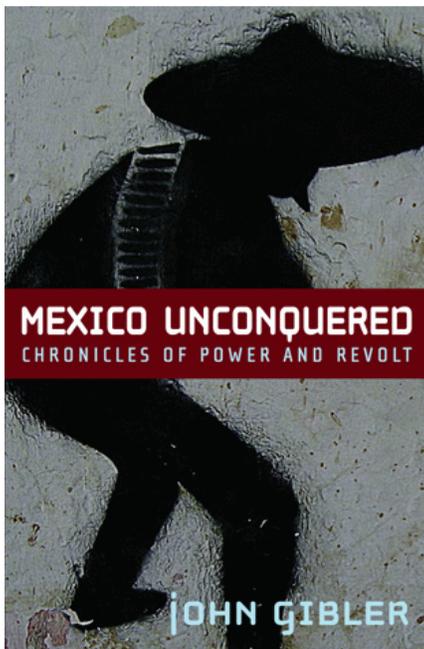


rest of the world in ways that a newscast never could; her blog and her book force readers to consider the Iraq War through a lens of humanity and beg us to answer to our conscience.—Julie LeBlanc



9

Gibler, John. **Mexico unconquered: chronicles of power and revolt.** San Francisco, CA: City Lights, 2009. 355p ISBN 978-0872864936 paper \$16.95

Most English-speaking readers in the United States know little about Mexico other than what they view in a stylized Hollywood movie, read about in a sensational news story about drug-related killings, or perhaps experience during a short vacation visit. They may not realize that their neighbor to the south has a complex social fabric, woven with threads of class struggle that go back to the Spanish colonial period and continue to this day.

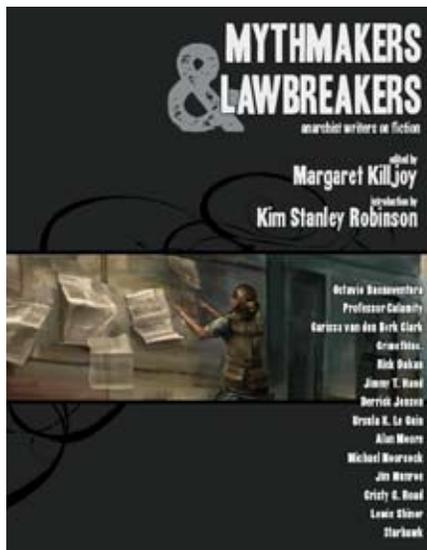
Journalist John Gibler has helped fill this gap in English-language information about the ongoing struggle of the indigenous Mexican people in his book, *Mexico Unconquered: Chronicles of Power and Revolt*. Gibler chronicles how the indigenous population of Mexico has been marginalized and exploited by its own government as well as by the “economic imperialism” of their giant neighbor, the United States. Gibler weaves the history of Mexico’s underclass with a special sympathetic

focus upon activists who rise against nearly overwhelming oppression.

Gibler’s central thesis is that individual Mexicans were never totally conquered, neither by the Spaniards nor by the subsequent national and state governments. They have continued to assert themselves in rebellion in all parts of Mexico. This continuing resistance has taken many forms, including organized movements in states of Chiapas, Guerrero, and, most recently, Oaxaca.

**Gibler weaves the history of Mexico’s underclass with a special sympathetic focus upon activists who rise against nearly overwhelming oppression.**

*Mexico Unconquered* is the product of thoughtful and dedicated journalism. It builds a comprehensive overview of Gibler’s previous journalistic dispatches, incorporating interviews with people defending themselves with stones against armed troops, with teachers bringing food to peaceful protesters, and with migrant workers and political prisoners. Gibler tells the story of street protesters, resistance fighters, and those who have lent simple but necessary assistance to the struggle against oppression. Most importantly, he does this within the context of Mexican history. English-speaking readers can and should take the time to read this important book about the ongoing fight of the Mexican indigenous people, a struggle that is a model of resistance against injustice the world over. Highly recommended for public and academic libraries.—Allan Scherlen



10

**Mythmakers and lawbreakers: anarchist writers on fiction.** Edited by Margaret Killjoy. Oakland, CA: AK Press, 2009. 220p ISBN 978-1849350020 paper \$12

In 2007, Killjoy, an anarchist fiction writer himself, started a two-year project of “tracking down anarchist authors from as wide of a spectrum as possible.” Why the focus on fiction? Killjoy finds that “fiction offers the chance to explore things deeply in ways that other mediums can’t.”

Killjoy started this work with Ursula Le Guin, undoubtedly the most recognizable name in the book, and ended up locating fourteen others, including Derrick Jensen, Jim Munroe, Lewis Shiner, and Starhawk. This attractively designed and unique work is a collection of interviews between Killjoy and the authors.

Killjoy’s subject matter may appear narrow on the surface, but he points out early on that he casts a wide net: “I’ve spoken with pacifists and insurrectionary anarchists, with anti-civilization authors and pro-technology ones.” He admirably involves several female authors in his project. In addition to Le Guin and Starhawk, Carissa van den Berk Clark and Cristy C. Road are also interviewed.

Instead of following a predesigned set of questions, Killjoy allows each interview to develop organically, depending on the interviewee and where the questions lead. A good example of this occurs in the Starhawk interview when Killjoy poses the following:

- What kind of power can myth and story have? How can storytelling help our activism?
- What kind of place do you think that politics have in fiction?
- What are the dangers in a non-hierarchical movement of being a storyteller, or having fame?
- I was wondering if you had any advice for radical fiction writers?

The fabulous appendices also deserve a mention. Killjoy begins Appendix A with a list of short biographies titled “Anarchist Fiction Writers.” Even though not all writers on the list self-