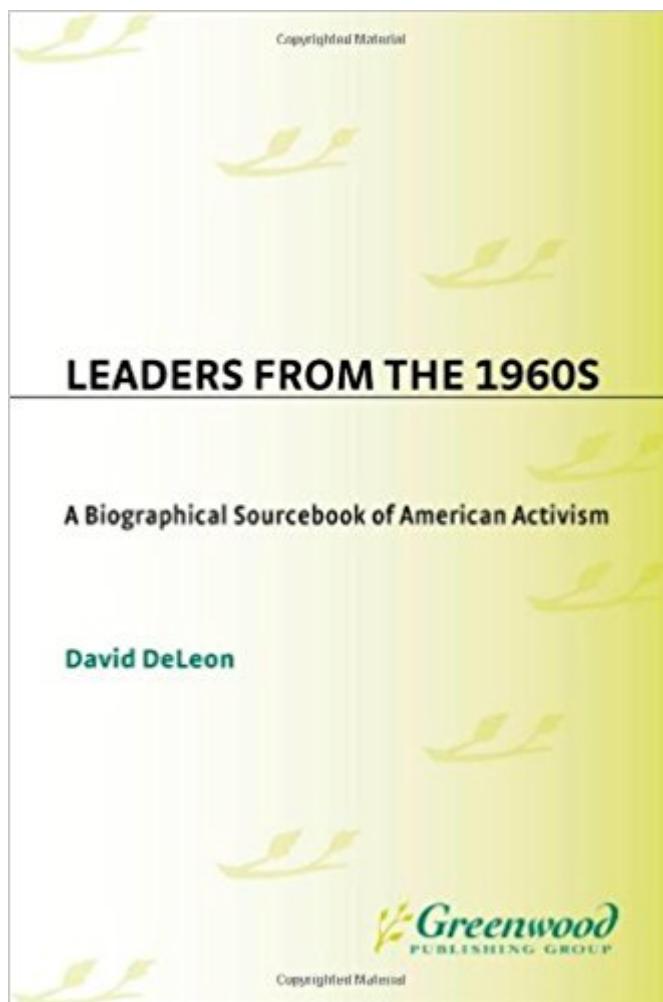


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Leaders From The 1960s: A Biographical Sourcebook Of American Activism



Synopsis

The throngs at Woodstock, Jane Fonda in Hanoi, I Have a Dream, burning draft cards, fire in the streets--these images of the 1960s are still very much alive today. What happened to the people and principles that dominated that decade? Which leaders from those turbulent years had the most lasting effect on our lives today? How well have the principles for which those leaders fought so strongly withstood the test of time? This thought-provoking biographical dictionary allows the reader to study the leaders, both conservative and liberal, their ideals, and their enduring influence. With major sections on racial democracy, peace and freedom, sexuality and gender, the environment, radical culture, and visions of alternative societies, Leaders from the 1960s includes entries on a wide selection of nationally prominent activists of the 1960s. In addition to those who dominated only the sixties, the volume includes earlier activists who came into prominence in the 1960s and activists of the era who came into prominence since the 1960s. Each entry provides a biographical sketch, but the focus of the entries is on the person's basic concepts or the essence of his or her work and the public response it generated. Included are extensive bibliographies on the individuals and the period.

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Customer Reviews

This book traces the lives of many famous--or in some eyes notorious--cultural, social, and political activists of the 1960s and provides follow-up information on their later lives. The entries (six to eight

pages in length) are well written and are broken down into six chapters, including "Radical Culture," "Racial Democracy," and "Visions of Alternative Societies." Chapters open with introductory essays and selected bibliographies; every biography concludes with a short bibliography. Most people included lean to the left of the political spectrum, and you might find some overlap with other reference works, including Bernard Johnpool's *Biographical Dictionary of the American Left* (Greenwood, 1986) or William McGuire and Leslie Wheeler's *American Social Leaders* (LJ 6/1/93). While a majority of the biographical entries are white males, the editor has made an obvious attempt to cast his net wider. The one drawback, though minor, is the uneven quality of the photographs that accompany entries. A picture of Phil Ochs in a trash can is especially unflattering, given his sad life. Otherwise, this is enthusiastically recommended for public and undergraduate libraries. Stephen W. Green, Auraria Lib., Denver Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.

While there is a lot of nostalgia today for 1960s pop culture, many people are unaware of the important changes in society that resulted from this period and of the people who were responsible for them. Some, such as Dorothy Day and I. F. Stone, were longtime activists who became better known in the sixties. Others, such as Mario Savio and Mark Rudd, were only college students at the time. This collection of biographies surveys the lives and accomplishments of 86 men and women who range on the political spectrum from liberal to radical. Entries are arranged by such topics as the civil rights, antiwar, environmental, and women's movements. The section "Radical Culture" treats such people as Joan Baez, Allen Ginsberg, Ken Kesey, and Pete Seeger. Biographies of linguist Noam Chomsky, attorney William Kunstler, anarchist Paul Goodman, and democratic socialist Michael Harrington are among those included in the section "Visions of Alternative Societies." Some of the subjects, such as Jane Fonda and Tom Hayden, got lots of media attention then and now; others, like James Weinstein and Heather Booth, are not as well known. A general essay by DeLeon, a historian at Howard University, prefaces each section. Black-and-white photographs are provided for subjects, and there are bibliographies at the end of each entry and at the ends of the introductory essays. Some subjects could fit in more than one chapter (Angela Davis and several other black activists are in the "Visions" chapter), but an index solves this problem. Those who experienced this era will find this book interesting, but it is also important for younger readers, who need to know that the sixties weren't just about Woodstock, bell bottoms, and LSD.

Sandy Whiteley

An excellent book clearly written by one who is lionizing the Radicals of the 1960s. It is thorough

and informative and as long as you realize the superlatives of the author are a reflection of bias and not truth it is a treasure trove of information. It is dated and should be updated as many of the subjects are now passing on.

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