

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF LEFT PUBLISHERS



The International Union of Left Publishers (IULP) was born in 2019 to confront two main challenges: first, the rise of the far right and the proliferation of attacks against left writers, publishers, and bookstores; second, the suffocation of the publishing industry by the grip of the capitalist market.

The IULP entered the battle of ideas to defend left writers and publishers as well as to build new circuits for the circulation of left books and left ideas. Our network has grown confidently and is in the process not only of advancing a left agenda but of being part of the global attempt to rescue the collective life.

History

Over the past decades, we noticed two related dynamics that have challenged left publishing:

1. **The rise of the far right**

Neo-fascists and their allied forces have made physical threats against left authors, publishers, bookstores, and magazines. Attacks on these institutions have been punctual and terrifying. Assassinations of authors have come alongside the fire-bombing of our cultural institutions. The roots of this neo-fascist strength go back to the Cold War, during which Washington, DC provided the capitals of the Third World with the authorisation to murder communists, mainly, but also leftists of all stripes, such as in Brazil (1964) and Indonesia (1965). Remembering that terrible history remains vital.

The far right has driven an anti-Marxist agenda that promotes unreason, obscurantism, and hatreds of various kinds, including misogyny, racism, and an intolerance towards social diversity. The anti-Marxist ethos deepened by the far right is shared by a cross-section of liberalism, which rarely comes out in defense of the left when it is attacked by the far right.

2. **The suffocation of the publishing industry**

Under pressure from declining revenues, capitalist publishing houses have attempted to squeeze as much profit as possible from every imaginable avenue, including the sale of foreign rights. This has made the question of rights confounding for independent presses, and especially for left presses

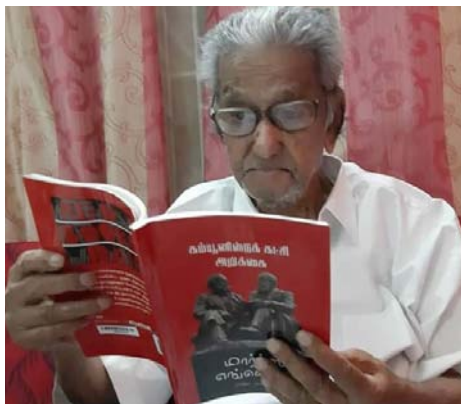
The emergence of platform booksellers – notably Amazon – has provided a short-term opportunity for small and independent publishers, increasing their potential reach, eliminating intermediaries, and shortening payment cycles. In the long run, however, these platforms harm the larger ecosystem with their near monopoly behaviour, driving out individual publishers who find their profit markets squeezed. It is dangerous to allow corporate monopolies to be the main conduit for sales, as they can cut the spigot at any time.

Capitalist consolidation has taken place in the world of publishing, but in the world of left publishing, we are atomised and isolated. This has meant that we do not have a clearing house to know about books that one another is publishing and books that we could publish in common. It has been hard to know how to contact authors in different countries to get rights. This level of isolation from each other has had a negative impact on our work. It is even more confounding for publishers in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, who are often sidelined by left presses in the North Atlantic.

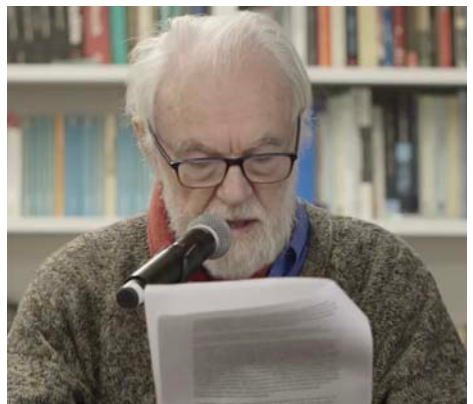
To counter the first set of problems, the informal Indian Union of Left Publishers, made up of publishing houses affiliated with the Communist Party of India (Marxist), put out a call for Red Books Day on 21 February 2020. The call was endorsed by the International Peoples' Assembly and by a range of political and social forces, as well as left publishers. The response from publishers and bookstores around the world was heartening. The day itself was a success. It proved that the concrete possibility exists to create an International Union of Left Publishers (IULP). As of 2023, more than 40 publishers around the world have joined the IULP, and we are still growing.



