

BOOK REVIEW

Cointelpro

The FBI's Secret War on Political Freedom

EDITED BY CATHY PERKUS, INTRODUCTION BY NOAM CHOMSKY

Here is some powerful documentation directly from FBI files of illegal FBI operations, code-named Cointelpro, against socialists—and more specifically the legitimate Socialist Workers Party—and militant blacks from the 1950s into the 70s. As Chomsky observes in his trenchant introduction, this was a far more serious transgression against political freedoms than Watergate, whose sensational unfolding received virtually all the media attention. Cointelpro, directed personally by J. Edgar Hoover, involved *institutional* criminality—harassment, dirty tricks, official lies, years of cover-up—and was only recently exposed when the SWP received FBI files in their suit under the Freedom of Information Act.

The back-ground essays by Cathy Perkus and facsimiles of nearly 100 FBI memos and other documents are worth the study of thoughtful readers.