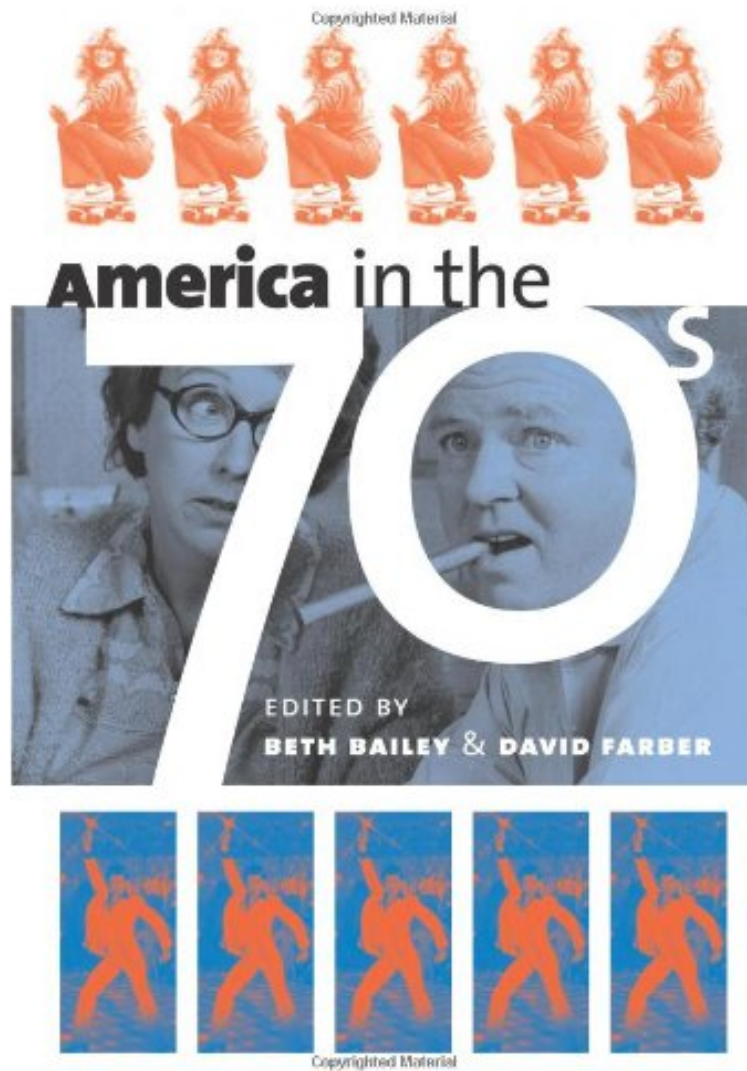


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America in the Seventies (Culture America)

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From Brand: University Press of Kansas : America in the Seventies (Culture America) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised America in the Seventies (Culture America):

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Saw excerpt on Delancey Place morning e-mail and was intrigued By Louise S. Anderson I subscribe to the 5 x a week Delancey Place email book excerpts because it expands my horizons as to what kinds of books I might like to read. In this case, I became an adult during the 70's and it was enlightening to me to read about the social changes that were taking place (at a macro level) and comparing them to my own experiences (at a micro level), like finding my first professional job as a woman in the marketplace, hearing about

