



BOLERIUM BOOKS

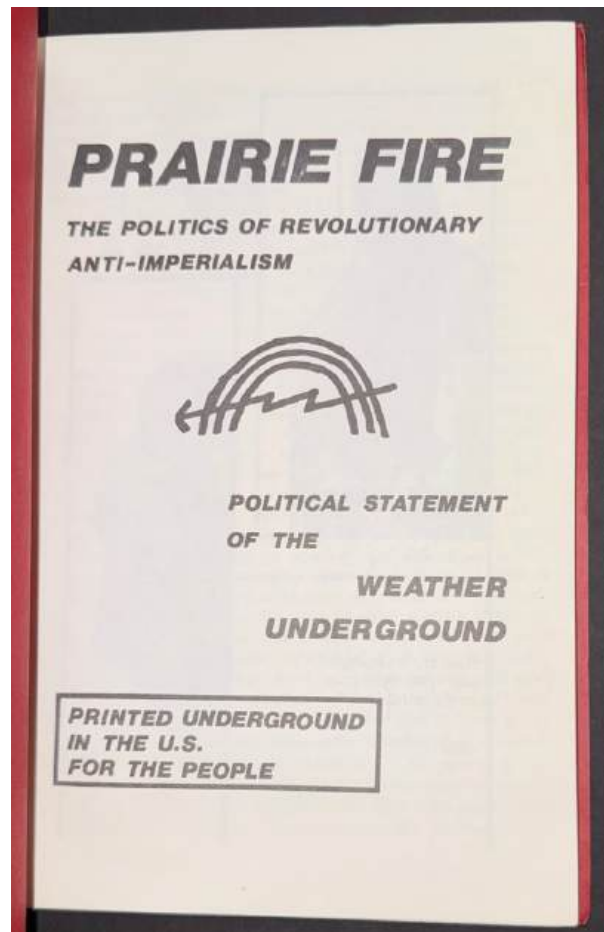
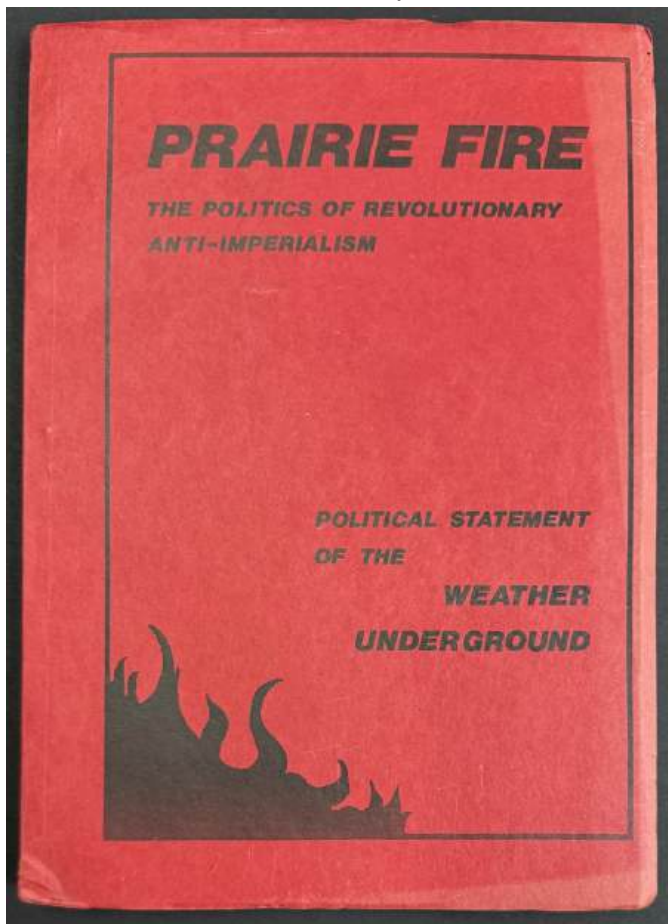
Est. 1981

2141 Mission St #300, San Francisco, CA 94110 (415) 863-6353

REFERENCE COLLECTION: ALL KNOWN EDITIONS OF THE WEATHER UNDERGROUND'S *PRAIRIE FIRE*

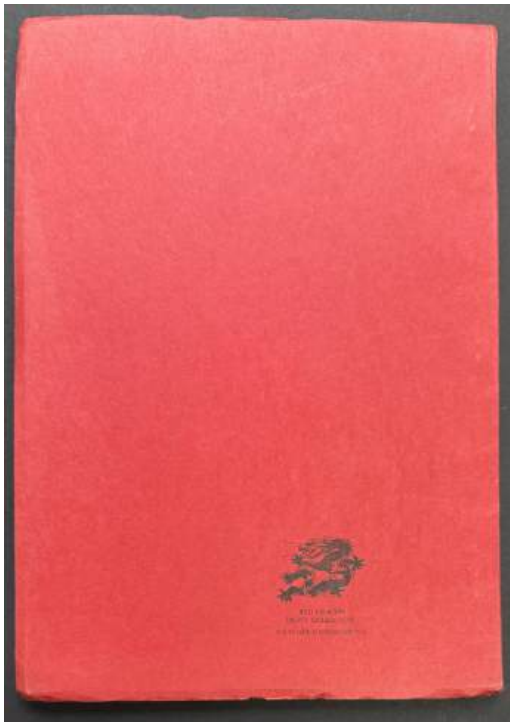
For several years we at Bolerium Books have been setting aside every variant we can find of the Weather Underground's manifesto, "Prairie Fire: The Politics of Revolutionary Anti-Imperialism." After making additional inquiries with Daryl Van Fleet, who was one of the original distributors through his bookstore (and who supplied several of the scarcer versions below), and after outreach to other booksellers and activists, everything we have found so far falls within the nine editions listed below (all issued within the span of a year and a half). Also included is one pirated example. We would be excited to hear of any other editions differing from these!

This collection as a unit: \$2,500.



1. First edition: clandestine printing in unstated location by the Red Dragon Print Collective of the Weather Underground. 1974. [x], 152, [2] p. paperback, small quarto (7x10 inches), covers extending past the edges of the textblock as usual for this edition, with mild wear to the

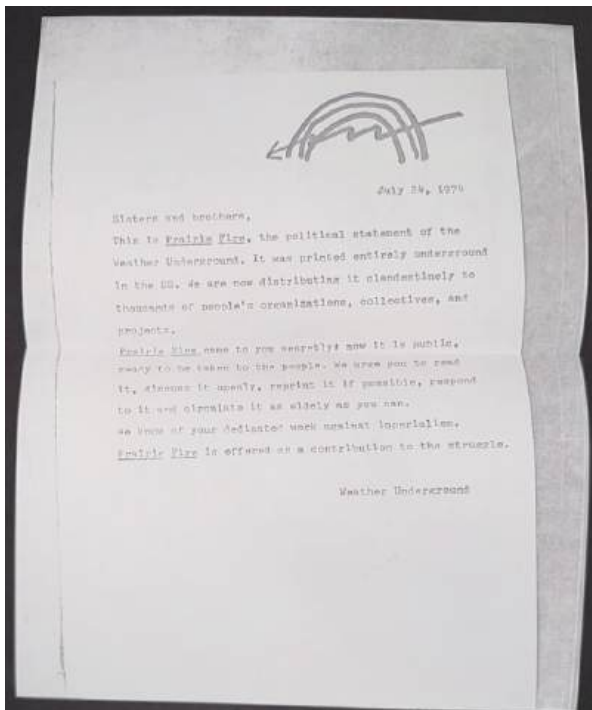
protruding edges, some mild sun-fading to cover. This edition was distributed through the Weather Underground's clandestine networks and does not have a price on the cover. The title page states "Printed underground in the US for the People." An introductory note was often taped inside the front cover, or in this case, folded and laid in. The note in this example, dated July 24, 1974, reads: "Sisters and brothers, This Is Prairie Fire, the political statement of the Weather Underground. It was printed entirely underground in the US. We are now distributing it clandestinely to thousands of people's organizations, collectives, and projects. Prairie Fire came to you secretly: now it is public, ready to be taken to the people. We urge you to read it, discuss it openly, reprint it if possible, respond to it and circulate it as widely as you can. We know of your dedicated work against imperialism. Prairie Fire is offered as a contribution to the struggle. - Weather Underground."



