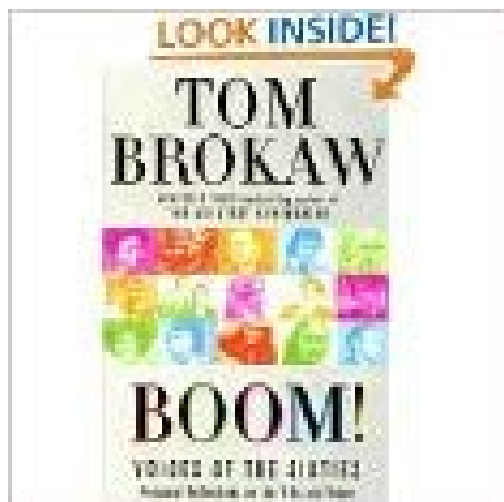


Boom! Voices of the Sixties *by* Tom Brokaw



ISBN: 0739490613

ISBN13: 978-0739490617

Author: Tom Brokaw

Book title: Boom! Voices of the Sixties

Pages: 662

Publisher: Random House Inc; aFirst Edition First Printing edition (2007)

Category: Americas

Size PDF version: 1996 kb

Size ePUB version: 1320 kb

Size FB2 version: 1860 kb

Other formats: doc lit mbr azw

Tom Brokaw eloquently evokes what it was like to live in the tumultuous 1960s with voices & stories by both famous and ordinary citizens, both all fascinating with remarkable stories to tell. If you enjoyed Brokaw's bestseller "The Greatest Generation" where he depicted the age of the Great Depression and the Second World War through stories of that generation, you are sure to enjoy this fascinating book.



Reviews of the **Boom! Voices of the Sixties** *by* Tom Brokaw

Anicasalar

Boom offers a fascinating look-back into the turbulent times in the late '60's and early '70's that shaped who we are today. Brokaw writes in the intro: "1968 was the volcanic center of the Sixties, with landscape-altering eruptions every month: political shocks, setbacks in Vietnam, assassinations, urban riots, constant assaults on authority, trips on acid, and a trip around the moon."

It's still remarkable to recall how many truly world and culture changing events and movements emanated from the 1960's. Brokaw had a front row seat to all of the changes due to his career as a journalist with great access to newsmakers and a well-honed ability to discern the importance of the events.

Brokaw brings together in "Boom" the voices of the 60's - some famous, some not so famous and writes that "For the most part, I am like the old class president at this reunion. I call on others and then let them have their say. I am here as a journalist but also as a citizen, a grandfather now and a young man then." Part One of the book is titled "Something's Happening Here" and discussed Brokaw's early life and career and the deep divisions that tore through the country. Part Two is "Aftershocks - Consequences, Intended and Otherwise", and is organized around a series of interviews with people who lived through the times or were affected by the events of the 60's. Part Three is a brief section titled "Reflections - Seeing What Connects". The final section, titled Timeline, is a very effective of summarizing the events of the 60's, listing briefly by date events starting with King's "I Have a Dream" speech in 1963, and concluding with the resignation of President Nixon in 1974.

"Boom" brings us recollections and reflections from many who lived through those times and effected change or were affected by it. The legacy of those years remains with us 40-50 years later, and there are many important history lessons to be gained.

Ylonean

What I liked about this book was first, it attempted to give some context to current events, although having been written before Barack Obama was elected and certainly before the rise of Donald Trump, it only hinted at how either of those things could happen. Second, I enjoyed reading the thoughts of some of the people who made the sixties memorable. There were some interesting observations made about the times by those who made them what they were. Or weren't.

What was missing, I thought, was a more thorough analysis by one of the country's best journalists about what the sixties meant both then and now. Brokaw allowed his interviewees to comment but he didn't really give me much of his opinions. I would have liked that.

Tygrafym

This view of the past is a rare gift from an honest journalist. He shares his views (that were never public) about people in the news. He tells a story of some very conflicted years with the major players described "au natural". This is not a book that is politically correct as it tells the unvarnished truth, as seen by someone who lived life according to Midwest standards - with enough outside influence to make the telling believable. Trust in our reporters has been tarnished because the networks demands cause the "ratings" to influence the depth of the report. We must STOP asking these dedicated people to color the story, put their own integrity aside just to get market share. This is a book for someone who yearns for a look INTO the reporter who is living life up close & personal.

Iriar

I bought this book for my Kindle and it reads like a novel. It is a real "page-turner" Having grown up in the 60's I was too naive to understand how much that decade influenced later American policies and politicians. The entire American landscape was changed from the peace of the easy going "Donna Reed Show"...the so-called "typical" American family, to families losing child after child in LBJ's policies and lies to keep our country's kids fighting in Viet Nam. It is very much a parallel to what is going on today in 2008. Bush and his policies in Iraq are the same old lies and his ego will not let him admit that we should not be fighting and bombing countries that have 2,000 year old histories and try to make them into "democracies." Such foolishness! Didn't Rome try to "colonize" the world once? Brokaw deftly attempts to draw comparisons without being forceful to our days in the 60's and the political issues we face today. Is the early 21st Century another defining decade like the 60's were? I guess only time will tell. One thing I think is for sure. We never should have stayed in Viet Nam and we never should have believed Bush's lies to get us into Iraq. While Brokaw does not use these words, it is apparent that the comparison is viable.

Mall

Hard to evaluate due to having "come of age" in the sixties. Historical accounts were good introductions. Individuals' evaluations of what the sixties meant seemed impulsive and personalized rather than analytical. Of course an author can not report in good faith what an interviewee replies. Maybe more in depth questioning was in order. Maybe not. Also perhaps the recounting of the greatest generation generated unfulfillable expectations. Was that due to it being totally foreign and unlike the sixties before my time? Or could it be that impact of that era was more defined? Generally good and maybe better the younger one is. Give it a try and if you were there add your own recollections as you relive the moments. For the most part for some of us those were the "good old days".

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