computers that you could actually have in your home (instead of creating stacks and stacks of punch cards to be feed into the enormous card readers at the all night campus computer center), The essays are well-written and foot noted, so if you want to burrow on back to the primary sources, you can, In general, if you like to read history, sociology, biography or other non-fiction works, and don't know where to start, you should sign up at delanceyplace.com. There is always a link to purchase the book via , and a part of the profits supports literacy programs. I have purchased many books, like this one, that I wouldn't even have known about otherwise, and have thoroughly enjoyed. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The 70s is when the 60s got implemented By Armando Fox The premise of this book, as with similar books of observations of the American 70s by other writers, could be summed up as "the 70s is when the 60s were implemented." While the seeds of civil rights, gender equality, labor solidarity, etc. may have been sown in the 60s, the actual policies that put these ideas in practice happened during the 70s. At the same time, the US confronted a series of setbacks: Vietnam was not only a military embarrassment with enormous human costs, but a war that polarized the nation on moral grounds, with none of the moral clarity or national purpose of WW II; expanded government programs and higher-paid labor to meet the social demands of the 60s, combined with the replacement of American heavy industry with imported goods and the movement of labor-intensive production overseas, resulted in "stagflation" (inflation combined with economic stagnation); the Arab oil shocks painfully emphasized America's utter dependence on the whim of a small group of nations whose culture in some ways could not be further from our own. Richard Nixon's Watergate scandal made the public cynical that the government was not only incapable of resolving these economic woes, but lacked integrity and was not invested in the well being of the middle class. Social structures were challenged by movements involving gender roles, racial identity, and sexual identity, destabilizing social norms that were perceived to have anchored the country for decades and leaving many people casting about for their personal identity and purpose as well as confidence in their country. This toxic combination led to a nationwide anomie and alienation as expressed in gritty (and now-iconic) 70s movies like Taxi Driver, Looking for Mr. Goodbar, Midnight Cowboy, and Saturday Night Fever. One very significant result of this existential crisis was the emergence of the New Right with the Reagan election of 1980. By latching on to the common denominators of dissatisfaction with government incompetence and corruption and the alienation bred by changing social roles, the New Right assembled a constituency of anti-tax activists, critics of "big government", and the religious right. Reagan and his successors used this mandate to gut the government altogether, following an existing conservative agenda that just needed dusting off after losing its social luster during the 60s. The book is a collection of well chosen independent essays, each treating one of these social or economic upheavals in detail. As an academic myself, I approached it with some trepidation since academic writing can be ponderous and needlessly self-indulgent, but these are vigorously written and eminently readable by a nonexpert like me. I commend the editors on their choices, though I would have enjoyed some connective material to introduce each essay or place it in the context of the larger themes, as is common in "edited by" collections. Notwithstanding, this is a highly readable and informative account of how the "me decade" of the 70s, in trying to implement the social reforms of the 60s, ironically enabled the rise of the New Right and "greed is good" in the 80s. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Customer got for school project

Tucked between the activist Sixties and the conservative Eighties lies a largely misunderstood and still under-appreciated decade. Now nine leading scholars of postwar America offer a revealing look at the Seventies and their rightful place in the epic narrative of American history This is the first major work to relate the economic decline and cultural despair of the Seventies to the creative efforts that would reshape American society. Dogged by economic and political crises at home and foreign policy failures abroad, Americans responded to a growing sense of uncertainty in a variety of ways. Some explored the new freedoms promised by the social change movements of the late Sixties. Some challenged the technological verities that ruled corporate America. Others sought to create autonomous zones in the ruins of decaying cities or on the bleak landscape of anomic suburbia. And, against a backdrop of massive economic dislocation and bicentennial celebrations, many Americans struggled to redefine patriotism and the meaning of the American dream. Focusing on how Americans made sense of their changing world by analyzing such sources as film, popular music, use of public space, advertising campaigns, and patriot rituals, these essays interweave the themes of economic transformation, identity reconfiguration, and cultural uncertainty. The contributors cover such topics as the public's increasing mistrust of government, the reshaping of working-class identity, and the tensions between the ideological and economic origins of changing gender roles. From existential despair in popular culture to the reactions of youth subcultures, these provocative articles plot the lives of Americans struggling to redefine themselves as their nation moved into an uncertain future. Together they recapture the essence and spirit of that era for those who lived it and for curious readers who have come of age since then and struggle to understand their own time.

It was an age of limits and an age of excess. . . . A time of high drama in which sexual liberationists and Gospel Hour devotees, Mohawked punks and disco dancers, furious displaced steel workers and new women professionals, Sunbelt and Rustbelt, white ethnics and people of color, all struggled to define America and to secure a future on a shifting cultural and economic ground. from the Introduction Bailey and Farber, both brilliant and original historians, have

taken a fresh and revealing look at a neglected and misunderstood decade. The remarkable essays they have assembled show that the 1970s were in some ways even more important than the preceding age of great dreams. Chester Pach, author of *Arming the Free World* From the Back Cover It was an age of limits and an age of excess. . . . A time of high drama in which sexual liberationists and Gospel Hour devotees, Mohawked punks and disco dancers, furious displaced steel workers and new women professionals, Sunbelt and Rustbelt, white ethnics and people of color, all struggled to define America and to secure a future on a shifting cultural and economic ground.--from the Introduction Bailey and Farber, both brilliant and original historians, have taken a fresh and revealing look at a neglected and misunderstood decade. The remarkable essays they have assembled show that the 1970s were in some ways even more important than the preceding age of great dreams.'--Chester Pach, author of *Arming the Free World* About the Author Beth Bailey is professor of American studies and Regents Lecturer at the University of New Mexico. Her books include *Sex in the Heartland* and *From Front Porch to Backseat*. David Farber is professor of history at the University of New Mexico. His books include *The Age of Great Dreams: America in the 1960s* and *The Sixties: From Memory to History*. They are coauthors of *The Columbia Guide to America in the 1960s* and *The First Strange Place*.