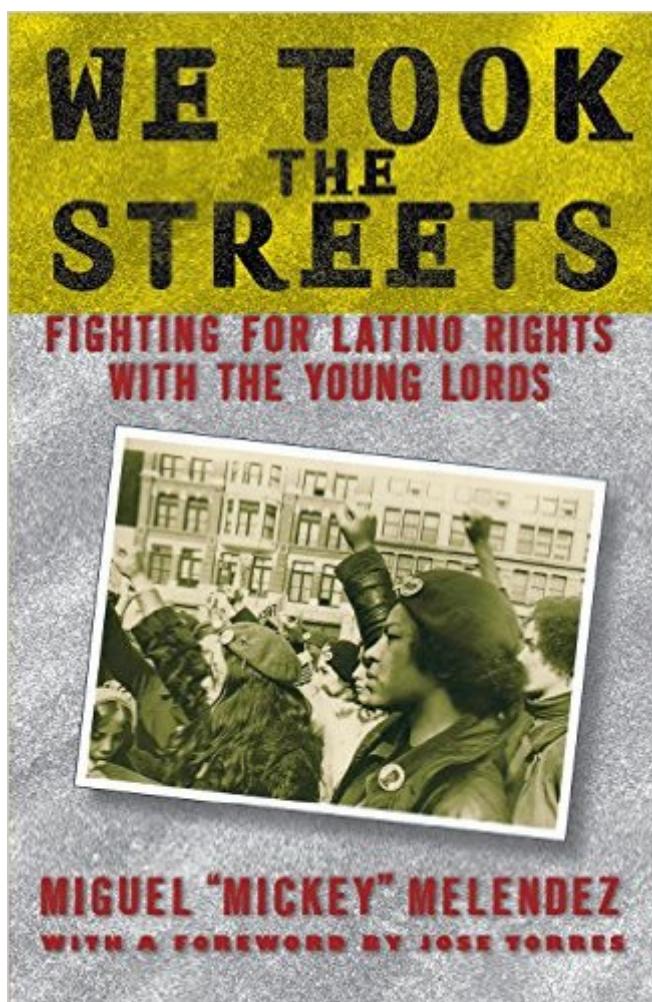


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# We Took The Streets: Fighting For Latino Rights With The Young Lords



## **Synopsis**

In 1968 Miguel â œMickeyâ • Melendez was a college student, developing pride in his Cuban and Puerto Rican cultural identity and becoming increasingly aware of the effects of social inequality on Latino Americans. Joining with other like-minded student activists, Melendez helped form the central committee of the New York branch of the Young Lords, one of the most provocative and misunderstood radical groups to emerge during the 1960s. Incorporating techniques of direct action and community empowerment, the Young Lords became a prominent force in the urban northeast. From their storefront offices in East Harlem, they defiantly took back the streets of El Barrio. In addition to running clothing drives, day-care centers, and food and health programs, they became known for their media-savvy tactics and bold actions, like the takeovers of the First Peopleâ ™s Church and Lincoln Hospital. In this memoir, Melendez describes with the unsparing eye of an insider the idealism, anger, and vitality of the Lords as they rose to become the most respected and powerful voice of Puerto Rican empowerment in the country. He also traces the internal ideological disputes that led the group, but not the mission, to fracture in 1972. Written with passion and compelling detail, *We Took the Streets* tells the story of how one group took on the establishmentâ "and won.â

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

I gre up during the 80's in west harlem, later the BX, went to manhattan center high school on 116 & pleasant ave .... you can't grow up anywhere in new york city and not recognize puerto rican pride,

all you have to do is head up to Orchard Beach after memorial day, but it's a powerful part of the NY experience ..... I picked this up because of the Lincoln hospital story, and garbage offensives, these men and women are patriots of the black and latin community! The New York City minority community! great read, I learned about them in a american history class @ laguardia comm college, and was surprised I'd never heard of them before, I'd passed by lincoln hospital over 100 times, to hear about them being reason for it being built! I'll say it's a different time period now, but the children of NYC need to learn about this group, and movements like these, to learn discipline, and study the pride but learning journey of mister Melendez, then kids wouldn't get lost, because we are losing our city now as the rents are escalating, people are hurting now, and this knowledge is key to a new generation that needs to move forward and stand for something, not just accept circumstances, this book is excellent, powerful, and informative! True "hood", cultural, minority heroes! I'm glad and inspired by it

Miguel Melendez has given us a thoughtful, inspirational, and sensitive account of the Young Lords Party and also of the many pivotal events of his own life. I loved reading this book full of cultural tidbits and an insider's history of a group of dedicated individuals. This book offers important lessons for today's youth, many of whom feel no connection to the larger society. It serves as a tremendous contribution to young people by sharing positive ways to channel rage and frustration with one's social and emotional condition. The writer brilliantly shows what it is to search for meaning and purpose in one's life as he questions events occurring around him. Quiero agradecerle a Mickey para haber escrito un libro tan bello que demuestra que todos tenemos el derecho a la humanidad y dignidad.

Micky Melendez has written an excellent easy to read history of Puerto Rican efforts for social, political and economic empowerment from the Young Lords Party in the 1960's to today's struggle for a Latino mayor of Nueva York. This monograph by Micky Melendez is a powerful weapon in Boricua's long walk to freedom. palante

Mr. Melendez's book is well-written and gives the reader a great feel for what it was like living through 60s and 70s NYC as a latino. I'm old enough to remember hearing the stories on the news, but reading them in detail is a different experience altogether. I hope Mr. Melendez and his former colleagues publish more stories of these times and of the Young Lords. The work they did is still not part of regular curricula in NYC schools; more publications help to establish our history here in NYC.

this political (philosophy of socialism) sound organization made headlines both local/international: "we mean business!" they did not play around, when anything had to be improved (municipalities...) they did not rely on the crooked politicians, police(pigs)... to assist them, they took the initiative. this unbelievable organization demonstrated to the people that they were all about peace and lots of love. the enemy was well aware of their philosophical views and like a cancer, found its way in...millions throughout the globe respected/appreciated and admired the many brave members of this movement that transformed a neighborhood that many thought was impossible. i recommend this volume to anyone that's interested in political science/ a touch of puerto rican history in this nation. you will be amazed at how a couple of puerto ricans got together, perused and applied the principles of mao tsetung/ karl marx/ lenin and one of puerto rico's ever lasting hero, pedro albizu campos. they realized that if they could bring the philosophy of these profound thinkers to the conscious of their colleagues and more importantly, the depressed residence; a real change is inevitable...i must rest, for i do not want to spoil the essays. this volume is complimented well with: the autobiography of malcolm x. by alex haley. both of these books are like a plate of rice and beans. if you are a puerto rican, these books are a mandatory read. (no exceptions!) if you're not, it's not mandatory. (you're lucky) a lucid, simple and enjoyable read. (enjoy both)

This book, although intended to be educational in a sense, is just a lot of opinion. Yes, it is written as a memoir, so opinions are sure to seep through even the purest of intentions, but it is a bit excessive in its reliance upon opinions. In one scene, the Young lords take over a hospital. When describing the media's reaction to this event, he uses sarcastic quotation marks around the word invade. This is entirely unnecessary. He is obviously a member of the party so he would be pro YLP, but presenting the book as academic is a bit of a stretch considering the inherent bias.

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