

**I**n Cold War America, children were to be protected from Communist influence at all costs. Yet even as Americans of many stripes were being persecuted for their political beliefs, radicals and progressives managed to disseminate, through children's books, ideas that McCarthyism labeled subversive. Focusing on the postwar period but spanning the 1920s through the 1960s, *Learning from the Left* shows how books incorporated messages about interracial friendship, cooperation, critical thinking, the dignity of labor, and feminism, and yet escaped public scrutiny, even in repressive times.

Drawing on diverse works of biography, fiction, history, and science, as well as extensive interviews and archival research, Julia L. Mickenberg compellingly analyzes how writers and illustrators passed dissenting ideas on to children. Not only did booksellers and librarians readily promote books by radical authors, but, ironically, Cold War imperatives also bolstered markets for the kinds of books progressive authors were eager to write. *Learning from the Left* provides a history of the children's book in light of the history of the Left, and a new perspective on the links between the Old Left of the 1930s and the New Left of the 1960s.

#### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

**Julia L. Mickenberg** is Assistant Professor of American Studies at the University of Texas at Austin.