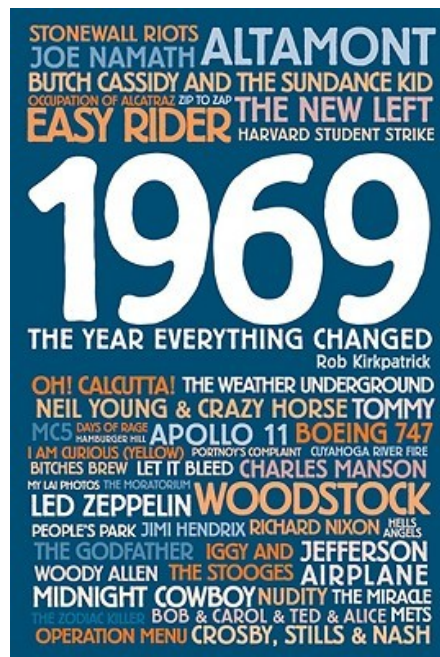




1969: The Year Everything Changed

Rob Kirkpatrick

Download now

Read Online ➔

1969: The Year Everything Changed

Rob Kirkpatrick

1969: The Year Everything Changed Rob Kirkpatrick

For the fortieth anniversary of 1969, Rob Kirkpatrick takes a look back at a year when America witnessed many of the biggest landmark achievements, cataclysmic episodes, and generation-defining events in recent history.

1969 was the year that saw Apollo 11 land on the moon, the Cinderella stories of Joe Namath's Jets and the "Miracle Mets," the Harvard student strike and armed standoff at Cornell, the People's Park riots, the first artificial heart transplant and first computer network connection, the Manson family murders and cryptic Zodiac Killer letters, the Woodstock music festival, *Easy Rider*, Kurt Vonnegut's *Slaughterhouse-Five*, the Battle of Hamburger Hill, the birth of punk music, the invasion of Led Zeppelin, the occupation of Alcatraz, death at Altamont Speedway, and much more. It was a year that pushed boundaries on stage (*Oh! Calcutta!*), screen (*Midnight Cowboy*), and the printed page (*Everything You Always Wanted to Know about Sex*), witnessed the genesis of the gay rights movement at Stonewall, and started the era of the "no fault" divorce. Richard Nixon became president, the New Left squared off against the Silent Majority, William Ayers co-founded the Weatherman Organization, and the nationwide Moratorium provided a unifying force in the peace movement.

Compelling, timely, and quite simply a blast to read, *1969* chronicles the year through all its ups and downs, in culture and society, sports, music, film, politics, and technology. This is a book for those who survived 1969, or for those who simply want to feel as alive as those who lived through this time of amazing upheaval.

1969: The Year Everything Changed Details

Date : Published January 15th 2009 by Skyhorse Publishing

ISBN : 9781602393660

Author : Rob Kirkpatrick

Format : Hardback 302 pages

Genre : History, Nonfiction, North American Hi..., American History, Politics

 [Download 1969: The Year Everything Changed ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online 1969: The Year Everything Changed ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online 1969: The Year Everything Changed Rob Kirkpatrick

From Reader Review 1969: The Year Everything Changed for online ebook

Stephen Ranney says

Very interesting book considering I was in Vietnam all that year, so everything that happened I just head on the news. I learned quite a bit about the weather underground that I didn't know.

Marc Axelrod says

Makes You Feel Like You're There

The highest amount of praise you can give any historical monograph is to say that it is so well written, that you feel like you are there. That's how I would describe 1969: the year everything changed. I don't know for sure if that is the year everything changed, but the author makes a compelling case, and you really feel the wind and the waves of the last year of the 60s. Recommended.

Victoria says

What is the old standard joke about the Sixties? That if you remember them, you didn't do it right? Meaning you didn't indulge in the drug culture. Well, I remembered all the BIG topics of this book but not many of the details. My excuse, however, was that in 1969 I had a newborn to pay attention to. That said, I really did learn a lot about the year that I did not know. Some of it I wish I still didn't know about while some of it just refreshed the fear and anger and frustration of those days.