Red Books Day, 2020



N. Sankaraiah, Chennai, 2020



David Harvey, New York City, 2020

The International Union of Left Publishers (IULP) has the following fundamental objectives:

- **Create a vital network of Left Publishers.**
- **Use the IULP to defend publishers, editors, writers, and booksellers from right-wing attacks.**
- **Actively participate in the battle of ideas to establish the importance of leftist ideas.**
- **To rescue collective life through joint projects that embrace the whole world and take our books to the**
- **Produce collective books on relevant and current topics for the battle of ideas**
- **To create regional networks of publishers to enable exchanges of experiences and catalogs, co-publications, and joint actions among publishers. Thus far, we have built the African Union of Left Publishers and the Latin American Union of Left Publishers.**

To achieve these objectives, we need the participation of publishers with a commitment to:

1. **Participate in the publication of joint books. IULP publishers select a short book or a short collection of works from one of our regions. The publishers must work together to translate the book into their languages and then publish it in a coordinated manner (either as an e-book or as a print book).**
2. **Participate in Red Book Day, which is celebrated on February 21, the date of publication of the Communist Manifesto in 1848. On that day, members hold events where Red Books are read in public spaces. Members must take the lead in expanding the reach of Red Book Day. The goal is to have ten million people participating in Red Book Day by 2025.**
3. **Sharing books, whenever possible, through the copyleft procedure or through co-publications of our Union in order to spread and amplify the publications and ideas of the progressive, rational, and left-wing forces in the world. Publishers offer books that they think are important to the network for translation and publication, if possible, with a royalty-free assignment or with the only possible financial obligation of a royalty paid to the writer or publisher for the sale of the book (but without advance payments).**

Our Joint Books



Lenin 150 (April 2020)

Lenin 150. On 22 April 2020, the 150th anniversary of Lenin's birth, three publishing houses (Batalla de Ideas, Expressão Popular, and LeftWord Books), along with Tricontinental: Institute for Social Research, assembled a set of texts by Lenin as well as Vladimir Mayakovsky's 1924 poem to Lenin and an introductory essay, which were published in English, Portuguese, and Spanish



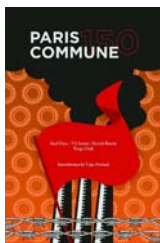
Mariátegui (June 2020)

On 14 June 2020, the birthday of the Peruvian Marxist José Carlos Mariátegui, six publishing houses (now joined by Bharathi Puthakalayam, Chintha Publishers, and Vaam Prakashan) gathered three fabulous essays by Mariátegui into a book with an introduction by the Brazilian Marxist Florestan Fernandes and a preface from Lucia Reartes and Yael Ardiles of the José Carlos Mariátegui School.



Che (October 2020)

On 8 October 2020, the day of the assassination of Ernesto 'Che' Guevara, twenty publishers came together to produce a fresh edition of two of Che's central essays ('Man and Socialism in Cuba' and 'Message to the Tricontinental'), as well as essays by María del Carmen Ariet García (Research Coordinator, Che Guevara Studies Centre) and Aijaz Ahmad (Senior Fellow, Tricontinental: Institute for Social Research).



Paris Commune (May 2021)

On the 150th anniversary of the bloody defeat of the Paris Commune, dozens of publishers across the world commemorate its legacy and continued importance for the working people of the world. Paris Commune 150, published in a range of languages reflective of the diversity of the working class, collects historic texts from Karl Marx and V.I. Lenin with important reflections from scholars Vijay Prashad and Tings Chak. This short book is imbued with designs and cultural materials reflective of the Commune's commitment to use art to usher in a new world from the ruins of past empires.



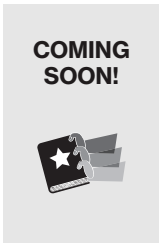
Kollontai 150 (April 2022)

In honor of the 150th anniversary of the soviet militant and intellectual Alexandra Kollontai's birth on 31 March 1872, the International Union of Left Publishers compiled a selection of four of her essays, taking us through her writings on feminism, Marxism, and a life of revolution. It is an effort of 25 publishing houses in more than 20 different languages.



Ruth First (May 2022)

The International Union of Left Publishers releases Ruth First: Selected Writings on International Workers' Day 2023, an effort of 25 publishing houses in more than 17 languages. The collection brings together five stirring essays on a range of topics such as the landmark 1956 Women's March, the workings of the apartheid state and the history of armed struggle against the former, introduced with an essay on First's life and legacy written by the labour activist Vashna Jagarnath.



Allende (September 2023)

In commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the coup d'état that cut short the Popular Unity project and as a tribute to the life and thought of Salvador Allende, the book Allende: El Gobierno Popular compiles the Popular Unity Program, Salvador Allende's major speeches, a letter from the historic Chilean revolutionary leader Gladys Marín in exile, and a prologue by the Mapuche poet Elicura Chihuailaf. It is an initiative of the International Union of Left Publishers (IULP) in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the coup d'état that cut short the Popular Unity project and as a tribute to the life and thought of Salvador Allende. The book is the result of the collective work of people linked to publishing houses in Brazil, Venezuela, Argentina, Mexico, Cuba, Peru and Colombia, among others that make up the international network of the IULP.