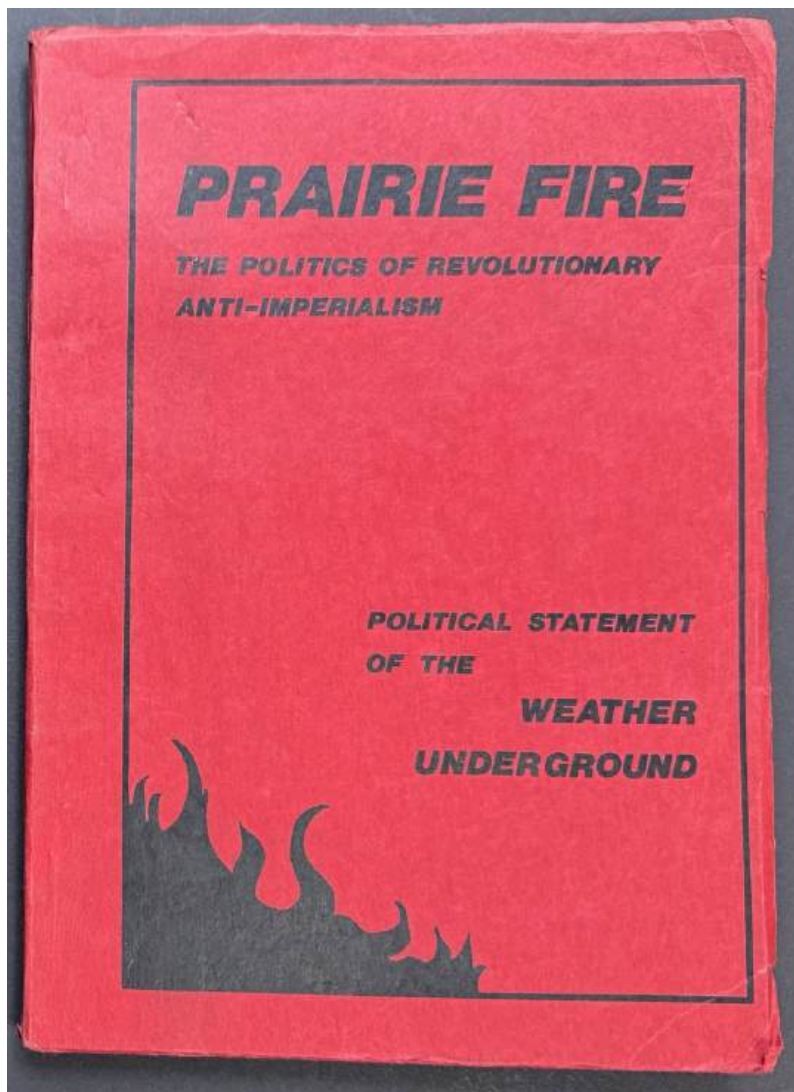
Rear cover.



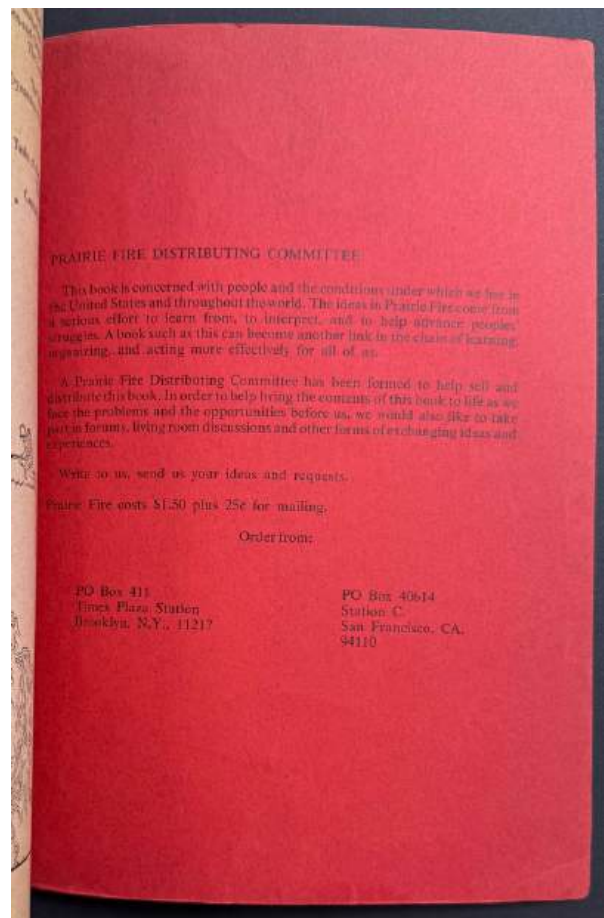
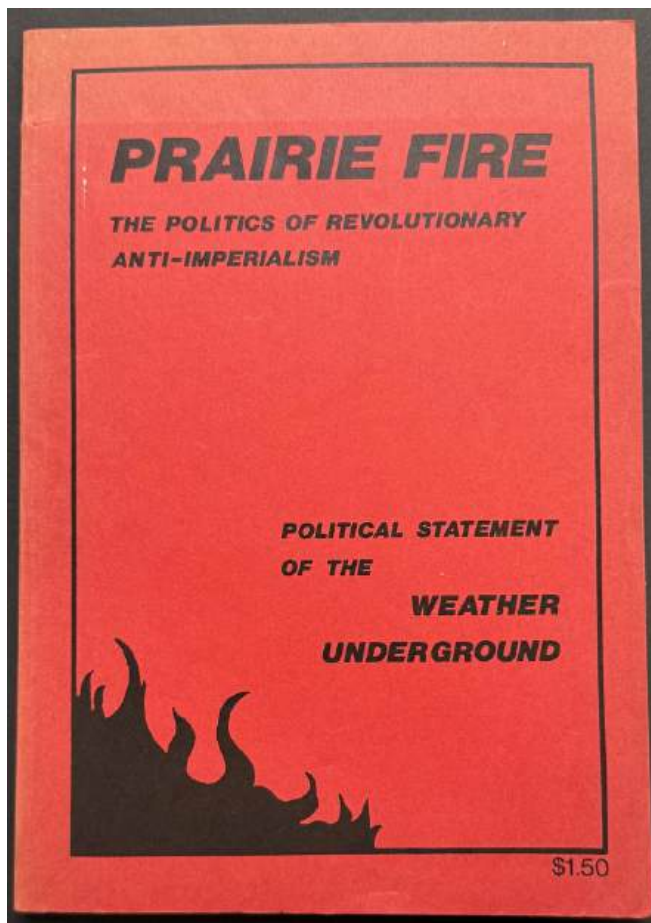
(Right):
Publisher's
Emblem,
close-up.



Letter to the reader, laid into this example of the first edition. Various wording and reproduction methods exist. This letter is usually found missing, having been removed from the book in the intervening decades.