Riccol says

This book did just what its blurb claimed - it chronicled events from 1969 that the author deemed significant and tried to give the reader a sense of the over-all mood and culture in the U.S.A at this point in time. I feel he went into too much detail on some things (for example, the history of certain bands, which I just skimmed, and the sports stories, most of which I skipped over completely) and not enough detail on other things. This is admittedly very subjective though; what's too much or too little for you depends of course on your particular interests and prior knowledge. He did a fairly good job of tying things together to paint a sociological portrait of the time but he left me wanting more in that respect.

Gary Baughn says

One time I was touring the Milwaukee Journal headquarters, and they took us to a room where some famous front pages were displayed, and I went right to the one for the First Man on the Moon. After I read the article, I noticed in the bottom corner of that same front page, an article on Chappaquiddick, which had also just happened the day before, but I was struck how those two events were not located next to one another in

my memory. I might not have even thought Chappaquiddick happened in 1969, whereas I always knew Neil Armstrong left his footprint on the moon in the summer of 1969, right after I graduated from high school. Since that year is at the center of my life (not in years, but in significance) it was pleasing to see the title of this book. Reading it is a nice trip through a sometimes unpleasant series of events, and sometimes you are struck, as I was in the Journal offices, of the strange juxtapositions of those important moments (Woodstock and Hurricane Camille at the same time, for example). The Year Everything Changed is a bit overblown as a thesis, but it's a little true, and when it was already personally true as it was for me, it's fun to go back and relive it in the comfort of my recliner. Hey, they're talkin' 'bout my g-g-g-g-generation!

Maryann MJS1228 says

This is the book equivalent of a survey course, covering crime, politics, music, movies, literature, sports and major events of the year 1969. It is relentlessly US-Centric - you won't hear a peep about any other country unless it's Vietnam. At it's best, this survey approach introduces the reader to lesser known topics, like the Native American occupation of Alcatraz or the rise of MC5. At it's worst, 1969 rehashes topics by quoting from deathless sources like Wikisource or Salon magazine.

That was part of the fascination for me. 1969 is a triumph of secondary research. Kirkpatrick read many a book and magazine article, fearlessly watched DVDs of documentaries and most challenging of all, watched a few movies and listened to a few albums. It's a shame he didn't actually talk to anyone who was there. It's not like he was writing about 1669.

The once-over-lightly feel means nothing really gets its due but in fairness this is a way to whet your appetite, not satisfy it. Still, events like My Lai and Chappaquiddick are no less horrific with the passage of time. Fortunately events like the moon landing, Earth Day and the Jets winning the Super Bowl retain their magic.

As a readable introduction to a single year of American history, one could do much worse.

Oddly enough, 1969 isn't the only year that everything changed. Apparently everything changed in 1959: The Year Everything Changed, too. Maybe 1979 was the year that didn't change much of anything.

Russell Sanders says

I was brain dead in the 1960s. I was an intelligent young man, near the top of my high school class. But I was brain dead. I was oblivious to most of the things going on around me—the things that have shaped our world. I knew little of the hippie movement, the Cuban missile crisis, the rise of Stones-style rock and roll, the beginnings of the Super Bowl, the burgeoning of the NY Mets, or the seminal movies of the era. I liked the Beatles, Peter, Paul and Mary, and Barbra Streisand. I read novels voraciously, and I bought Playboy and Esquire by the dozens at the local used book store. But still, I remained ignorant. So I've spent the ensuing years "catching up" on the era that silently shaped my life, shaped US history, and made a profound impact on the world. Rob Kirkpatrick's 1969: The Year that Everything Changed is another in a long list of books I've read about the 1960s. In some ways, it is the best. In that final year of the decade, so much happened. Kirkpatrick tells of it all (he has 24 pages of Bibliography and end notes, proving how much of it he does, indeed, tell us about.) Some of the happenings I actually knew about when they occurred, others I've learned about from other readings, many I learned more about from Kirkpatrick, and the rest were news to me.

