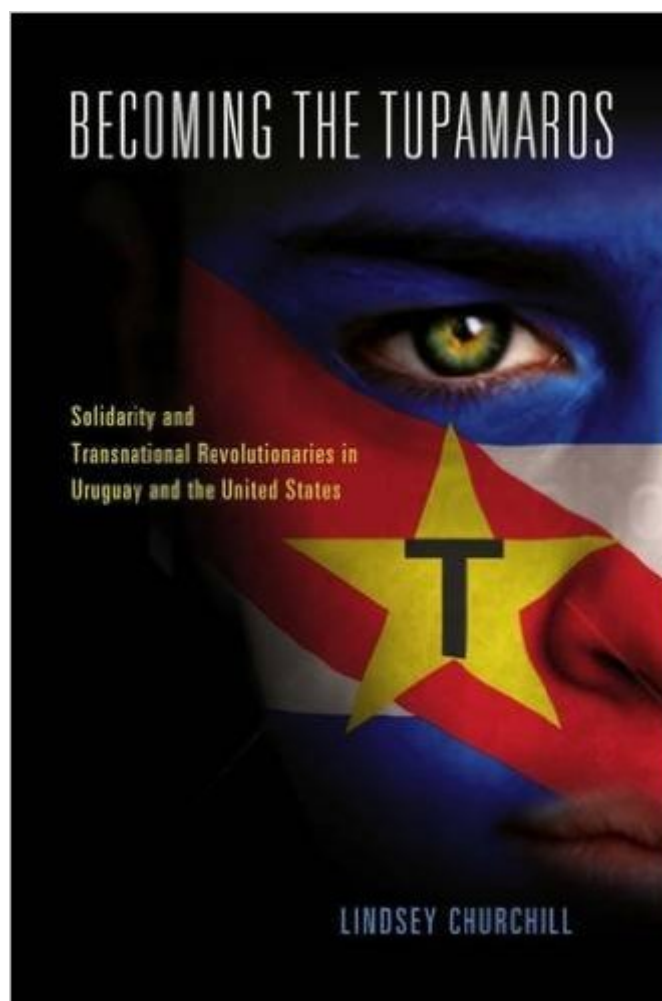


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# Becoming The Tupamaros: Solidarity And Transnational Revolutionaries In Uruguay And The United States



## Synopsis

In *Becoming the Tupamaros*, Lindsey Churchill explores an alternative narrative of US-Latin American relations by challenging long-held assumptions about the nature of revolutionary movements like the Uruguayan Tupamaros group. A violent and innovative organization, the Tupamaros demonstrated that Latin American guerrilla groups during the Cold War did more than take sides in a battle of Soviet and US ideologies. Rather, they digested information and techniques without discrimination, creating a homegrown and unique form of revolution. Churchill examines the relationship between state repression and revolutionary resistance, the transnational connections between the Uruguayan Tupamaro revolutionaries and leftist groups in the US, and issues of gender and sexuality within these movements. Angela Davis and Eldridge Cleaver, for example, became symbols of resistance in both the United States and Uruguay. and while much of the Uruguayan left and many other revolutionary groups in Latin America focused on motherhood as inspiring women's politics, the Tupamaros disdained traditional constructions of femininity for female combatants. Ultimately, *Becoming the Tupamaros* revises our understanding of what makes a Movement truly revolutionary.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In "*Becoming the Tupamaros: Solidarity and Transnational Revolutionaries in Uruguay and the United States*", Lindsey Churchill takes a look at the transformation of the Uruguayan left during the cold war through the MLN-T. Founded by attorney Raul Sendic in the early 1960s, it was a response to the perceived futility of the legal and political process to ensure due process and economic equity

in Uruguay. Churchill addressed the uniqueness of the Tupamaros within the cold war transformation of Latin American political constellations not merely for the almost theatrical nature of their attacks, but also for the transnational alliances they formed whilst retaining a strong nationalist ethos, their willingness to adopt more violent tactics, and the lack of a strong central ideology driving the movement. Churchill set sweeping objectives for this book, and did a good job tackling each of these - from the radicalization of the Uruguayan left, transnational conceptualizations of the Tupamoros and various civil rights and socialist groups across the Americas, and gender and sexual scripts within the movement. In so doing, *Becoming the Tupamaros* is a well narrated and analyzed slice of cold war Latin American history. Her treatment of race, while not emphasized as a main thrust of the work was an interesting subsection of the book. For instance, Churchill drew the transnational links the Tupamoros forged with the Black Panther while effectively sidelining black Uruguayans and their experience with racism by not putting it up as a main thrust of the Tupamaros agenda. I am particularly interested into ways race and the Tupamaros can be further explored, specifically, regarding Africa, outside of Apartheid South Africa, and whether the sources even exist for such research. I will recommend this book for anyone interested in cold war terror in Latin America, the left in American politics and transnationalism in the Americas.

*Becoming the Tupamaros* is a quick, insightful read that would be accessible for undergraduates, yet still eye-opening and thought-provoking for specialists and other academics. The blend of solid archival research with subtle attention to key historiography makes it ideal for graduate seminars in Latin American history and/or gender studies. My "take-aways," what I will remember, from Lindsey Churchill's book:- the cinematic opening pages (pulled me into the complicated and often contradictory world of the Tupamaros)- an encouragement to rethink my views of 1960s-70s revolutionary movements- the transnational relationships between the Tupamaros and other revolutionary groups (in a world that was pre-Facebook, pre-Twitter, pre-Instagram, these groups found ways to share news, tactics, and philosophies -- found ways to "Like" before it was a clickable thumbs up)- the complicated nature of race in Uruguay (Tupamaros' reverence for African-American radical activists and groups such as the Black Panthers, but lack of acknowledgement of minority groups in Uruguay -- still thinking about this, though it has been weeks since I read the book)- the tricky gendered aspects of revolutionary movements and moments. It is in this last regard that Churchill presents her best work. Though *Becoming the Tupamaros* is a solid contribution to Latin American history, its more significant contribution comes in the final third of the book -- with nuanced arguments about the role gender played as male and female Uruguayan revolutionaries

became the Tupamaros.

The other reviews have pretty much summed up the essence of how great of a read this book is, so I'll keep it short. The connections made between the Tupamaros, the Civil Rights movement in America, and Feminism are done in such a skillful way. From the first page to the last, you will be challenged to think critically and observe how different groups of people around the world can influence each other in unsuspecting ways.

Really interesting book, I am not finished but can't wait to continue reading it.

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