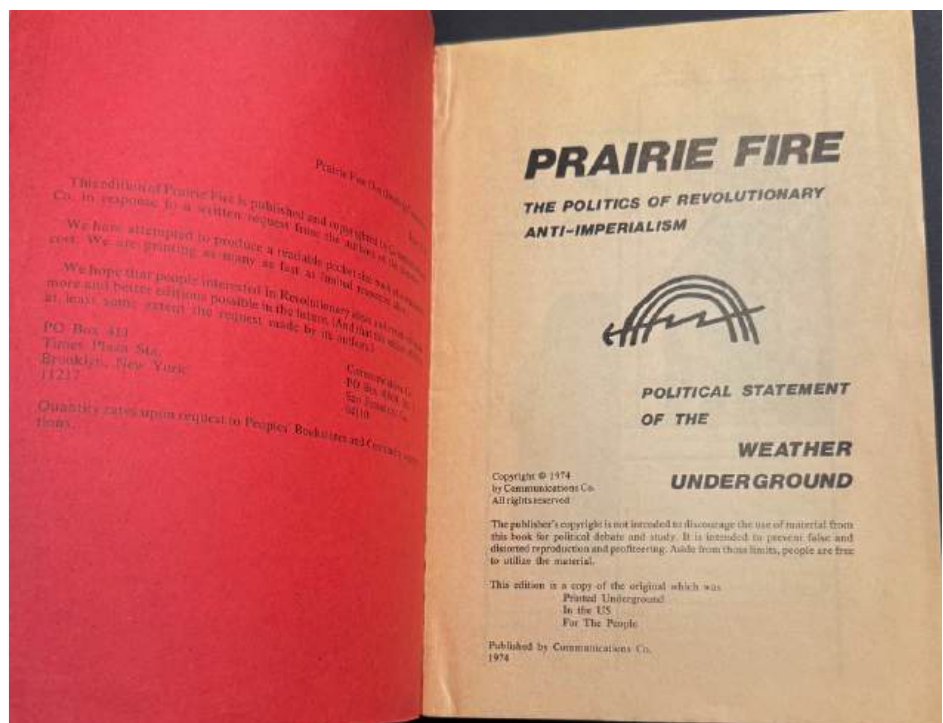


1a. Similar, clandestine printing as above, but with production errors caused by the unusual working conditions in the clandestine workshop (the books were printed in a private apartment that had been carefully soundproofed to prevent neighbors from becoming suspicious). In this example, pages 149 and 150 are repeated, and the book is missing pages 151 and 152. We have heard of other similar missing page errors. This example has occasional marginalia scattered throughout, covers edgeworn, bookmark laid in.

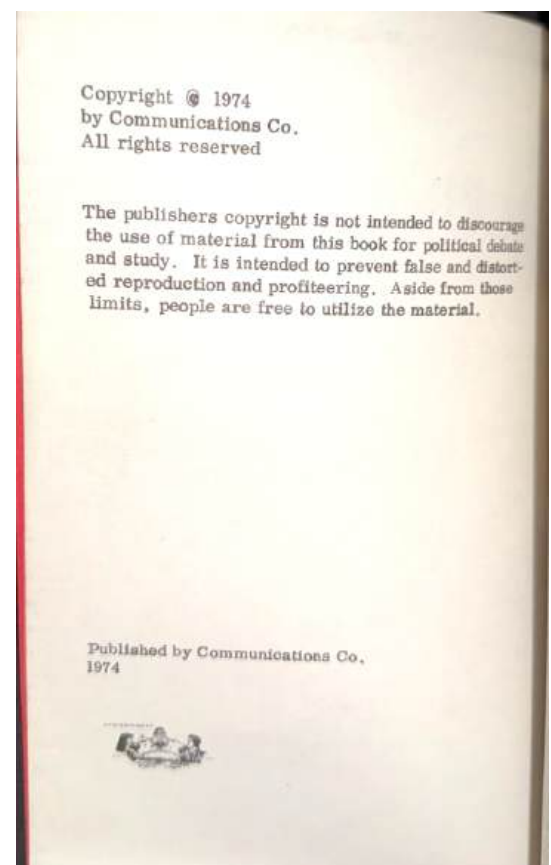
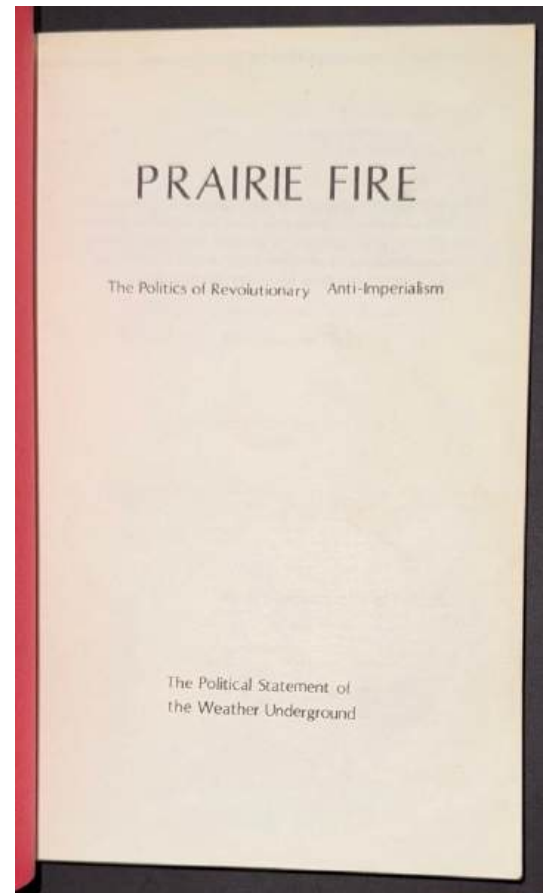
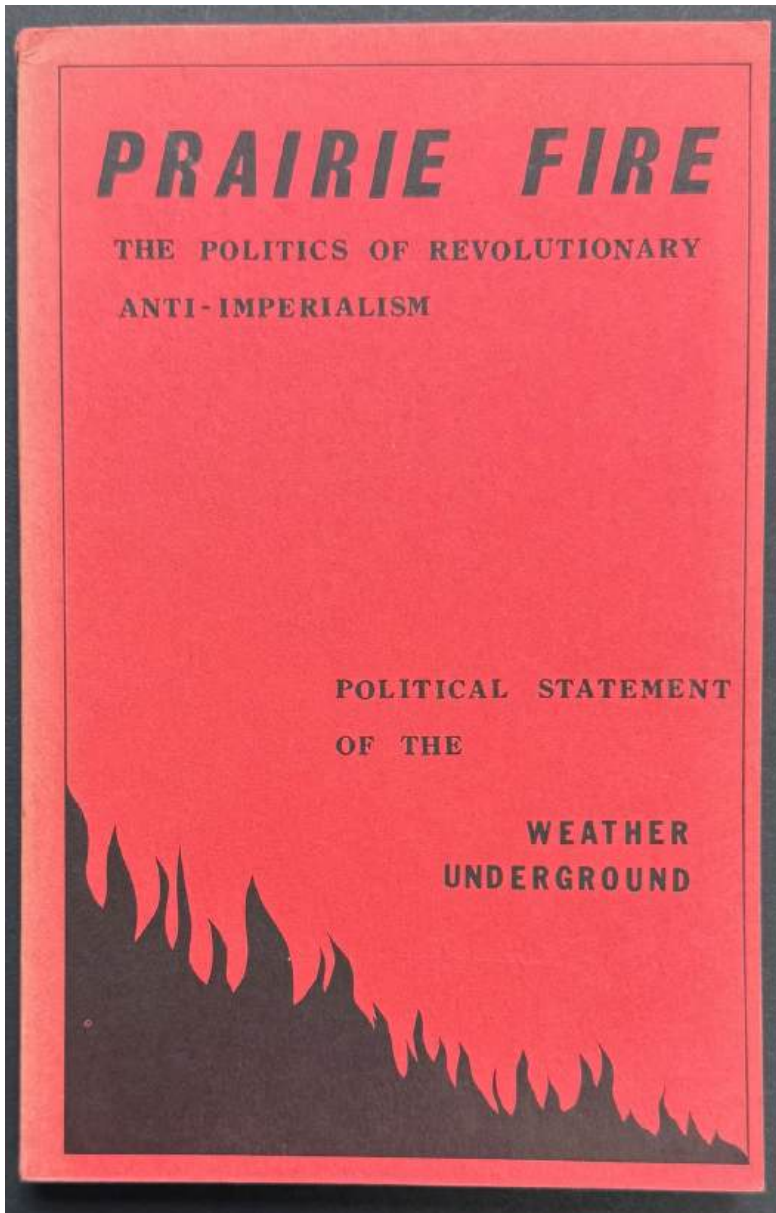


2. Reprint, published by above-ground supporters of the Weather Underground (as are all of the following variant editions). Similar 7x10 inch format, blank spine, but with price and publisher added. San Francisco: Communications Company, 1974. [x], 152 p., \$1.50 cover price. Statement inside the front cover, from the Prairie Fire Distributing Company, is dated July, 1974, suggesting it was printed almost immediately after the underground version first appeared.

