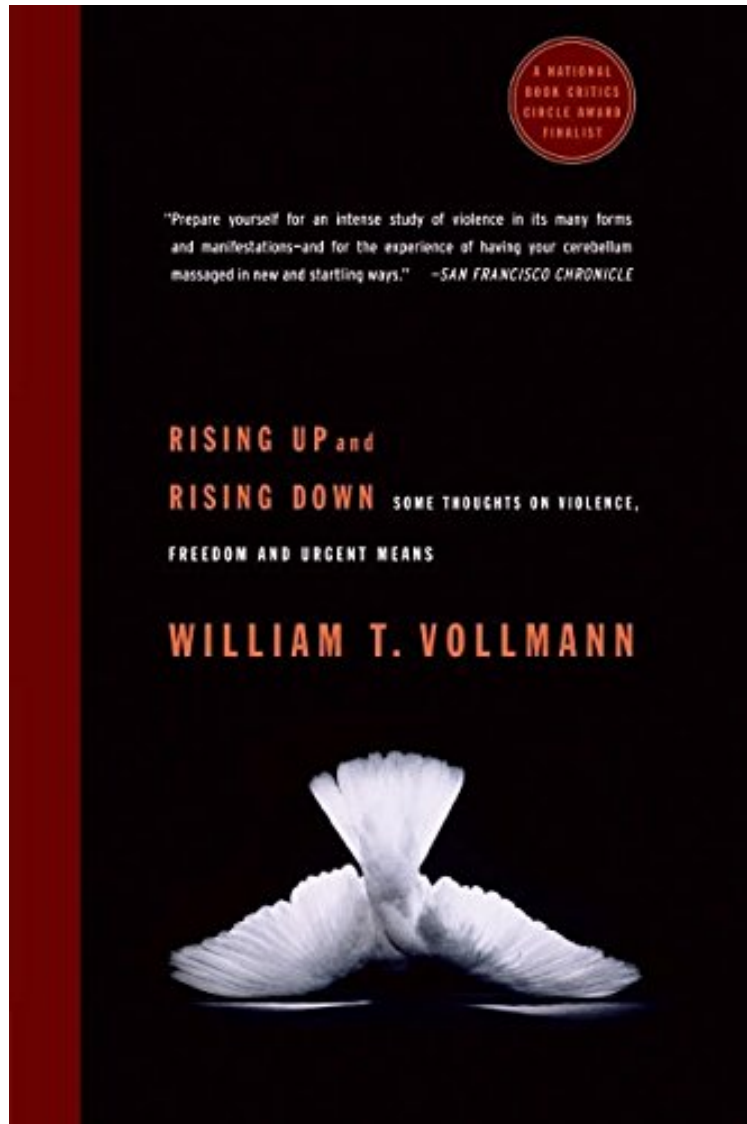


(Free) Rising Up and Rising Down: Some Thoughts on Violence, Freedom and Urgent Means

Rising Up and Rising Down: Some Thoughts on Violence, Freedom and Urgent Means

William T. Vollmann

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#759465 in Books William T Vollmann 2005-10-11 2005-10-11Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.00 x 1.21 x 6.001, 1.66 #File Name: 0060548193752 pagesRising Up and Rising Down Some Thoughts on Violence Freedom and Urgent Means | File size: 37.Mb

William T. Vollmann : Rising Up and Rising Down: Some Thoughts on Violence, Freedom and Urgent Means before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Rising Up and Rising Down: Some Thoughts on Violence, Freedom and Urgent Means:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. One of the best books I have ever read!By Peter C. PattonI started