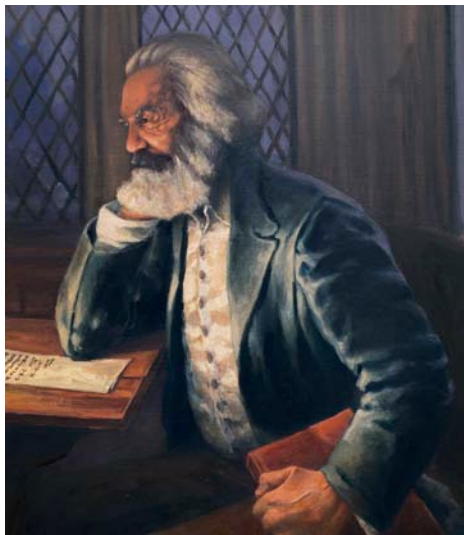
Red Books Day

Red Books Day celebrates left books, their authors, and the people's movements they ushered forward.

Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels published the Communist Manifesto on 21 February 1848. The day, however, is not just a celebration of the publication of the Manifesto, but a time to stand in solidarity with the comrades across the world who have been facing attacks from the right-wing.

On 21 February 2020, more than thirty thousand people from South Korea to Venezuela joined the public reading of the Manifesto in their own languages. Every year since then, hundreds of thousands of people from social movements, left political parties, trade unions, and left publishers have joined in the celebrations.

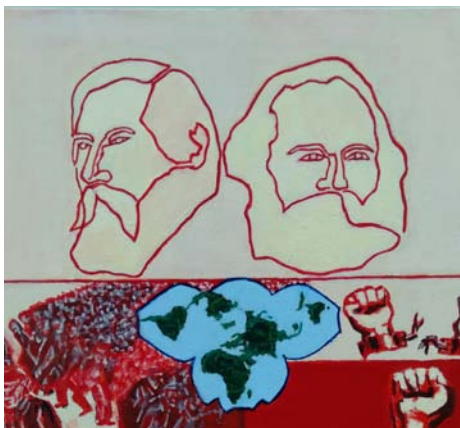
This year, we hope for even greater participation and we are calling on organizations, unions, collectives, publishers, artists and individuals to host activities for the #RedBooksDay2024 celebrations. For ideas on how to plan an event, visit red-booksday.org



Ian Matchett, USA



Un Mundo Feliz



Ram Chandran, India

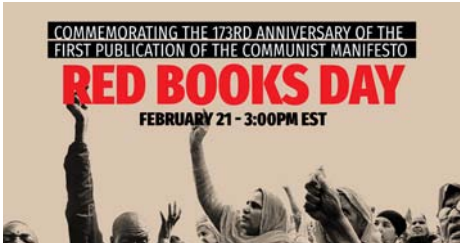
BOOKSDAY



Location



Location



USA



Location



Location



Location

Our Publishers

1804 Books	United States
Batalla de Ideas	Argentina
Bellaterra Ediciones	Spain
Bharathi Puthakalayam	Tamil Nadu, India
Brigada para Leer en Libertad.....	México
Centro Social y Librería Proyección	Chile
Chintha Publishers	Kerala, India
Connolly Books	Ireland
Dogma Editorial	México
Edições Avante.....	Portugal
Editorial Caminos del Centro Martin Luther King	Cuba
Editorial Combatiente	Perú
Editorial El Colectivo	Argentina
Editorial La Estrella Roja.....	Venezuela
Editorial Trinchera.....	Venezuela
EPO	Belgium
Escuela de formación política Praxis	Perú
Expressão Popular	Brazil
FESTI.....	Kenya
Fondo Editorial Fundarte	Venezuela
Gato Viejo Ediciones	Perú
Gonoprokashon	Bangladesh
Idea	Romania
Inkani Books	South Africa
Instituto Simón Bolívar.....	Venezuela
International Publishers.....	United States
International Strategy Centre	South Korea
Janashakti	Maharashtra, India
Janata Prasaran Tatha Prakashan	Nepal
Kriya.....	Karnataka, India
LeftWord Books.....	India
Mangroven Verlag	Germany
Marjin Kiri.....	Indonesia
Militant Publications.....	Ghana
Mkuki na Nyota	Tanzania
National Book Agency	West Bengal, India
Nava Telangana	Telangana, India

Nava Telangana	Telangana, India
Nila Ediciones	Venezuela
Ojas	Gujarat, India
Prajasakhti	Andhra Pradesh, India
Radical Books	Spain
Red Star Press	Italy
Second Thesis	South Korea
Sezione Fornelli Edizioni	Italy
Studia humanitatis	Slovenia
Tigre de Paper	Cataluña
Ukombozi	Kenya
Vadell Hnos Editores	Venezuela
Vam Prakashan	India
Yordam Kitap	Turkey
Založba /*cf.	Slovenia

Contact

If you want to get in touch or you are interested in joining the IULP, send an email to: contact@iulp.org

IULP.ORG