(Above right): Inside rear cover.



Inside of front cover and title page.



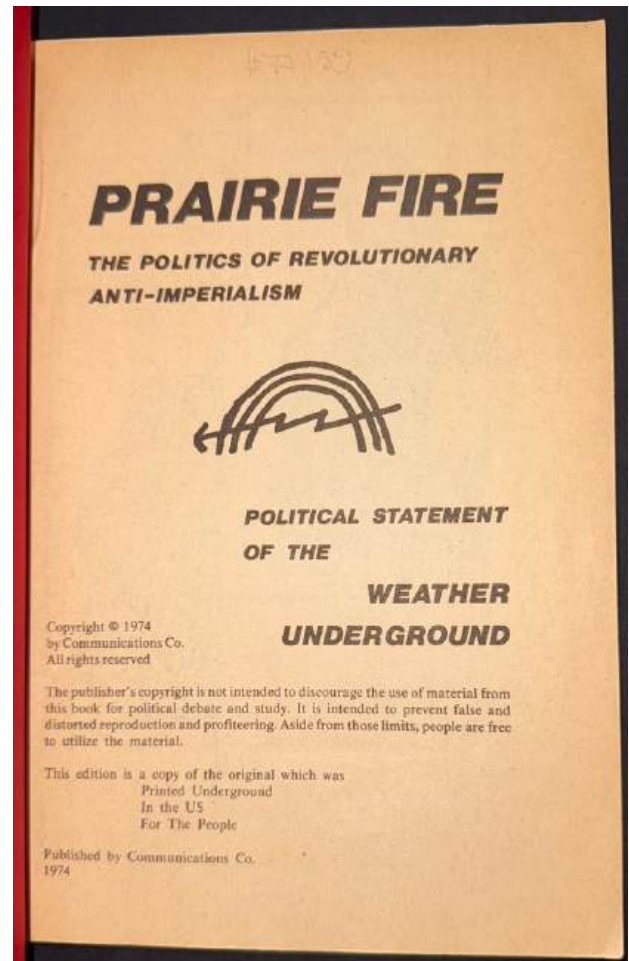
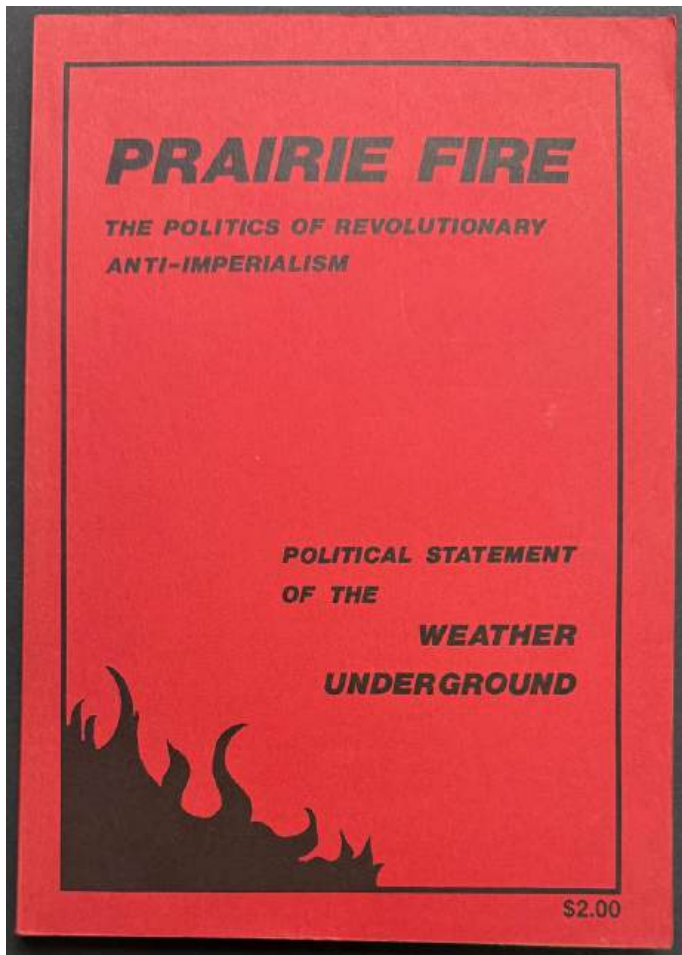
3. Smaller format (octavo, 5.5x8.5 inches), again published in San Francisco by the Communications Company, 1974. 185, [7] p., with \$1.50 cover price (on rear cover) and a blank spine. Page [6] near the end has a statement dated July 1974 indicating that the reprint was done with permission. "Prairie Fire - Weather Underground" printed on spine.

(Right): Verso of title page.



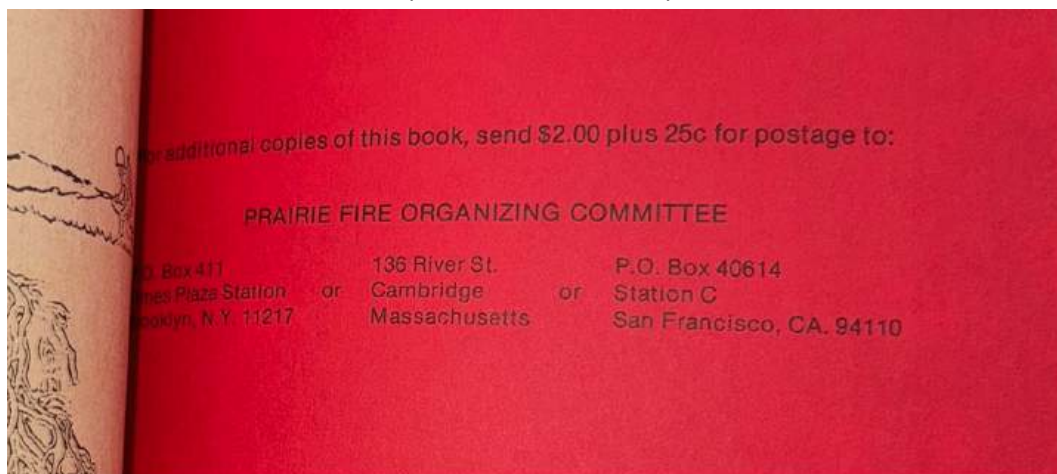
4. Another version of the smaller edition, 5.5x8.5 inches, San Francisco: Communications Company, 1974. Appears to have the same textblock as variant 4, but with new cover. 185, [7] p., with \$1.50 cover price (this time on front cover) and a blank spine. Page [6] near the end has a statement dated July 1974 indicating that the reprint was done with permission.

