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Posted on 22 June 2019 By Michael "Bommi" Baumann

@DOWNLOAD E-PUB ë Wie alles anfang ? eBook or E-pub free

A beautiful case study of self justification I actually think this book was very useful to the development of my own political thinking, as I read it when I was a teenager It s evident that

Baumann's campaign of terror was fairly brainless, but the rhetoric is compelling. So I learnt to ignore rhetoric and try and focus on the direct consequences of actions. I often think of this book when I hear extremists speaking. Historically this is quite interesting, but this guy is just an asshole.

[@DOWNLOAD E-PUB](#) [ë](#) [Wie alles anfang ?](#) [How It All Began](#) [Is The Personal Testimony Of Michael Bommi Baumann, A Man Who, In The Late 50s And Early 60s, Was A Member Of The June 68 Movement, One Of The Most Spectacular Urban Guerrilla Organizations In West Berlin](#)

Of this book, Baumann said others should understand why people take the road of armed struggle, how they come to it, how the seeds are planted, and what the emotions behind it are, what kind of considerations and psychic preconditions are needed to overcome the fear involved. But Baumann, ultimately, had to make a choice. He renounced violence when he left the June 68 movement. In 1971, the German Security Police seized the original German edition, *Wie Alles Anfang*, when it appeared in the resulting trial and publicity raised an international outcry and the book ended up being republished in German and translated into six languages. In an age when public protests against corporate greed, against free trade agreements, and for social justice are becoming frequent and violent, *How It All Began* provides a fascinating glimpse into the thinking behind urban struggle, and the consequences of action. As Baumann himself said, violence is a perfectly adequate means, I never had any hangups about it. The first English version of *How It All Began* was published by Arsenal in 1998 and updated in 2003. Long out of print, it has been reissued, making it available to readers once again.

Bommi Baumann was a leading member of the June 68 movement, one of the most active urban guerrilla groups in West Berlin. From a low income, unstable family background, Baumann left the movement and the urban guerrilla struggle in 1971 and went underground to write this book. He was arrested in London in 1972 and there has been no word from him since. I found this in a pile of old text books, and it piqued my curiosity. However, after trudging through 25 pages with gritted teeth, I tossed it aside with a mixture of relief and barely repressed hilarity. How could anyone have ever classified this incoherent, pretentious mess as dangerous? It's so ridiculous in its over-the-top political social psychobabble that it actually gives a bad name to all the other ridiculous, over-the-top political social psychobabble in existence. They should have never banned this book; they should have forced everyone to read it out loud. The howls of laughter mixed with pain would have destroyed the morale of any wannabe urban terrorists. I liked it and thought it was really interesting. It's a really short and easy read as well, written in the way as if he's talking to you. It's also not very well written in anyway, he's not a great writer or intellectual. But that doesn't matter, because the personal account of the stuff he was involved in is fascinating and honest. There are few excuses, but it's also rather self-reflective and critical of the move towards armed struggle. I don't think there are many books like this. I didn't know shit about the 2nd June Movement and not so much about the German movement at that time in general. The stories about Kommune 1, using counter culture to politicize people, and about