with the one-volume abridgement and was so impressed I bought copies for several friends and family members and then bought the original seven-volume edition which I am now reading. The author's writing skills are impressive and engaging and his scholarship is formidable. Unlike Kant who started with a theoretical ethical calculus based on reason alone and then reasoned top-down to his deontological ethical imperatives, Vollmann starts with concrete historical actors (and their victims) and reasons bottom-up to a series of highly contextual (but not merely relativistic) moral calculi. He occasionally does a Plutarch-like "parallel lives" presentation of two historical actors. The one on Lenin and Lycurgus is excellent but the one on Trotsky and Lincoln is a jewel. I have been teaching Ethics to graduate students for years and present some of the same situations this author does but without his rich historical context and finesse. Reading this book will greatly enhance my teaching not only of Ethics to graduate students but also Classical Literature, and Western Civilization to undergraduates. I did my doctorate in Germany and must compliment the author not only for his outstanding "anmarken Wissenschaft" but also for his "Sitzfleisch;" that is, his erudition, intellectual focus, and time-investment for gifting his readers with this magisterial seven-volume work. Keep up the good work, William. Prof Peter C. Patton Oklahoma Christian University Edmond, Oklahoma 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Wish The Full Work Were More Readily Available By thirtdtwin Intriguing premise but in this abridged version too many of the 3000 pages of the original multivolume set are removed. The good point is this volume does contain the table of contents for the full set- so you have some idea what you're missing but even at 720 pages this single volume just doesn't compare to the original set; too much is left out to be a useful reference. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. William T. Vollmann's magnum opus By Peter C. Smernoff The most significant book in Vollmann's career, which makes it one of the most important books of all time. Challenging, frightening, profound--a visionary masterpiece.

Twenty-three years in the making, *Rising Up and Rising Down* (the original, published by McSweeney's in October 2003, spans seven volumes) is a rich amalgam of historical analysis, contemporary case studies, anecdotes, essays, theory, charts, graphs, photographs and drawings. Convinced that there is "a finite number of excuses" for violence and that some excuses "are more valid than others," Vollmann spent two decades consulting hundreds of sources, scrutinizing the thinking of philosophers, theologians, tyrants, warlords, military strategists, activists and pacifists. He also visited more than a dozen countries and war zones to witness violence firsthand -- sometimes barely escaping with his life. Vollmann makes deft use of these tools and experiences to create his *Moral Calculus*, a structured decision-making system designed to help the reader decide when violence is justifiable and when it is not.

From Publishers Weekly Starred . This edition of Vollman's treatise on political violence, 20 or so years in the making and completed before 9/11, abridges the 3,000-plus pages of the McSweeney's edition, an NBCC Award nominee last year. As he notes in a beautifully composed introduction, Vollman assumes political violence to be a human constant and thus addresses his attention to finding out when people use violence for political ends, how they justify it and on what scales they undertake it. Following 100 or so pages of expansive definitions, a nearly 300-page section titled "Justifications" culls an enormous number of texts and commentary, from nearly all recorded eras and locales, with all manner of excuses for killing. These Vollman brilliantly distills into "The Moral Calculus," a set of questions such as "When is violent military retribution justified?" followed by concrete answers. The book's final quarter offers "Studies in Consequences," featuring Vollman's gonzo reportage from southeast Asia, Europe, "The Muslim World" and North America (represented here primarily by Jamaica). An appendix cites the longer edition's entire table of contents. This book's rigorous, novelistic, imaginative, sonorous prose treats a fundamental topic on a grand (and horrific) scale; there is nothing else in literature quite like it. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Vollmann's magnum opus, an extended inquiry into our motivations for and justification of violence, originally took the form of a seven-volume set. Compared with Linnaeus for its taxonomy and Gibbons and Churchill for its historical sweep, depth of analysis, and literary excellence, it is a massive and daunting work, however revelatory. So Vollmann, an intrepid journalist, daring novelist, and all-out writer of conscience and imagination, abridged his epic study into a single volume without losing its essence or power. Why, he asks, has violence always been a part of human affairs? What forms of moral calculus have we used to sanctify and excuse it? As he scrutinizes everything from self-defense to suicide, slavery, torture, genocide, and war, Vollmann turns to an array of thinkers for guidance, including Plato, Robespierre, Lenin, Hitler, Gandhi, and Martin Luther King. But he also seeks the wisdom of the living, conducting nervy interviews in the world's hot spots. As rich in feeling as in history and analysis, Vollmann's masterful synthesis illuminates the most tragic realities of the human condition. Donna Seaman Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved " : '...massive, unprecedented...at its best, it's rigorous, novelistic, imaginative, sonorous prose treats a fundamental topic on a grand (and horrific) scale.' - Publishers Weekly, on the McSweeney's edition 'This book should be taught in every classroom. Its debates should run through our veins like blood and its lessons should haunt us like unresolved dreams.' - Zembla"