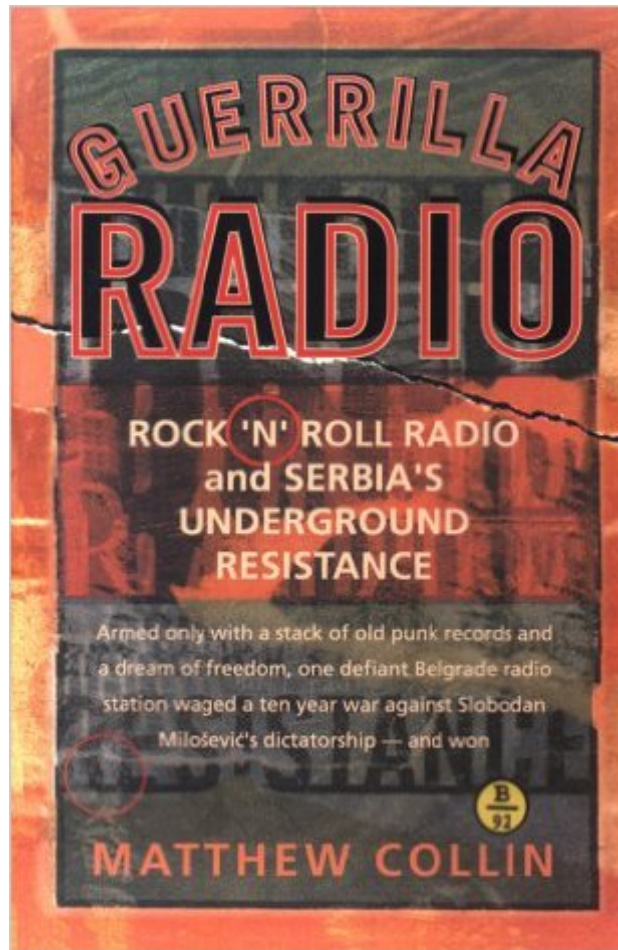


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Guerrilla Radio: Rock 'N' Roll Radio And Serbia's Underground Resistance (Nation Books)



Synopsis

This is a book about a group of Belgrade's young idealists and their pirate radio station B92, who began with the naive desire to simply play music, but ended up facing two wars, economic sanctions, violent police and government crackdowns, the attentions of armed gangsters and neo-Nazi politicians, and ultimately became the leaders of an opposition movement forced into exile. Before Milosevic was finally ousted in October 2000, B92 would be shut down and resume broadcasting four times as, through an inspired combination of courage, imagination, and black humor and a playlist, from The Clash's "White Riot" to Public Enemy's rap manifesto, "Fight the Power," which in sound and spirit, echoed the street fighting in which they sometimes took part, it somehow persisted in disseminating the truth. Matthew Collin knows the founders of the station well and has had extraordinary access to the key personalities and their archives. He first reported on the station as part of a feature on Belgrade's mass street protest in 1996. The book is based on in-depth, first person interviews and exhaustive background research. "Matthew Collin captures the conviction of a generation whose culture and identity were under siege...." —Independent on Sunday

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars — See all reviews (5 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

Guerrilla Radio by Matthew Collin (London Editor of "The Big Issue") is the incredible but true story of the Serbian pirate radio station B92. This was an unlicensed radio broadcast station which began in the late 1980's for the simple purpose of playing music, but it quickly evolved into become an

outspoken voice against the genocidal Serbian dictator Slobodan Milosevic. A powerful story of people's refusal to be silenced, culminating with the eventual end of Milosevic's regime in October 2000, Guerilla Radio is a strongly recommended and revealing example of the determination of human will and spirit against all efforts to shut it down, disrupt its broadcasts, and otherwise silence an underground resistance to an horrific tyranny.

If I could give half stars, this would get 3.5/5. I expected this book to be a chronicling of the B92 station in Serbia. However, it is more accurately an account of Serbia's political landscape in the 1990s, loosely threaded with a narrative of B92 and Serbian independent media. There is much less radio content than expected, and much more historical-political context. That said, the book is a pretty good read. It's a nice account of a turbulent decade in Serbian history, presented in a highly readable text. I believe Collin is a writer for Rolling Stone, which makes for a very digestible book. I was disappointed at how little radio content was included, but the history is quite interesting.

Even though this book is now out of print, I still feel the need to write this review in addition to the other excellent one posted here. Guerrilla Radio is the inspiring story of B92 radio station and their decade long quest to end the regime in Serbia while at the same time offering the public hope. As a student of international relations, it also offers a fascinating look at what really happens to the resistance fighters without weapons when temporary "interventions" by foreign powers end up making situations much worse than they already were. If you can get your hands on a copy of this book, BUY IT IMMEDIATELY.

A good view into a complicated time and place. The prose sometimes slowed me down because it was close to unedited conversation, but the subject of the book is really great to know. I've seen this book quoted in travel guides about Serbia.

I read this book. I was also one of the only Westerners in downtown Belgrade when Milosevic was arrested. For anyone wanting a more balanced view than what CNN\FoxNews has to offer, this is a good place to start. Although slightly biased towards a Western viewpoint, I found this book highly fascinating and very close to what my friends on the ground said about the time period. "Trusted Mole" by Stankovic is another extremely balanced book written by someone who grew up in the West, however it deals with the political situation in Bosnia during the war. Unlike the other reviewers here, I happen to be a liberal Serbian-American with many friends who participated in Optor

demonstrations against the Milosevic regime (and yes, AGAINST the NATO bombing too).Milosevic was certainly a nasty fellow, but he was no Stalin or Hitler or even genocidal maniac. He harassed B92 a great deal, but he certainly did not murder everyone who stood in his way. Only one reporter was murdered by the Milosevic regime according to this book and he did not work for B92.I will only give it 4 Stars since it contains slight bias. Conservative Serbians will probably take offense at some of the themes and opinions in the book.Other than that, moderate\liberal Serbians and most Westerners should enjoy this book, and I think many Westerners will be pleasantly surprised at the level of Freedom of Speech during the Milosevic era. It's a refreshing break from the many "All Serbs are Evil" books and media currently on the market.The B92 folks are great and they maintain an English language news site which remains my number one source of information on what's happening in the region.I can not recommend them enough and to this day they struggle with constant threats of violence from extremist sections of the Serbian population.

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