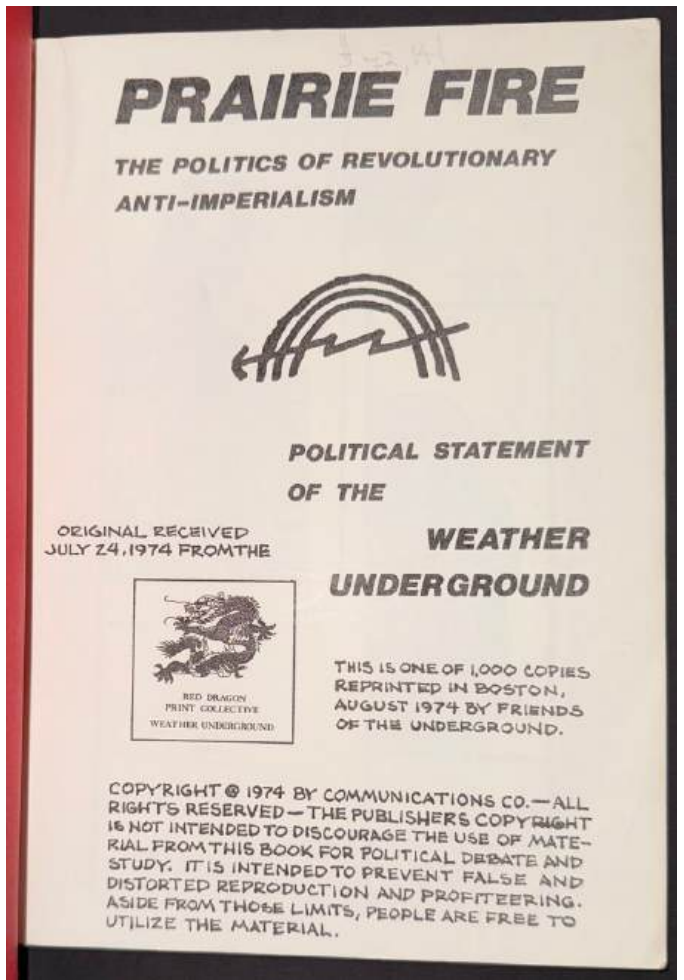
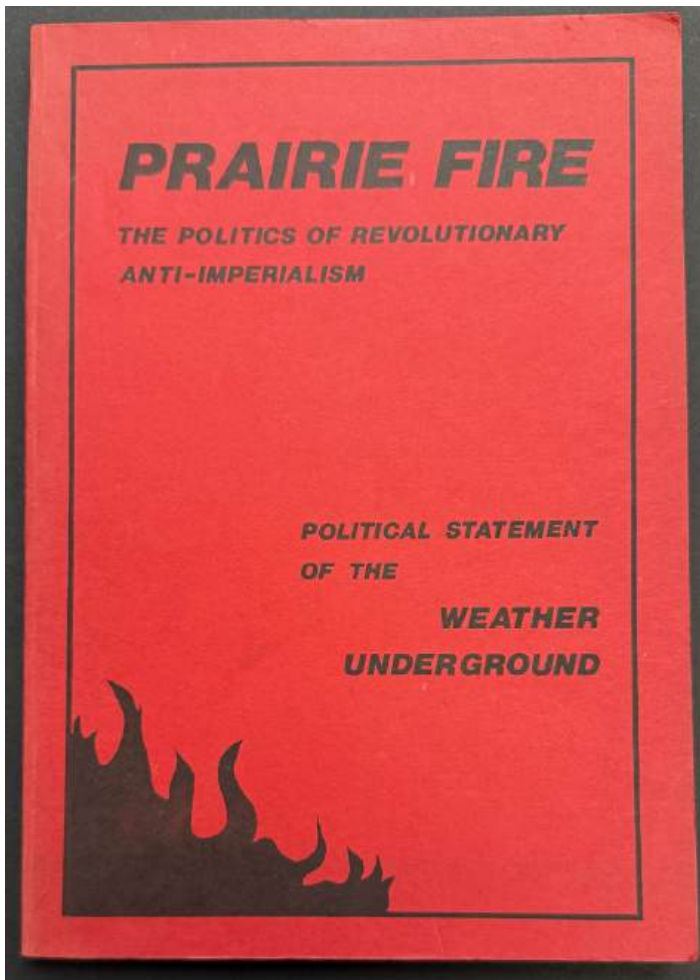
(An anecdote: Some years ago there was a Hollywood film project that touched on the Weather Underground, and a procurer of props for the movie contacted our shop. He wanted this edition of Prairie Fire because he preferred the colors of the cover art. One of our staff suggested that he might instead buy one of the red and black editions, because that was actually the version that would have been present in the scene from the script. He never called us back; presumably obtaining a copy from another bookseller who gave him less flack.)



5. A later version, returning to 7x10 inch format, San Francisco: Communications Company, 1974. With \$2.00 cover price. [x], 152p. Lacks the colophon found in variant 3 above, instead giving addresses in Brooklyn, Cambridge and San Francisco for the Prairie Fire Organizing Committee inside the rear cover. The spine is printed "Prairie Fire - Weather Underground."

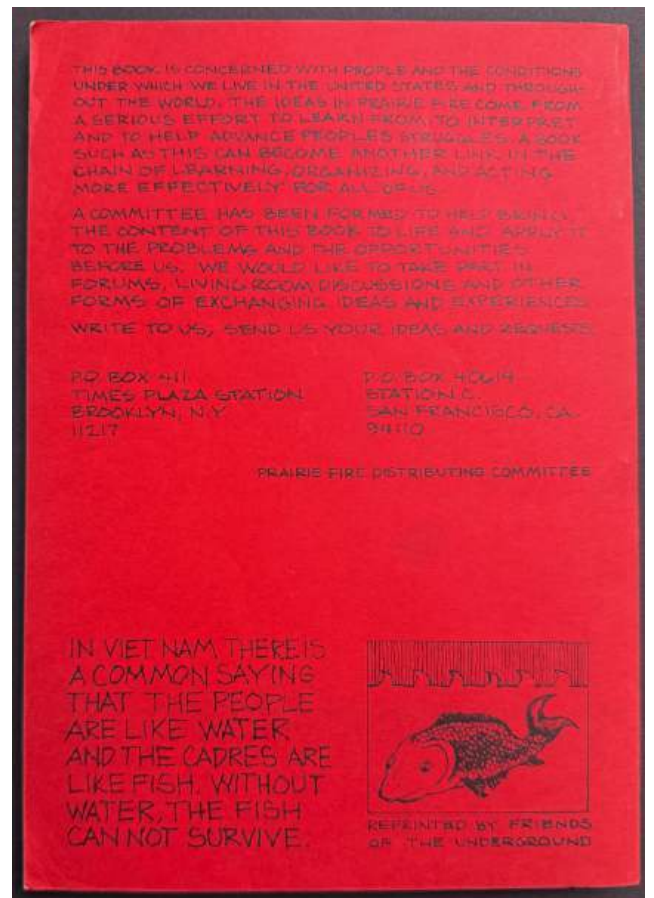
(Inside of rear cover)

