

When the 1960s began, Americans were comfortably wrapped in postwar complacency, barely suspecting the enormous changes their country would endure in the coming decade. The nation's innocence was quickly shattered with the assassination of its promising young president, a growing racial divide, and escalating military action in Southeast Asia. A new youth culture emerged as more and more teenagers rebelled against conventions of the previous generation. This was new America, and sexuality, fashion, communal living, draft dodging, drug use, and sit-ins were all elements of an increasing Generation Gap.

Iconoclasts such as Muhammad Ali, Bob Dylan, Jimi Hendrix, Joe Namath, Ralph Nader, and Andy Warhol brought color and controversy to this tumultuous decade, while cultural events such as the Stonewall March, *The Graduate*, and the Monterey Pop Festival provided indelible images of a bellwether time in American society. Whether it was Beatlemania, bell-bottoms, or bumper stickers, the cultural contributions of the '60s showed that the times were definitely a-changin'.

This book describes the important changes in American society during the '60s, from feminism and civil rights to the Cuban Missile Crisis. Individual chapters explore various aspects of popular culture, including advertising, fashion, literature, music, visual arts, and travel. Supplemental resources include a timeline of important events, an extensive bibliography for further reading, and a subject index.