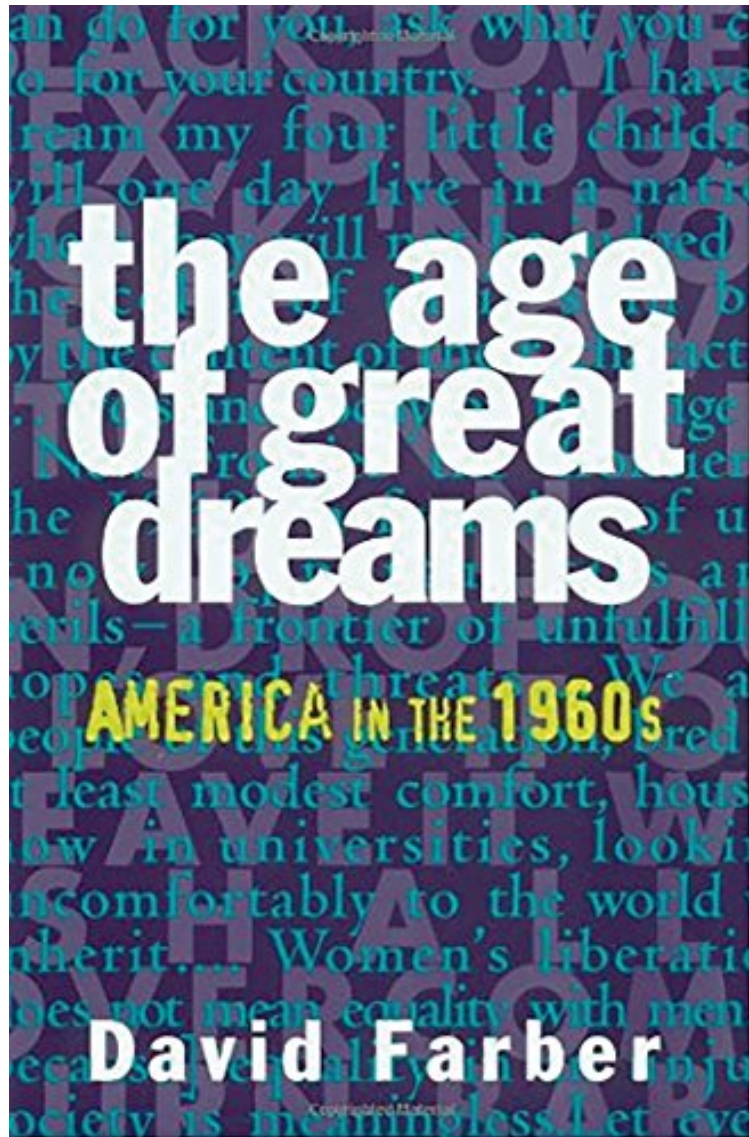


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The Age of Great Dreams: America in the 1960s (American Century Series)

Von David Farber

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Von David Farber : The Age of Great Dreams: America in the 1960s (American Century Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Age of Great Dreams: America in the 1960s (American Century Series):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. RATIONAL PERSPECTIVES ON A TURBULENT ERA Von Eric H. RothHow can college students today

understand the passions, complexities, and puzzles of the 1960s? This lucid and accessible survey illuminates the connections between the emerging consumer culture, social movements, and political tensions from 1960-1974. Written by a Barnard College historian for undergraduate students, this multi-dimensional shows the often conflicting factors and personalities behind critical events from Kennedy's election and the Cuban Missile Crisis to sit-in demonstrations and assassinations (JFK, Martin Luther King, RFK) and the escalating Vietnam War. Avoiding the glib and superficial conclusions that mar too many books on the 60s', this informative synthesis combines insider memoirs, oral histories, popular TV shows and census data in an engaging account. An excellent selection for American Studies, Cultural Studies, and modern American History courses.0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. It just seemed so superficialVon n/aThis books seemed to be based on two assumptions about history writing that are outdated and superficial. The two problems come up right at the beginning with Farber's description of new year's eve in 1959 and what the three famous people (Ike, head of catholic church in USA, and MLK) were doing that evening. This book falls into the trap of looking at the sixties independent of its context as well as taking a top down perspective that ignores the local political movements that really move history. He redeems himself slightly with a nod to the fifties and the local activists in the 60's that really led the way to social change but it is too little too late. I have not seen a synthetic view of the 60's that is able to adequately show this overall context as well as give due credit to the underlying social movements. (John Dittmer does do a great job of this for the civil right movement in Mississippi in his book "Local People")

KurzbeschreibungIn this book, David Farber grounds our understanding of the extraordinary history of the 1960s by linking the events of that era to our country's grand projects of previous decades. Farber's important study, based on years of research in archives and oral histories as well as in historical literature, explores Vietnam, the Civil Rights Act, the War on Poverty, the entertainment business, the drug culture, and much more.From BooklistFarber's impressive overview of the U.S. in the 1960s represents a significant contribution to the scholarly analysis of an ever-intriguing decade. The author places the 1960s in proper historical context, defining that turbulent era as the logical extension and culmination of an earlier epoch that encompassed the Great Depression, World War II, and the postwar prosperity boom. As the U.S. attempted to adjust to an increasingly international role as a global superpower, the evolution of an extremely complex, consumer-oriented economy, and the emergence of a much stronger, more centralized federal government, an explosive political and cultural reaction proved to be all but inevitable. The domestic tensions and contradictions that were the natural by-product of that struggle generated a wave of social unrest that produced both the triumph and the tragedy of this paradoxical juncture in history. An insightful social chronicle. Margaret FlanaganFrom Kirkus sA brief, valuable look at the tensions that shaped the 60's, and the cultural and political movements that grew out of them. Farber (History/Barnard; Chicago '68, 1988) covers the period's major issues--the rise of the middle class, the Cold War, the struggles for civil and sexual rights and equality, and the increasing strength of the ``national security apparatus"--with admirable economy, and touches on all of the period's most crucial events. While he seems most at home in chronicling the movement against the Vietnam war and the parallel rise of 60's counterculture, he also does a good job of discussing the civil rights movement, and the ways its failures drove black leaders toward militant, separatist agendas. In tracing these issues, Farber avoids the pitfalls of many 60's analysts, taking care to show the long roots in our history (see Jamison below), and the ways they have pursued us into the present. Farber also sheds light on the role the increasing availability of education played on middle class activism, on the role of the media in the perception of events, and on the impact that developing consumerism had on people like the hippies (with ``lifestyles" becoming another element in a panoply of ``consumer choice"). Though his sympathies clearly lie with the decade's activists and their deeds, his tone is even. Some of Farber's points are unsupported--whether ``Cold War hysteria and corporate/suburbia conformity" were really widely discussed among the late-50's intelligentsia is debatable, and as he segues from the Beatles to school prayer, from school busing to Watergate, the sweep of events chronicled becomes less breathtaking than simply vertiginous. The fact is, the whole book's a bit of a sleight-of-hand--the decade and its antecedents can't be covered in such brevity. Still, while The Age of Great Dreams doesn't go far or deep in any direction, it illuminates broad areas of 60's life, forming a great introduction to the decade. -- Copyright 1994, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.