the Hash Rebels that were the primary dealers of heroin for some time, but were politicizing the druggies scene while doing so, backed up by the theory that participating in revolutionary struggle is the best way to get off it. And before they went illegal, they were a bunch of longhaired hippies in colourful jean clothes with peace signs and all, and they went out at night to bomb stuff. It's funny how hippie ended up meaning something completely different for us. I am not very impressed and am rather shocked at the childish antics that he and others got up to, and classed himself as a serious revolutionary. There doesn't appear to be any ideology involved, just immaturity and idiocy and it just appeared to be a druggy group slashing tyres out of boredom and delinquency. In fact, if I had penned this I would be embarrassed, and it only serves to make other ideological revolutionaries look as moronic as he. But this would make sense when contemplating the below, and bare in mind that this book was released in 1975. In 1981, Baumann was arrested in London and sentenced to a five year imprisonment for bank robbery and bombing. While in prison, he wrote another autobiographical book, which appeared after he was released. Reviewer this appears to be *Hi Ho Wer nicht weggeht, kommt nicht wieder Hi Ho*. If you don't go away, you can't come back. Released in 1987. When documents of the former East Germany were made accessible by the Gauck Authority after the German reunification, it became known that in 1973 Reviewer Two years before the publication of this book under review, and whilst he was involved in the underground, Baumann had written a 125 page report to the East German State Security Service Stasi about 94 people within the armed struggle movement, including information on assaults, attacks, weapons, and sexual preferences. Beyond that, 165 pages of interrogation records exist on Baumann. During a period of six weeks, Baumann shared his insider knowledge in 114 hours of interrogation. The above source is from Wolfgang Kraushaar *Unsere unterwanderten Jahre*, *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 7 April 1998, page 45. Further information can be found on Baumann's Wikipedia page. In conclusion, I find it pretty uneventful when considering this was written by a so called revolutionary, but also rather lame in his antics also. I think it served the purpose of making the serious movement look moronic and far from ideological. A product of the 60-70s round of revolt this still has a valid and powerful message for today. I remember carving RAF etc graffiti into desks at school in the 80s when everything seemed so black and white and the revolution was just around the corner. Baumann's book helps to remind the revolutionary what it is they are trying to oppose: a machine much greater than themselves or little collective and their own self, but shows how easy it is to mimic the worst parts of what you claim to be opposing by being driven primarily by hate. In concluding Bauman says I don't condemn anything, and I don't judge anything wrong, not the people either. I did it, and it's alright. Even the worst experiences were right in their time, because otherwise, it wouldn't have come to this point. While this book represented Baumann's turn away from the guerilla, the last chapter is entitled *Terror or Love*, it remains an important document from the period, a glimpse into what it was like to be a working class rebel in the freak counter

culture of the sixties, and how one section of the armed resistance in West Germany emerged from this scene. First published in 1975, the book was immediately banned in Germany nevertheless, at the time some comrades considered Baumann a traitor, and this book a counter insurgency work. In retrospect, this seems incorrect, for while the author was clearly moving away from a certain kind of revolutionary politics, he remains honest and sympathetic as he tells the story of his life and struggle against the state. I was really prepared to like this guy because I tend to admire anyone who takes action for the cause they believe in but after the first few pages it comes out that he came over from East Germany in the first place. So he's East German % No wonder he came a cropper and a troublemaker. Not interested.

Bommi Baumann

WIE ALLES ANFING

**HOW IT
ALL BEGAN**

*The Personal Account
of a West German
Urban Guerrilla*

With Statements by
HEINRICH BÖLL &
DANIEL COHN-BENDIT

Translated by
Helene Ellenbogen & Wayne Parker



I have an ongoing interest in the armed struggle in West Germany of the 1960 70 80s, and sometimes compare it to the scene in the United States One of the areas which I find myself least understanding is the role of East Germany. Baumann was a leader of the June 2 Movement, named after the day in 1967 that Benno Ohnesorg was killed by a policeman during a demonstration against the Shah of Iran It much later was revealed that the policeman who killed Ohnesorg was an informal collaborator of the East German secret police known as Stasi, and that he was a member of the East German Communist Party. It was also revealed after the fall of East Germany, that Bommi Baumann provided a 125 page report to the Stasi about 94 people within the armed struggle movement This report was written 2 years before this book, yet not mentioned. It has also been difficult for me to understand relationships between East Germany and members of Red Army Fraction RAF in West Germany. Baumann's reporting to Stasi undermines his credibility as a narrator. Nevertheless, this is an interesting book Baumann considers himself an anarchist and periodically mentions some influences including Black Panthers, Mao and Bakunin as well as Lotta Continua in Italy Often his political actions seem naive and childish, yet he is clear at how German modern society and I would add US society is so morally bankrupt and damaging to our very humanity.

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