



# **Scream from the Shadows: The Women's Liberation Movement in Japan**

*Setsu Shigematsu*

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More than forty years ago a women's liberation movement called *?man ribu* was born in Japan amid conditions of radicalism, violence, and imperialist aggression. Setsu Shigematsu's book is the first to present a sustained history of *?man ribu*'s formation, its political philosophy, and its contributions to feminist politics across and beyond Japan. Through an in-depth analysis of *?man ribu*, Shigematsu furthers our understanding of Japan's gender-based modernity and imperialism and expands our perspective on transnational liberation and feminist movements worldwide.

In *Scream from the Shadows*, Shigematsu engages with political philosophy while also contextualizing the movement in relation to the Japanese left and New Left as well as the anti-Vietnam War and radical student movements. She examines the controversial figure Tanaka Mitsu, *?man ribu*'s most influential activist, and the movement's internal dynamics. Shigematsu highlights *?man ribu*'s distinctive approach to the relationship of women—and women's liberation—to violence: specifically, the movement's embrace of violent women who were often at the margins of society and its recognition of women's complicity in violence against other women.

*Scream from the Shadows* provides a powerful case study of a complex and contradictory movement with a radical vision of women's liberation. It offers a unique opportunity to reflect on the blind spots within our contemporary and dominant views of feminism across their liberal, marxist, radical, Euro-American, postcolonial, and racial boundaries.

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