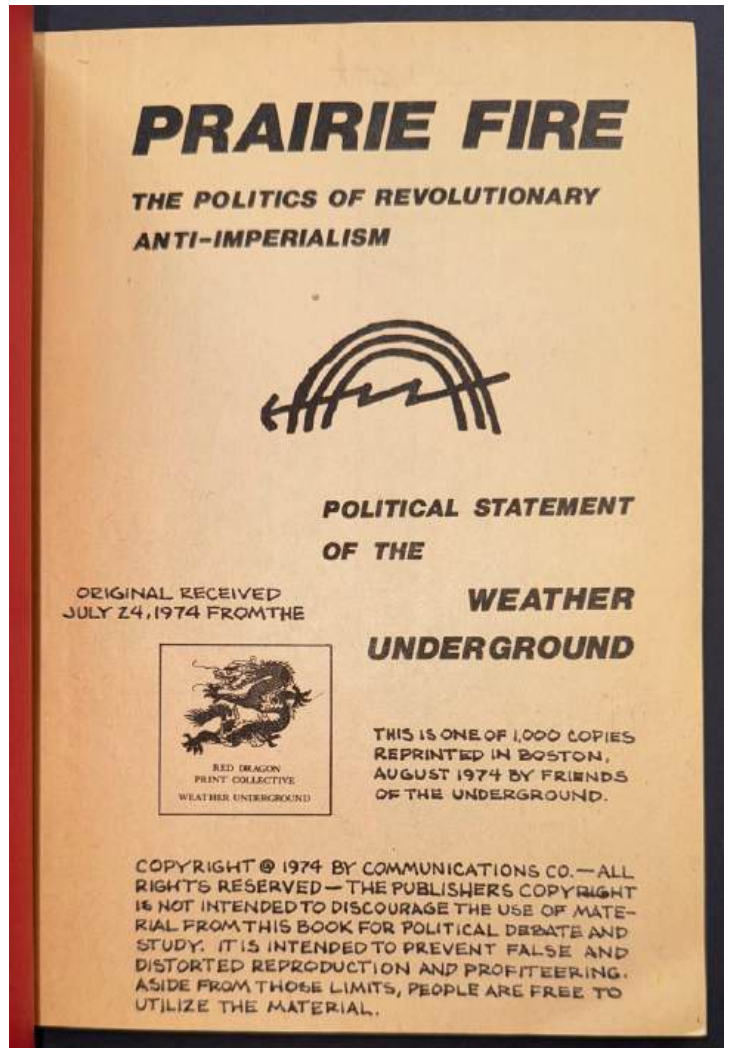
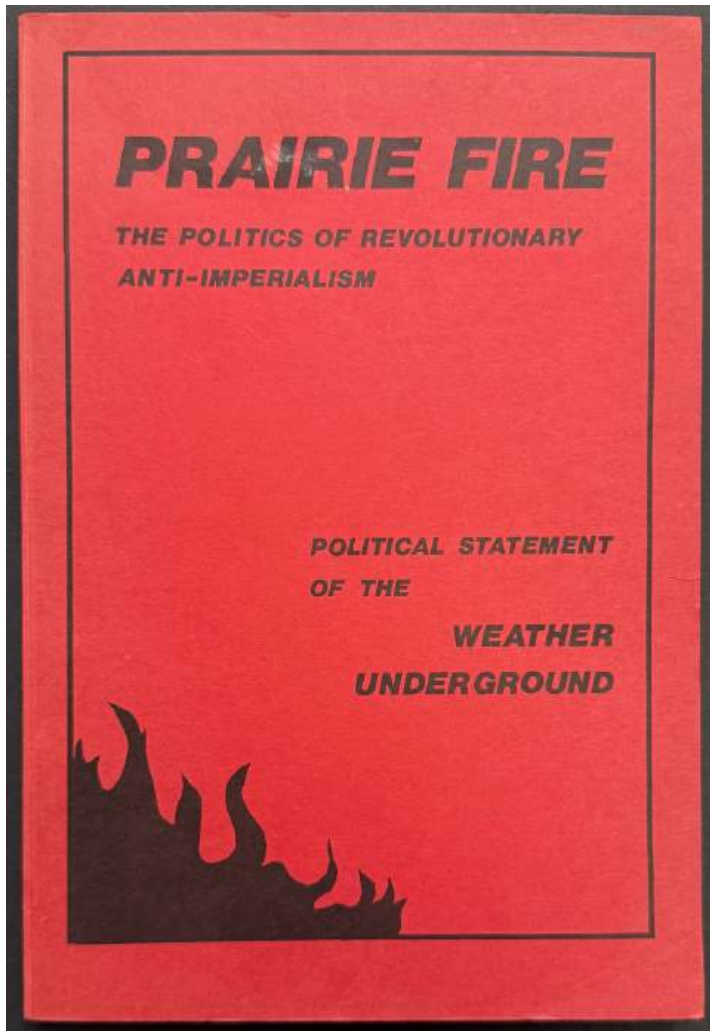




6. Boston edition, published by "Friends of the Underground," with statement inside front cover stating that one thousand copies were printed in August 1974. "Prairie Fire - Weather Underground – Boston '74" printed on spine. [x], 152, [2] p., 7x10 inch format. Statement on rear cover from the Prairie Fire Distributing Committee.

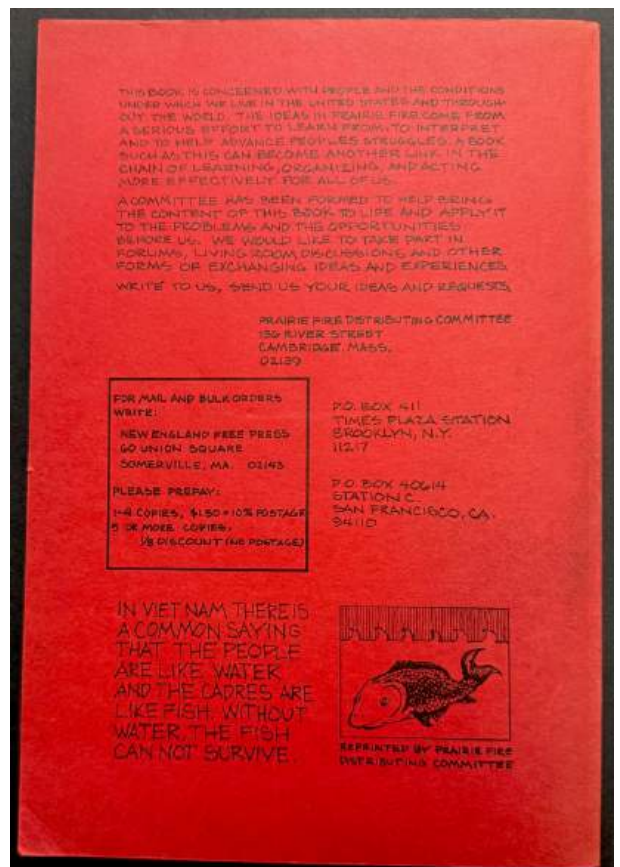
(Rear cover)

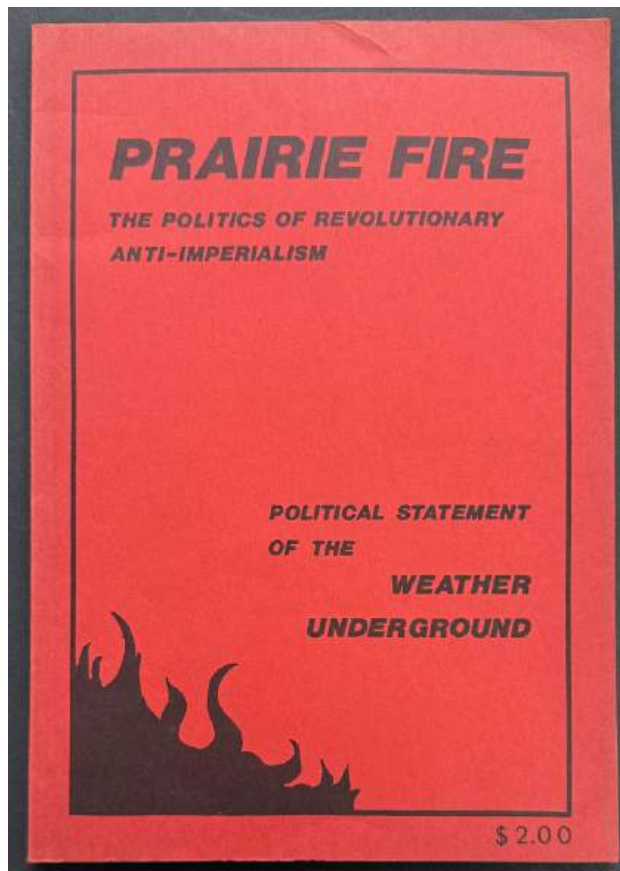




7. Similar to no. 7, but rear cover text has been modified, adding a rectangle containing an invitation to contact the New England Free Press to purchase copies. Pages are on tan paper similar to newsprint. Minor corner crease, short closed edge tear to front cover.

