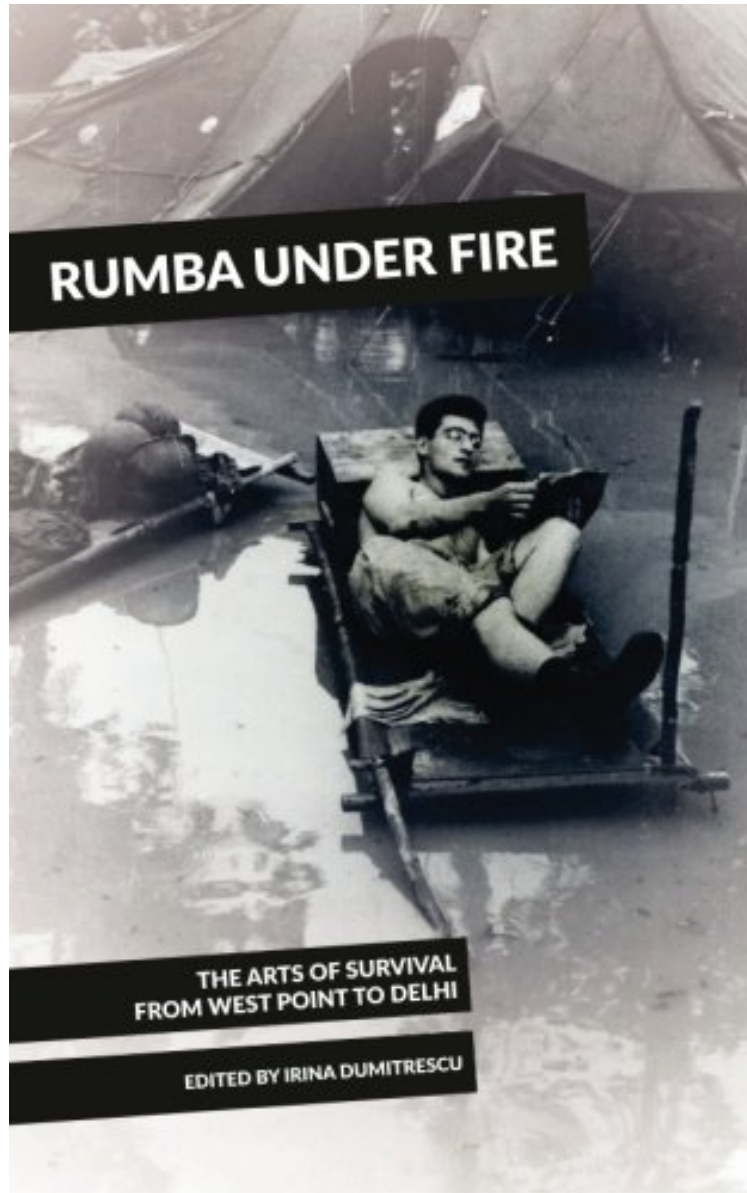


(Mobile ebook) Rumba Under Fire: The Arts of Survival from West Point to Delhi

## Rumba Under Fire: The Arts of Survival from West Point to Delhi

*Irina Dumitrescu*

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**Irina Dumitrescu : Rumba Under Fire: The Arts of Survival from West Point to Delhi** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Rumba Under Fire: The Arts of Survival from West Point to Delhi:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Poetry, Art, and Music as a Matter of Life and DeathBy Ben LaBrecheIn part, this is a book for anyone who loves stories: what is it like to live through a siege? A Soviet Bloc

prison? The deployment of a loved one to Afghanistan? Life in a Congolese militia? The essays in this book offer a variety of answers to these and other questions, and they do so in lucid, often quite creative language. But also, in part, this is a book for anyone who wonders how the humanities--the humanities that are, of course, always under siege today--play a role in human life. Reading this book makes you realize how sociologically narrow conversations about the value of the humanities usually are, especially in higher education. (Do the humanities help (first world, middle class) people become more economically productive? Do the humanities make (first world, middle class) people better citizens? Do the humanities give (first world, middle class) people spiritual guidance, cultural capital, ideological blinders, intellectual liberation...?) The essays gathered here go around the globe to show how the humanities can become more, rather than less, vital as we get further away from the centers of wealth, security, and "official" intellectual and artistic life. Do the humanities matter? This book shows us repeatedly that when people are pushed to the extremes, poetry, art and music are a matter of life and death. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. This collection of essays is just extraordinary. I am ...By Julie This collection of essays is just extraordinary. I am so grateful that Dumitrescu took the time to gather these important pieces of work into a single coherent collection.

A professor of poetry uses a deck of playing cards to measure the time until her lover returns from Afghanistan. Congolese soldiers find their loneliness reflected in the lyrics of rumba songs. Survivors of the siege of Sarajevo discuss which book they would have never burned for fuel. A Romanian political prisoner writes her memoir in her head, a book no one will ever read. These are the arts of survival in times of crisis. *Rumba Under Fire* proposes we think differently about what it means for the arts and liberal arts to be in crisis. In prose and poetry, the contributors to *Rumba Under Fire* explore what it means to do art in hard times. How do people teach, create, study, and rehearse in situations of political crisis? Can art and intellectual work really function as resistance to power? What relationship do scholars, journalists, or even memoirists have to the crises they describe and explain? How do works created in crisis, especially at the extremes of human endurance, fit into our theories of knowledge and creativity? The contributors are literary scholars, anthropologists, and poets, covering a broad geographic range from Turkey to the United States, from Bosnia to the Congo. *Rumba Under Fire* includes essays, poetry and interviews by Tim Albrecht, Carla Baricz, Greg Brownerville, William Coker, Andrew Crabtree, Cara De Silva, Irina Dumitrescu, Denis Ferhatovic, Susannah Hollister, Prashant Keshavmurthy, Sharon Portnoff, Anand Taneja, and Judith Verweijen.

About the Author Irina Dumitrescu teaches medieval literature at the University of Bonn, and writes on literature, food, immigration, and dance. Her scholarly essays have appeared in *PMLA*, *Anglia*, *Exemplaria*, *Forum for Modern Language Studies*, and in various collections. Her belletristic writing has appeared in *The Yale Review*, *The Southwest Review*, the *Washington Post*, *The Manifest Station*, and *Petits Propos Culinaires*. She blogs about dance at *Atisheh* and about culinary disasters at *Food Gone Wrong*.