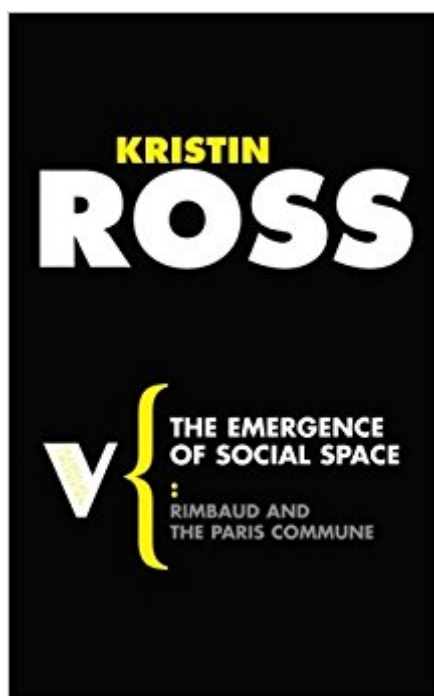


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# The Emergence Of Social Space: Rimbaud And The Paris Commune (Radical Thinkers)



## Synopsis

The 1870s in France â Rimbaudâs moment, and the subject of this book â is a decade virtually ignored in most standard histories in France. Yet it was the moment of two significant spatial events: Franceâs expansion on a global scale, and, in the spring of 1871, the brief existence of the Paris Commune â the construction of the revolutionary urban space. Arguing that space, as a social fact, is always political and strategic, Kristin Ross has written a book that is at once a history and geography of the Communeâs anarchist culture â its political language and social relations, its values, strategies, and stances. Central to her analysis of the Commune as a social space and oppositional culture is a close textual reading of Arthur Rimbaudâs poetry. His poems â a common thread running through the book â are one set of documents among many in Rossâs recreation of the Commune experience. Rimbaud, Paul Lafargue, and the social geographer ÃlisÃ©e Reclus serve as emblematic figures moving within and on the periphery of the Commune; in their resistance to the logic and economy of the capitalist conception of work, in their challenge to work itself as a term of identity, all three posed a threat to the existing order. Ross looks at these and other emancipatory notions as aspects of Commune life, each with an analogous strategy in Rimbaudâs poetry. Applying contemporary theory, to a wealth of little-known archival material, she has written a fresh, persuasive, and original book.

## Book Information

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â œA fascinating cultural history of the Commune.â •â ”Tariq Ali â œA rare example of cultural studies done with zest as well as depth.â •â ”New Statesman & Society

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