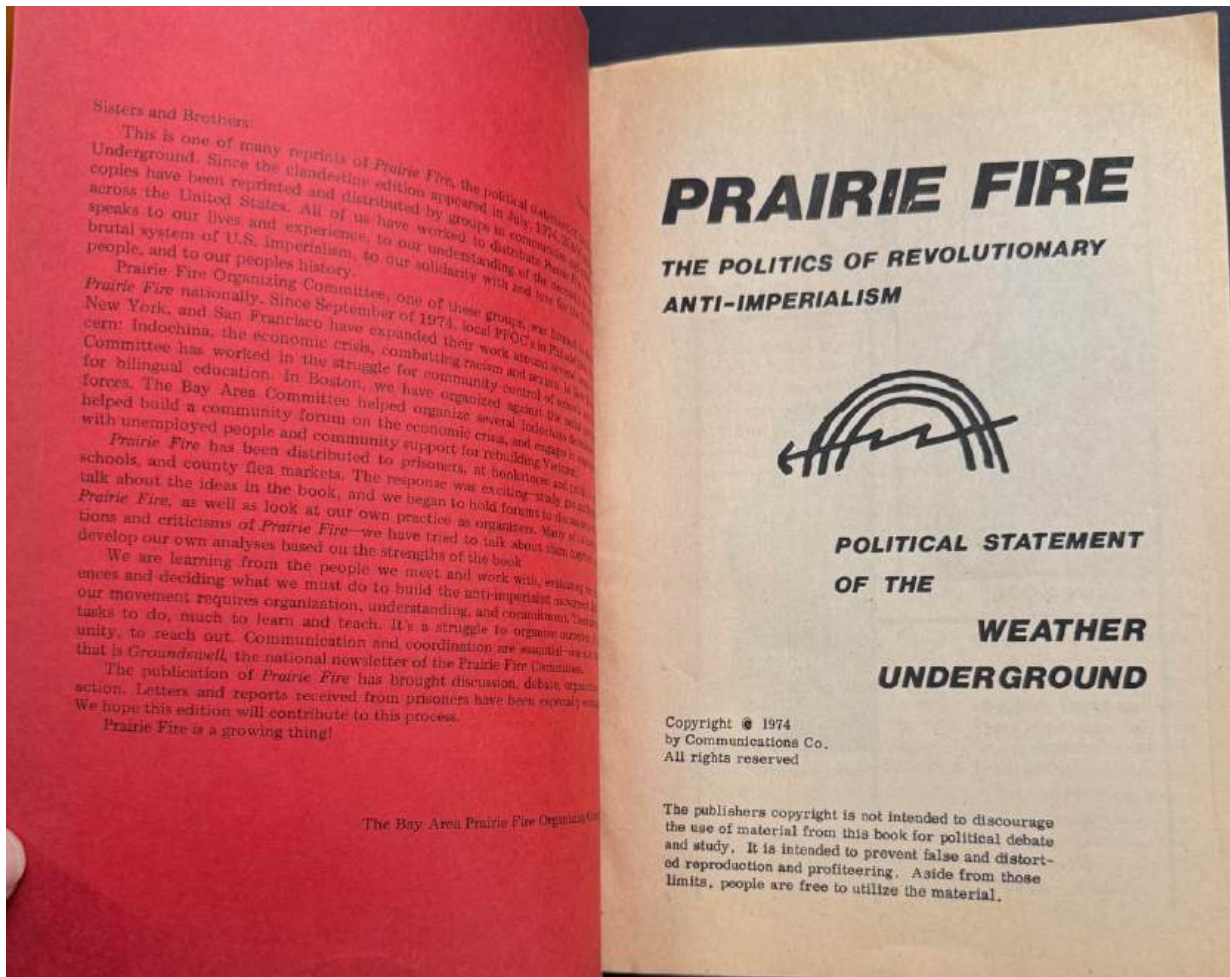
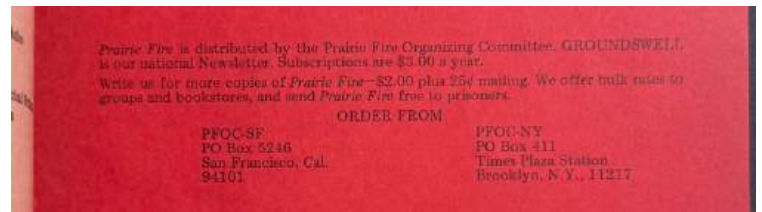
(Rear cover – note rectangle has been added at middle left)

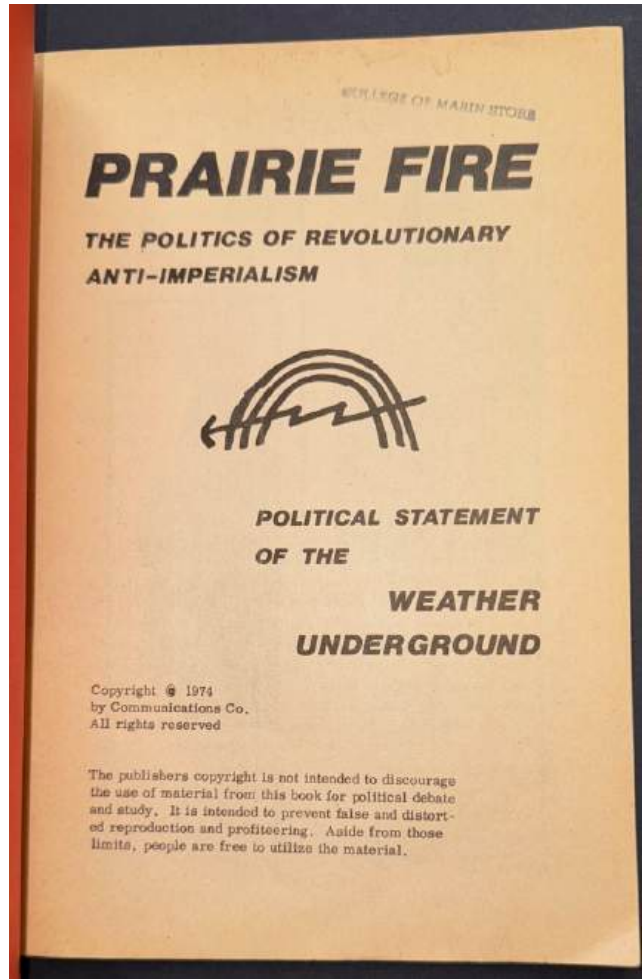
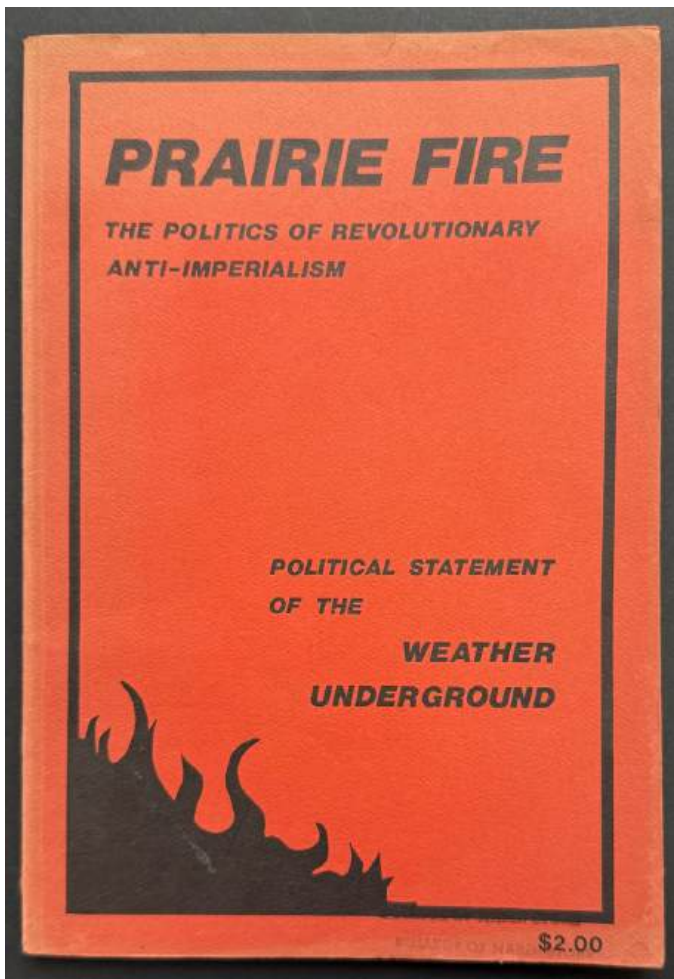