Through it all, I was amazed that so much could take place in one year, twelve months' time. The author covers the music scene, the movies, the mass murders, the World Series, the Super Bowl, the Viet Nam war, the politics, and the civil rights movements. Here we find that within 365 days, our nation changed. It was the year of the Stonewall Riots, the beginning of the modern gay rights movement; the year of the end of the old west myth; the year of the American Indian movement; the Manson murders, the Zodiac killings; Woodstock, of which, the author's opinion is that the rosy, nostalgic views we hold are based on the movie, not the actual event; and Altamont, where a drug-filled, Hells Angels' fueled music festival turned into a riot that resulted in four deaths, one of them a murder. This book is worth reading if only to relate the events of 1969; but the five pages of epilogue put it all in perspective: the hippie movement, the days of peace of love and harmony and communes, quickly disintegrated when human nature took over; the radical films like Easy Rider were soon replaced by money-making blockbusters like Jaws and Star Wars. And Richard Nixon was deposed as Emperor of the US, only to be replaced by an ineffectual, unelected successor Gerald Ford, and then the loveable, well-meaning but terrible President Jimmy Carter. But along the way, gays were on the road to liberation, Native Americans were granted more rights, and the women's movement had begun. Not a bad legacy for a colorful decade.

Kris says

This is a great read for students of history, those who lived through it and those who have arrived long after but want some insight into the cultural, political, economic and social changes that ended the golden promise of the 60's and informed the "Me" generation of the 70's and right on through to today.

I am the last of the baby boomers. It was fun to look back at the incredible year that 1969 was: from the moon walk to Manson. It reflected so many of the things we referenced as teenagers in the coming decade. And as surprising as it might sound, this was a year that really closed the decade out in a negative way. Peace and love gave way to social unrest and violence.

The decade is covered in detail. Each chapter addresses an issue that was important (Vietnam, anti-war protests) or culturally significant (man's walk on the moon, Woodstock, the Tate/LaBianca murders). There are a million other things in between that are of equal or greater interest to the reader.

1969 is a real demarcation line. For those of you (us) who watched and enjoyed "Mad Men", 1969 is the real coda to that series. Don Draper may well have ended the decade buying the world a Coke and flashing the peace sign after his est retreat, but the real end of that decade was much darker.

Like many kids coming into the world today, the first ten years of my life were marked by Walter Cronkite and Harry Reasoner sharing the nightly tally of death from Vietnam. It influenced artistic choices and interests for me. The music changed from bubble gum pop to harder edged progressive rock, rock operas and the more internally focused singer/songwriter genre. Woodstock, three days of peace and love, gave way to Altamont, one day and night of death and destruction.

Johnson's socially progressive domestic policy and disastrous foreign policy gave Tricky Dick Nixon the leverage he needed to vault into the White House after his terrible showing opposite Kennedy. We saw Buddhists and students and then middle America, oppose our involvement in an unwinnable war that the Vietnamese had been waging for more than 50 years against the French, the English, The Americans and each other.

The bottom line is that I loved this book. It is well worth reading as in a few short years, it will be a half century since 1969. This is a good time to look back and review our mistakes as well as our successes and take stock as a nation.

Leslie Rogers says

Fun reading about my youth

I was in high school in 1969. A sweet, innocent child of the Michigan 50's. I remember everything written about as a somewhat casual observer. During the Woodstock festival, I personally was excited that I was old enough to drive my family from Detroit to Los Angeles and saw the massive traffic backups on the nightly news. I was a disengaged party during the Detroit riots, was horrified by Charles Manson and delighted at the moon landing. This is a wonderful telling of the good and the bad of that year and well worth the read.

Steve says

It was an amazing year. So many things signaled "the end of the Sixties." I turned 13 (became a teenager) that summer. Looking back, I am very aware of some of the events of 1969, but only vaguely aware of others. In January, the Jets beat the Colts in Super Bowl III, Nixon was inaugurated, and the Santa Barbara oil spill--still the third largest domestic spill--occurred. In May, The Who's "Tommy" was released in the U.S. and the film Midnight Cowboy was released. In late June, the Stonewall riots took place in NYC. In July, the iconic film Easy Rider was released--in that same month Mary Jo Kopechne died in a car driven by Ted Kennedy and (just two days later) Neil Armstrong walked on the moon. In early August, Sharon Tate and several others were murdered by the Manson "family." The Woodstock festival began on August 15 and, just before it was over, Hurricane Camille made landfall near Gulf Port, Mississippi. In late September, the Beatles released "Abbey Road," with the iconic photo of the Fab Four in the crosswalk. A couple of weeks later, the "Amazin' Mets" won the World Series. In late August, Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid was released. In November, a news story about the My Lai massacre (which had been covered up for a year and a half by the military) was first published. In December, four people died at the Altamont Speedway, where the Rolling Stones were performing at the end of another mega-concert. And that is just a few of the highlights. If you lived through the era, I recommend the book. The writing is not stellar, but the material certainly keeps your interest.

