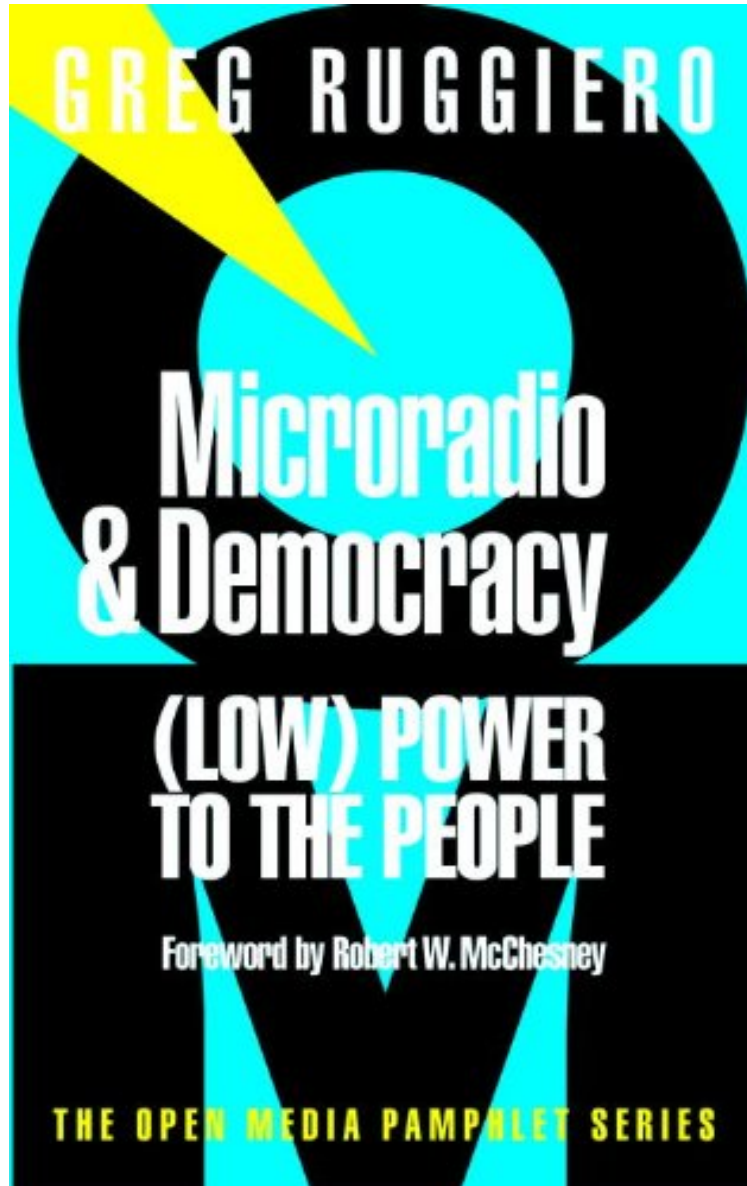


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Microradio Democracy (Open Media Series)

Greg Ruggiero

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Greg Ruggiero : Microradio Democracy (Open Media Series) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Microradio Democracy (Open Media Series):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A bit dated but still good stuff By Professional Strong Man For those interested in the welfare of the first, best and most-potentially democratic form of the electronic mass media (I'm speaking of radio of course) then this is a great book to add to your collection. If you are new to the issues facing

LPFM and radio in general, this is a great place to start. Ruggiero does a great job of presenting the LPFM case, the roadblocks it faces and in a neat twist, tells us what we can do to help change things. Of course, you can only go so deep in 63 pamphlet-sized pages, but the book is definitely a good first step. For anyone who wants to dive in deeper, check out Chomsky, McChesney, Bettig or Jhally, just to name a few. On the down side, the book is a bit dated in its description of the LPFM movement, but that shouldn't be held against it. The biggest problem I have with the book is the number of typos - I mean come on - if you want people to take your message seriously you should do a better job of proofreading. But if you are not so narrow-minded that you can't get past it, then the book is solid. For me, the message is more important than picking at the mistakes. Radio has the unique power - over TV, computers, the internet - to be the world's best democratic force in terms of dissemination of messages, cost and portability. If the day comes where anyone can go to the drugstore, buy a *computer* for under five bucks, get free access to the outside world, and not get a hernia from carrying it around, then radio may have to hang it up. Since that won't happen anytime soon however, radio is still the way to go. It's just a shame that there is a need for the LPFM movement to exist, given the current dearth of truly public programming on the radio. Anyone who wishes to debate this issue, feel free to email me - I need to sharpen my teeth a bit :) Viva la radio! Power to the people!

Microradio and Democracy discusses the role of citizen access to communications in a democratic society, and how diversity, localism, and core political speech are undermined by corporate control of the public airwaves. Ruggiero examines the emergence of microradio activism in recent court cases, and the links between the microradio struggle and larger movements for democracy and social justice. Illustrated with photos and graphics, this book will be of interest to anyone concerned about keeping free speech for communities, not corporations.

Microradio Democracy is a superb analysis of how the media giants and the government have worked together to cripple freedom of speech on the airways by banning small radio stations. It is also an exhilarating account of how the small broadcasters and their supporters are fighting back. -- Howard Zinn
This study provides an illuminating analysis of a crucial component of the ongoing state-corporate assault on meaningful democracy: the effort to control and shape attitudes and beliefs to induce passive acceptance of the dictates of private power. -- Noam Chomsky
About the Author
GREG RUGGIERO is a former senior editor of Seven Stories Press. Ruggiero cofounded the Open Media Series in 1991, and has since published some of the most outspoken scholars, social justice advocates, and dissidents of our time, including Angela Y. Davis, Allen Ginsberg, Alice Walker, Noam Chomsky, Howard Zinn, Ralph Nader, Arundhati Roy and Subcomandante Marcos. He currently works for City Lights, the legendary San Francisco-based publisher.