8. Similar 7x10 inch format, San Francisco: Communications Company, 1975. [ix], 149, [2] p. With \$2.00 cover price and a statement from the Bay Area Prairie Fire Distributing Company dated May 9, 1975 printed inside the front cover. Colophon at end notes the availability of a national newsletter, Groundswell. Blank spine.

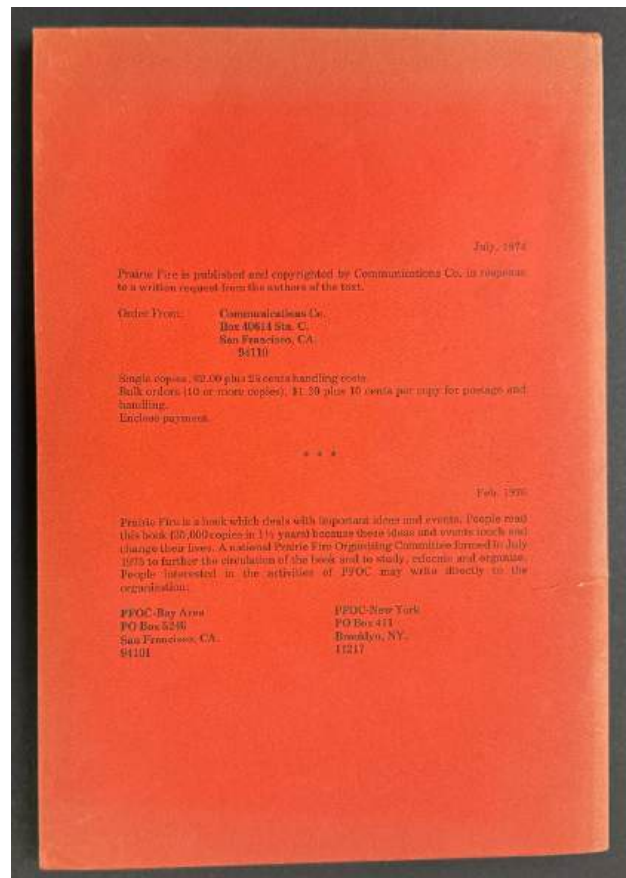
(Colophon inside rear cover)

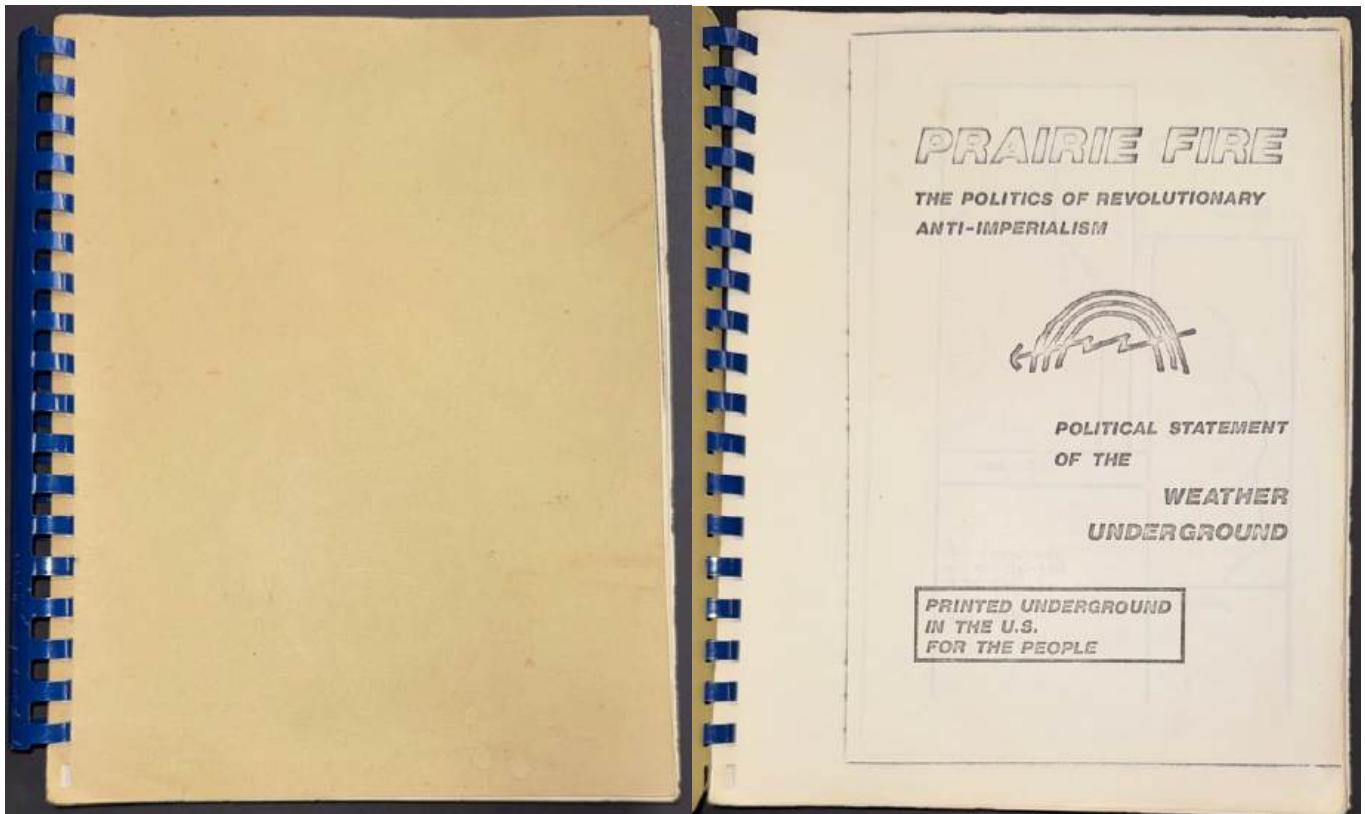




9. Similar 7x10 inch format, San Francisco: Communications Company, 1976. [ix], 149, [2] p., with \$2.00 cover price and a note on the rear cover from the Bay Area Prairie Fire Organizing Company dated February, 1976, stating that as of that date, 35,000 copies had been printed. "Prairie Fire - Weather Underground" printed on spine. This example has the rubberstamp of a college bookstore.

(Rear cover)





10. The Weather Underground urged supporters to reprint this text using whatever means they had at their disposal. This 8.5x11 inch photocopy with a plain copyshop binding would have been the cheapest method available. Photoreproduced from the first underground edition, bottom portion of plastic spine is missing.

NB: Numerous underground newspapers reprinted significant selections from Prairie Fire soon after it came out, including a special double issue, no. 29-30, of the Michigan Free Press. These have been omitted from the current listing, though they should be included in a complete bibliography.