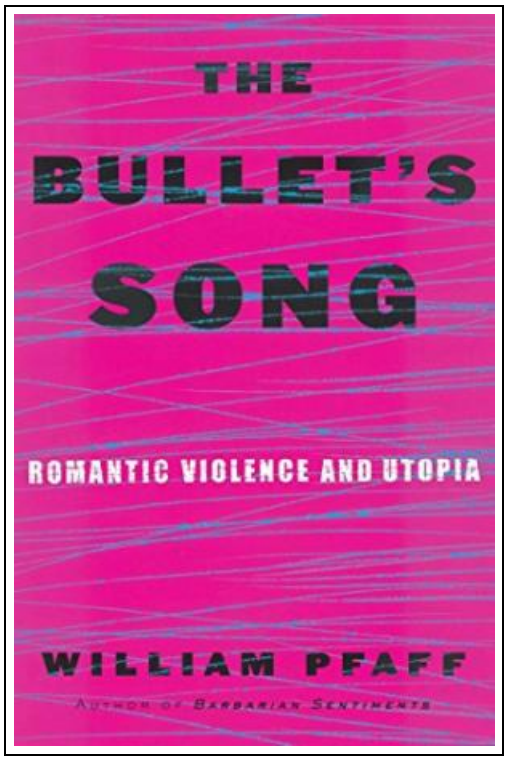
The Bullets Song: Romantic Violence and Utopia



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Simon & Schuster. Hardcover. Condition: New. 384 pages. Dimensions: 9.3in. x 6.1in. x 1.0in.A hidden moral history of the twentieth century unfolds in William Pfaffs fascinating story of writers, artists, intellectual soldiers, and religious revolutionaries implicated in the centurys physical and moral violence. They were motivated by romanticism, nationalism, utopianism -- and the search for transcendence. To our twenty-first century, already plunged -- once again -- into visionary terrorism and utopian quests, they leave a warning. . . . The account begins with Italys Futurists, who glorified war as the worlds only hygiene; painted speed, action, and noise; invented found sound and chromatic pianos; thought violence sublime; and demanded reconstruction of the universe. Gabriele DAnnunzio, poet, playwright, and nationalist buccaneer, created a revolutionary utopia in a Dalmatian city stolen in 1919 from Woodrow Wilson and the Versailles Treaty makers. In doing so, he invented the political style and rituals of Fascism, as well as Third World liberation. T. E. Lawrence, archaeologist and spy, guided the Arab revolt against the Turks, becoming both Uncrowned King of Arabia and masochist secular saint. Ernst Jnger, artist and scientist, the German armys most decorated hero of World War I, made heroism a political ideology and became intellectual leader of the National Cause. Hitler was a follower. In World War II Jnger plotted Hitlers assassination and survived to become a symbol of Franco-German reconciliation. Willi Mnzenberg, Lenins propaganda genius and an original member of the Comintern, invented the political front organization, created the Sacco and Vanzetti case, and seduced a generation of innocents to the Communist cause before becoming a dissident himself. He wasstrangled by Soviet agents in a French forest. Andr Malraux, fantasist Byron of the 1930s, world-famous novelist, emulator of T. E. Lawrence, and make-believe leader of the Chinese revolution, discovered that daydreaming...

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