

Contents

Introduction: "What's Going On" xi

Acknowledgments xvii

Section One: "A Change Is Gonna Come": Mahalia Jackson, Motown, and the Movement

1. The Dream 3
2. Mahalia and the Movement 4
3. "The Soul of the Movement": Calls and Responses 11
4. Motown: Money, Magic, and the Mask 15
5. *The Big Chill* vs. *Cooley High*: Two out of Three Falls for the Soul of Motown 22

The Gospel Impulse 28

6. Sam Cooke and the Voice of Change 31
7. Solid Gold Coffins: Phil Spector and the Girl Group Blues 37
8. SAR and the Ambiguity of Integration 40
9. "The Times They Are A-Changin' ": Port Huron and the Folk Revival 44
10. Woody and Race 49
11. "Blowin' in the Wind": Politics and Authenticity 53
12. Music and the Truth: The Birth of Southern Soul 56
13. Down at the Crossroads 65

The Blues Impulse 68

14. Soul Food: The Mid-South Mix 72
15. Dylan, the Brits, and Blue-Eyed Soul 79
16. The Minstrel Blues 85

17. Otis, Jimi, and the Summer of Love:
From Monterey to Woodstock 89
18. Last Thoughts on the Dream: Dot and Diana 94

Section Two: "Love or Confusion?": Black Power, Vietnam, and the Death of the Dream

19. Sly in the Smoke 103
20. Death Warrants: LBJ, Martin, and the Liberal Collapse 106
21. "All Along the Watchtower": Jimi Hendrix and the
Sound of Vietnam 109
22. 'Retha, Rap, and Revolt 116
23. "Spirit in the Dark": Aretha's Gospel Politics 121
24. Jazz Warriors: Malcolm and Coltrane 125

The Jazz Impulse 132

25. "Black Is an' Black Ain't": JB, Miles, and Jimi 137
26. Curtis Mayfield's Gospel Soul 144
27. John Fogerty and the Mythic South 151
28. "Trouble Comin' Every Day": Southern Strategies
and the Revolution on TV 158
29. Troubled Souls: Wattstax and Motown (West) 165
30. "Where Is the Love?": Donny Hathaway and the
End of the Dream 172

Section Three: "I Will Survive": Disco, Irony, and the Sound of Resistance

31. Reflections in a Mirror Ball 177
32. Reverend Green and the Return of Jim Crow 179
33. Demographics 101: Hard Times in Chocolate City 183
34. Black Love in the Key of Life 187
35. Jimmy Carter and the Great Quota Disaster
of 1978 191
36. Roots: The Messages in the Music 197
37. God Love Sex: Disco and the Gospel Impulse 203
38. Disco Sucks 209
39. Punks and Pretenders 212
40. Rebellion or Revolution: Bruce Springsteen and the Clash 218

41. P-Funkentelechy 226
42. Redemption Songs: Bob Marley in Babylon 230
43. The Message: Hip-hop and the South Bronx 236

Section Four: "And That's the Way That It Is": The Reagan Rules, Hip-hop, and the Megastars

44. Welcome to the Terrordome 245
45. Springsteen and the Reagan Rules 246
46. The Problem of Healing in the Hall of Mirrors 251
47. The View from Black America 253
48. The Way It Was and the Way It Is 257
49. Brer Rabbit and Tar Baby 260
50. Run-D.M.C. Negotiates the Mainstream 262
51. "A Hero to Most": Elvis in the Eighties 263
52. Megastardom and Its Discontents: Michael and Madonna 271
53. Duke Ellington for Our Time: The Symbol Formerly Known as Prince 277
54. West Africa Is in the House 281
55. "Bring the Noise": The New School Rap Game 284
56. "Know the Ledge": KRS-One, Rakim, and the Gangstas 290
57. "Born in the U.S.A.": Springsteen and Race 297

Section Five: "Holler If Ya Hear Me": In the Nineties Mix

58. Wasteland of the Free 307
59. American Dreaming 309
60. C.R.E.A.M., or, Tupac on Death Row 314
61. Deeper Shades of Soul 319
62. Ancestors and Elders 327
63. Conversations with the Ancestors 333
64. Flashes of the Spirit 336
65. Redemption Songs (The Nineties Remix) 340

Notes 354

Playlist 388

Index 419