Ronnie Cramer says

A mixed bag for sure, but contains some worthwhile material. It's not unlike reading through bound copies of vintage TIME and NEWSWEEK magazines in the basement of a library.

Stan James says

Author Rob Kirkpatrick was about the same age as I was in 1969, which means he was more likely to be eating crayons than dropping acid like so many of the people mentioned in this book. Despite this, one of the strengths of 1969: The Year Everything Changed is the authoritative voice Kirkpatrick uses, lending a "you are there" feel to many of the events that are recounted.

Dividing the book into the four seasons doesn't really add much to the book, but having devoted sections on

politics, entertainment, sports and major events helps color in what the U.S. was like nearly five decades ago.

There are the stunning achievements, like the July moon landing, but the year is marked more by strife--the ongoing Vietnam war that Nixon inherited, racial violence, student protests, the rise of groups like the Weather Underground that engaged in attacks aimed at the government. It was also a time of experimentation and the shedding of inhibitions--nudity was in and drug use was more openly embraced than it had ever been before. Woodstock is remembered fondly, though Kirkpatrick reminds us that it was marred by terrible weather and a surprising number of uninspired acts that limped through their sets. Woodstock shines in comparison to the concert at the Altamont Speedway that closes out the book, though. The Rolling Stones urged the crowd, mixing uneasily with Hells Angels, to settle down even as a man in the midst of it was stabbed to death, one of multiple deaths at the event.

Kirkpatrick also covers the grim parade of death led by the Manson family and the Zodiac killer, the bracing vitality of film as it covered adult subjects with a newfound frankness, whether it be Sam Peckinpah's blood-spattered westerns or the X-rated seediness of *Midnight Cowboy* (as noted, an X-rating back then had more to do with violence and less with sexual content--the film later got re-rated to R). There's also a great deal of sports coverage here, particularly focusing on baseball and the improbable rise of the New York Mets. For fans of the team or baseball in general, these sections are terrifically written, capturing the drama and politics of the sport. Still, the sports parts feel almost incongruous next to the nigh-endless violence that surrounds them.

The book ends with a brief look ahead to the 70s, rounding out how a lot of the newsmakers of 1969 fared in the coming years. Nixon had that whole "whoops, I taped that, didn't I?" thing, NASA's glory with the moon landing would end just a few years later and the hippie movement faded away, though many of its ideals would persist in some form through the 70s before crumbling away under the conspicuous consumption of the 80s.

1969 offers an intriguing slice of how different the U.S. was in the late 60s. While violent police action and the disturbing growth of their militarization rightfully makes headlines today, it is sobering to see how little has changed since 1969 when police raids were executed on flimsy or false premises and gun battles--with resultant fatalities--were all too common. The biggest difference back then is probably in how so many of the protesters and people agitating for change were also prone to violence. In an era recalled as one of peace and love, the late 60s were more often bloody.

While some subjects are touched on a bit too briefly--inevitable given that the book is an overview of so many major events-- 1969 still gives a good feel for that era. I can't say I'd have wanted to be an adult living in the U.S. in 1969 but it would certainly have been...interesting.

Recommended, albeit if you don't enjoy sports a not-insignificant chunk of the book will be a wash.

Blog on Books says

Everyone knows the 60's were a revolutionary time in America. It was the decade when JFK ushered in a new generation of political promise, the U.S. put a man on the moon and the Beatles and Height Ashbury begat hippies, psychedelics and power to the people.

But it was the year 1969 that capped off the decade and brought many of its ideas to a crashing end. Author Rob Kirkpatrick chose to zone in on the events of that year which, just two years after the "summer of love," conspired to end the hippie-dippy era (peace, love, dove) through the politics of the Vietnam War, the

Tate/LaBianca murders, the lunar landing, the first Boeing 747, the breakup of the Beatles and the death by Hell's Angels at the Rolling Stone's Altamont festival.

Like a news journalist, Kirkpatrick weaves the story, based on myriad factual references, of a year when the lights went out on the 60's dream. Through recounts of politics, film, music and sports, "1969: The Year Everything Changed" offers a vivid portrayal of a more colorful time; an experimental time where almost anything was considered off-limits. A time, when – as Kirkpatrick references Theodore Roszak's book, "The Making of a Counter Culture" – and a commentary of the Broadway musical Hair became a metaphor for youth-society as a whole; a "group-tribal activity searching for a new and meaningful way of life."

