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Elke Weesjes

## Growing Up Communist in the Netherlands and Britain

*Childhood, Political Activism, and Identity Formation*

*Growing Up Communist in the Netherlands and Britain: Childhood, Political Activism, and Identity Formation* documents communists' attempts, successful and otherwise, to overcome their isolation and to connect with the major social and political movements of the twentieth century. Communist parties in Britain and the Netherlands emerged from the Second World War expecting to play a significant role in post-war society, due to their domestic anti-fascist activities and to the part played by the Soviet Union in defeating fascism. The Cold War shattered these hopes, and isolated communist parties and their members. By analysing the accounts of communist children, Weesjes highlights their struggle to establish communities and define their identities within the specific cultural, social, and political frameworks of their countries.

### BIOGRAPHY

Elke Weesjes is a visiting research fellow at the International Institute of Social History in Amsterdam, and an adjunct assistant professor at the City University of New York in Brooklyn, where she teaches courses in modern European and U.S. history, and women's and gender studies.

*"Excellent – well researched, convincing in its argument, and a valuable contribution to communist (and wider social) history."*

– Matthew Worley, Professor of Modern History,  
University of Reading

*"Breaking new methodological and historiographical ground, this book captures the subjective experience of mid-twentieth century communist life in these two countries and how this influenced the forms of radicalism that emerged in the 1960s and beyond."*

– Paul C. Mishler, Associate Professor of Labor Studies,  
Indiana University



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### KEYWORDS

CPN (Communistische Partij van Nederland),  
CPGB (Communist Party of Great Britain),  
identity, childhood, Cold War

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