The leader of the student uprising of 1968 and founding member of the notorious Weather Underground tells his story—for the first time.

In 1968, Mark Rudd led the legendary occupation of five buildings at Columbia University, a dramatic act of protest against the university's support for the Vietnam War and its institutional racism. Rudd was the charismatic chairman of the Columbia chapter of SDS, Students for a Democratic Society, the largest radical student organization in the United States. After a violent police bust, the Columbia occupation turned into a student strike that closed down the entire campus, turning Rudd into a national symbol of student revolt. Rudd went on to become the cofounder of the Weatherman faction of SDS, which took control of the student organization and helped organize the notorious Days of Rage in Chicago in 1969.

But Mark Rudd wanted revolution.

Rudd and his friends sought to end war, racism, and injustice—by any means necessary, even violence. After a tragic turn that led to the death of three people, who were killed when the bombs they were making in a Greenwich Village town house exploded, they transformed themselves into the Weather Underground Organization. By the end of 1970, after a string of nonlethal bombings by the organization, Rudd, now one of the FBI's Most Wanted, went into hiding for more than seven years before turning himself in to great media fanfare.

In this gripping narrative, Rudd speaks out about this tumultuous period, the role he played in its crucial events, and its aftermath, revealing the drama and tension, as well as the naiveté of young activists, fighting in the name of peace and social justice, who believed that their actions mattered.
I've spoken and answered questions at scores of colleges, high schools, community centers, and theaters about why my friends and I opted for violent revolution, and how I've changed my thinking and how I haven't, and most of all, about the parallels between then and now, Rudd writes. Powerful and shocking, Underground sheds new light on this controversial time, which still haunts the nation.

Features:
* Click here to view our Condition Guide and Shipping Prices

My Personal Review:
This is an excellent presentation of a portion of what made the Sixties in the United States so tumultuous. Mr. Rudd neither sentimentalizes nor indulges in knee-jerk apologetics for the Weathermen, the violence-fetishizing, cult-like sect that played a major role in destroying the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS). He describes in normal, everyday English, the very abnormal and increasingly psychotic mindset of himself and his comrades in the various incarnations of the Weather underground.

I only met Mr. Rudd once, in a meeting in Seattle, during the time he was traveling around the country, trying to get SDS chapters to follow the lead of the Weather faction. I recall that, after he had heard the hesitations expressed in the group assembled around him, he said maybe everyone was just afraid of getting arrested. The response to that comment was one of disgust—especially on the part of those who had already been arrested multiple times in the course of their political activism.

This is consistent with history as he describes it in this volume. I give the author high marks for not whitewashing anyone. His treatment of human beings is nuanced and not cartoon-like...and that in itself, shows how far he has come from the crude and anti-human posturings of the Weathermen. I'm glad to see that he has found personal happiness in work, family, and continued--but sane--activism. He gives talks about his experiences and the history of the Sixties, thus serving as an important resource for today's generation of activists. That's a good thing--given the growing perils that our society and world face, we will need all the understanding we can get. Truth matters, and this book serves it well.

For More 5 Star Customer Reviews and Lowest Price:
Underground: My Life with SDS and the Weathermen by Mark Rudd - 5 Star Customer Reviews and Lowest Price!