Kirkpatrick covers a lot of ground in his recantation of these twelve months of American history. Highlights range from the political (Black Panthers, Students for a Democratic Society (SDS)) to Nixon's expansion of the Vietnam War into Cambodia ("Operation Breakfast"), to sports (Joe Namath and the AFL's emergence in Super Bowl III, the Amazing Mets, etc.), to films (I am Curious Yellow to Easy Rider) to music (Blind Faith, Led Zeppelin, Jefferson Airplane, Woodstock, et al...). The author revisits much of the journalism of the times piecing together the historical and cultural details of these events that might otherwise be lost to time – even at one point correcting the record (for example, when Rolling Stone reported that the Altamont killing happened during "Sympathy for the Devil" instead of several songs later.)

In all, "1969" is a book that should surely have been written before now. The fact that it wasn't, only served for Kirkpatrick to correct the error while getting it right

Alan says

For me, the year 1969 began with my last semester of high school, which was forgettable because I was already accepted into college. I spent the hot summer of 1969 working in my father's factory to earn some spending cash and in the fall I started a new life at college in Cleveland, where my teachers challenged every middle class idea and capability I thought I had. I was in my own world, living without a clue to what was happening in the US and the world.

I learned the details about what I was missing from reading 1969: The Year Everything Changed. Richard Nixon was president, bringing the kind of madness to politics that was unmatched until the election of Donald "Twitter" Trump. Nixon ordered the covert bombing of Cambodia and downplayed the massacre of Vietnamese women and children at My Lai, a story uncovered by investigative reporter, Seymour Hersh.

The age of Camelot, ushered in with the 1960 election of Jack Kennedy, reached its peak in the summer of 1969 with the Apollo 11 moon landing but the era crashed the same summer as the story broke about how Ted Kennedy drove his car off of the bridge at Chappaquiddick and he left the dead body of his friend, Mary Jo Kopechne, at the scene without calling the police for many hours.

Meanwhile the sexual revolution peaked with the media bringing images and sounds of the changes in morality through books (Portnoy's Complaint) and movies (I am Curious, Yellow). And there was the Woodstock festival. With change in the air in 1969, oppressed groups demanded their rights. The LGBT rights movement began in June 1969 with the Stonewall riots and 89 American Indians occupied the island of Alcatraz in November 1969, igniting a movement of native American rights.

And much more ... In music 1969 shined with the Grateful Dead's Aoxomoxoa, The Who's Tommy, the first album of Crosby, Stills, and Nash, and King Crimson's In the Court of the Crimson King. In politics, there

was the obscene trial of the Chicago 7 and the FBI murdered leaders of the Black Panther Party. The Cuyahoga River caught on fire and an oil spill ruined the beaches of Santa Barbara.

Yes, I know every year has many significant events and stories but I have to agree with the authors of this book, 1969 was "amazing, startling, and culture-defining."

R.S. Gompertz says

Students and fans of the 1960's can debate which year had the most impact. Fortunately, there's a book for everyone.

Mark Kurlansky's "1968 The Year that Rocked the World" is an excellent read about the year MLK and RFK were assassinated. This book looks out across the entire world to see the impact of the Vietnam War, student rebellions, Soviet invasions, and cultural revolutions.

David Browne's "Fire and Rain: The Beatles, Simon and Garfunkel, James Taylor, CSNY, and the Lost Story of 1970" tells the inside story about the year that produced some of modern music's greatest and most lasting albums.

Both are fascinating and worth reading.

Right in between is Rob Kirkpatrick's "1969: The Year Everything Changed" with a great summary of just about everything that happened in the USA during this eventful year when mankind landed on the moon.

"1969" is casts a wide net across US politics, sports, technology and culture. From the promise of Woodstock to nightmare at Altamont. The book would be an excellent source of detail to anyone researching the year that produced such diverse events as the musical "Hair" and the murderous Manson family.

Led Zeppelin. Nixon. The environmental movement. Easy Rider. Stonewall riots. The 747. A man on the moon. It all happened in 1969.

Many say the Sixties began with JFK's election and ended at Altamont. If so, "1969" is the perfect bookend to an amazing era whose impact ripples to this very day.
