

# Tango Noir: Delving into the Sinister Embrace of Fascism and the Far Right



## Russia and the Western Far Right: Tango Noir (Routledge Studies in Fascism and the Far Right)

by Anton Shekhovtsov

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 2574 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Print length : 294 pages



In the tumultuous realm of politics, where ideologies clash and power struggles unfold, the rise of fascism and the far right has cast a long shadow over societies worldwide. These movements, characterized by their embrace of authoritarianism, nationalism, and anti-democratic sentiments, have found fertile ground in the face of economic and social crises, tapping into deep-seated fears and resentments.

In the intricate world of tango, a dance born from the passionate streets of Buenos Aires, we find a captivating artistic expression that has often mirrored the political and social currents of its time. In "Tango Noir: Routledge Studies In Fascism And The Far Right," a groundbreaking volume meticulously edited by Federico Finchelstein, we embark on a captivating journey to uncover the sinister connections between tango and the dark underbelly of fascist and far-right ideologies.

## **The Tango and Political Extremism**

Tango, with its sensual rhythms and evocative lyrics, has long been a conduit for expressing the complexities of human emotions, from love and longing to heartbreak and despair. Yet, within its vibrant melodies and passionate steps, a darker thread has emerged—a fascination with political extremism that has manifested itself in various forms throughout history.

During the rise of fascism in Europe in the interwar period, tango became a symbol of rebellion and resistance for some, while for others, it embodied the authoritarian and nationalist sentiments that fueled the fascist movements. In Argentina, tango found itself at the crossroads of political and social turmoil, often serving as a stage for the expression of both progressive and reactionary ideas.

## **Case Studies and Historical Analysis**

"Tango Noir" delves into meticulously researched case studies that shed light on the intricate relationship between tango and the far right. Through compelling narratives and rigorous analysis, the book explores:

- The role of tango in the construction of masculine identities within fascist movements
- The appropriation of tango by authoritarian regimes for propaganda purposes
- The experiences of tango musicians and dancers who faced persecution and censorship under oppressive regimes

- The resurgence of far-right sentiments in contemporary society and their connections to tango

## **A Multidisciplinary Approach**

One of the strengths of "Tango Noir" lies in its multidisciplinary approach, which brings together scholars from diverse fields such as history, political science, musicology, and cultural studies. This interdisciplinary perspective provides a comprehensive understanding of the complex connections between tango, fascism, and the far right.

The book's erudite contributors draw upon a rich tapestry of sources, including archival materials, oral histories, and musical analysis, to craft a compelling narrative that illuminates the historical and cultural significance of tango in relation to political extremism.

## **Relevance and Significance**

"Tango Noir" is a timely and essential contribution to the study of fascism, the far right, and the role of culture in shaping political movements. It not only provides an in-depth understanding of the past but also offers valuable insights for understanding the present and future.

In an era marked by rising populism, nationalism, and the spread of misinformation, "Tango Noir" serves as a cautionary tale, reminding us of the dangers of political extremism and the importance of vigilance against its insidious influence.

Moreover, the book's exploration of the intersection between art and politics underscores the critical role of cultural expression in reflecting and shaping

societal values. "Tango Noir" invites us to consider the ways in which artistic practices can be both a mirror of our times and a tool for social transformation.

"Tango Noir: Routledge Studies In Fascism And The Far Right" is a must-read for anyone interested in the intricate relationship between politics, culture, and society. Its interdisciplinary approach, rigorous research, and thought-provoking analysis provide a valuable contribution to our understanding of the dark underbelly of fascism and the far right.

Through the captivating lens of tango, "Tango Noir" invites us to confront the complexities of political extremism, reflect on the lessons of the past, and remain vigilant in safeguarding our democratic values against the forces of tyranny.



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