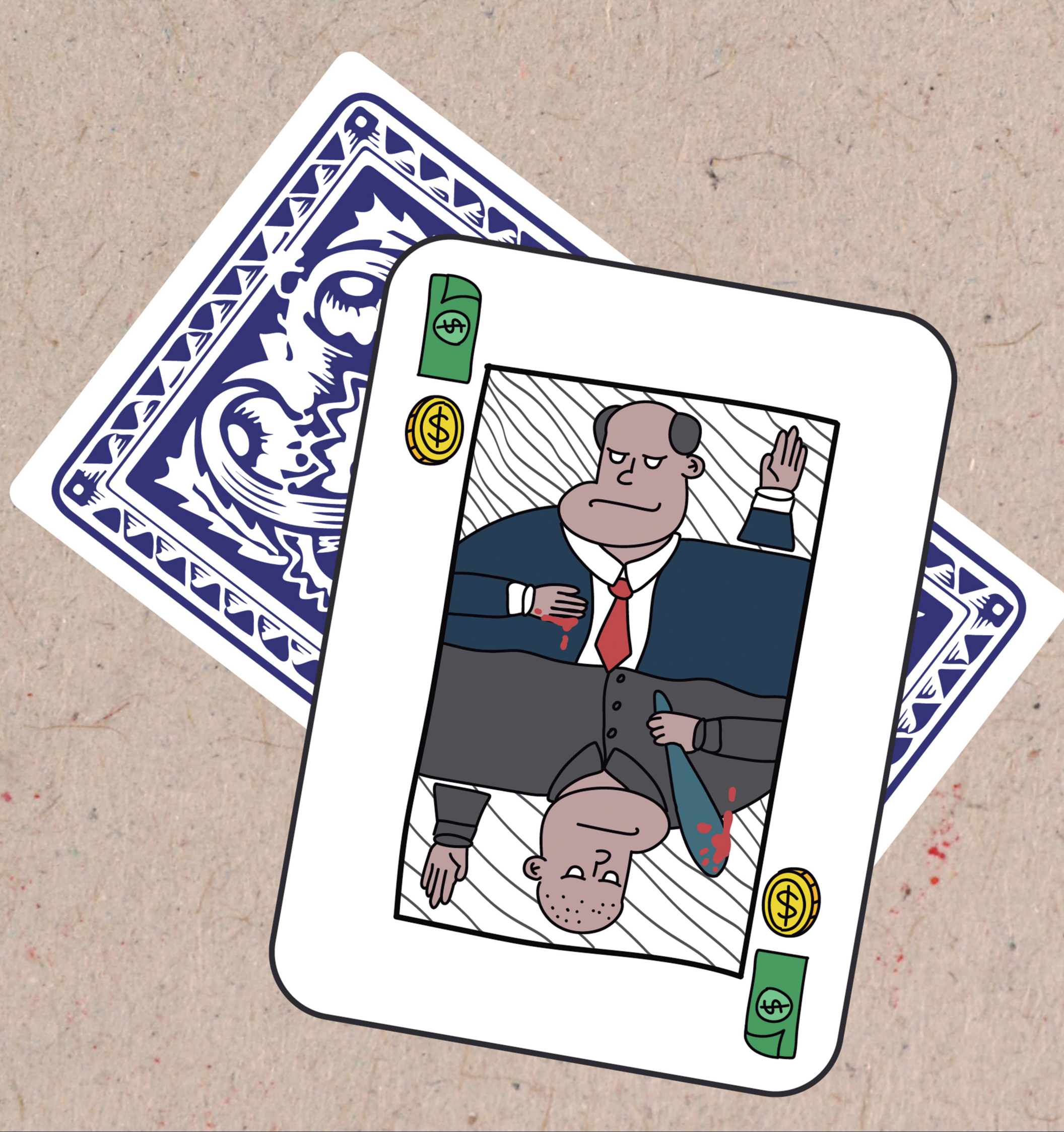
2020

INDIA



Halla Bol is a memoir celebrating the life of Safdar Hashmi, an artist, activist, and member of the theatre group Jana Natya Manch. The book recounts the tragic 1989 attack that led to his death while performing a street play, highlighting his passion, humanism, and the struggles of the time. Authored by Safdar's comrade and friend, Sudhanva Deshpande, the memoir explores resistance, ideology, and the role of cultural expression in leftist movements, providing an insightful portrayal of activism, art, and social change.

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2025

SEP



THEORY FOR POLITICS

RASTKO MOČNIK [1944-]

2003

SLOVENIA



Rastko Močnik, a Slovenian sociologist, philosopher, and activist, has had a career blending political journalism and academia. A professor at the University of Ljubljana, he focuses on critical sociology, symbolic theory, and epistemology. Močnik explored Yugoslavian socialism, its social structures, and unique economic models. A member of the ‘Association for a Yugoslav Democratic Initiative’, he campaigned against Slovenia joining NATO and the Iraq War. His works, including *Writings on Modern Capitalism*, critique the sadness of the capitalist system and its descent into fascism and suggest possible alternatives.

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2025

OCT



ANTI-MANUAL FOR THE USE OF MARXISTS, MARXOLOGISTS AND MARXIANS

LUDOVICO SILVA
[1937-1988]

1975

VENEZUELA



Ludovico's *Anti-Manual* was first thought of as a dictionary of heterodox Marxism. It became a critical text that questions the conservative reading of key concepts of Marxism, mainly focusing on the problem of alienation and ideology. It developed the hypothesis that Latin America must generate its own Marxist interpretations and practices, independent of the classic Soviet and European readings.

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2025

NOV



SANKARA SPEAKS

THOMAS SANKARA
[1949-1987]

1983 - 1987 | **BURKINA FASO**



Under Thomas Sankara's leadership, the revolutionary government of Burkina Faso sunk wells, planted trees, built dams, erected housing; to free themselves from the imperialist yoke and solidarise with others engaged in that fight internationally. In speeches and interviews from 1983 until his assassination in 1987, Sankara speaks for the people of Burkina Faso and Africa, and as an outstanding revolutionary leader of working people and youth the world over.

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2025

DEC



TAKING OVER CITY SPACE:

The Actions of the Urban Poor of Surabaya, 1900-1960s

PURNAWAN BASUNDORO

1967

INDONESIA



Taking Over City Space analyses the struggles of Surabaya's urban poor, from the colonial era to the post-independence period, in their fight for living spaces. The book highlights conflicts over space between locals, newcomers, the poor, and the state. It fills a gap in Indonesian historiography, which often overlooks the urban poor in favour of the rural classes. Author Purnawan Basundoro, an Indonesian historian, is the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities at Airlangga University, Surabaya.

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