

"The Eve of Destruction is impossible to put down.... Those who lived through 1965 will want to read this book; those who didn't ought to read it to understand today's political world."—E. J. Dionne Jr.

The

EVE *of*

DESTRUCTION

How 1965

Transformed America

JAMES T. PATTERSON

WINNER OF THE BANCROFT PRIZE



The Eve of Destruction: How 1965 Transformed America, James T. Patterson, Basic Books, 2012, 0465013589, 9780465013586, 310 pages. At the beginning of 1965, the U.S. seemed on the cusp of a golden age. Although Americans had been shocked by the assassination in 1963 of President Kennedy, they exuded a sense of consensus and optimism that showed no signs of abating. Indeed, political liberalism and interracial civil rights activism made it appear as if 1965 would find America more progressive and unified than it had ever been before. In January 1965, President Lyndon Johnson proclaimed that the country had "no irreconcilable conflicts." Johnson, who was an extraordinarily skillful manager of Congress, succeeded in securing an avalanche of Great Society legislation in 1965, including Medicare, immigration reform, and a powerful Voting Rights Act. But as esteemed historian James T. Patterson reveals in *The Eve of Destruction*, that sense of harmony dissipated over the course of the year. As Patterson shows, 1965 marked the birth of the tumultuous era we now know as "The Sixties" when American society and culture underwent a major transformation. Turmoil erupted in the American South early in the year, when police attacked civil rights demonstrators in Selma, Alabama. Many black leaders, outraged, began to lose faith in nonviolent and interracial strategies of protest. Meanwhile, the U.S. rushed into a deadly war in Vietnam, inciting rebelliousness at home. On August 11th, five days after Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act, racial violence exploded in the Watts area of Los Angeles. The six days of looting and arson that followed shocked many Americans and cooled their enthusiasm for the president's remaining initiatives. As the national mood darkened, the country became deeply divided. By the end of 1965, a conservative resurgence was beginning to redefine the political scene even as developments in popular music were enlivening the Left. In *The Eve of Destruction*, Patterson traces the events of this transformative year, showing how they dramatically reshaped the nation and reset the course of American life..

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1968 in America Music, Politics, Chaos, Counterculture, and the Shaping of a Generation, Charles Kaiser, 1988, History, 306 pages. Charles Kaiser's 1968 in America is widely recognized as one of the best historical accounts of the 1960s. This book devotes equal attention to the personal and the political

After the Eve of Destruction , James E. Crist, 2011, Religion, 256 pages. You will get your dollars' worth with this purchase. It is written by a man but prompted by God. This is a great sequel to, "On the Eve of Destruction," another of the authors

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America's Lost War Vietnam, 1945-1975, Charles E. Neu, Jan 24, 2005, History, 272 pages. In college and high school classrooms across the United States, students display a keen interest in knowing more about what they rightly sense was a pivotal event in the recent

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Supernation at peace and war being certain observations, depositions, testimonies, and graffiti gathered on a neo-man fact-and-fantasy-finding tour of the most powerful nation in the world, Dan Wakefield, 1968, , 252 pages. .

Are You Happy Now? , Richard Babcock, Nov 6, 2012, , 309 pages. John Lincoln is a thirtysomething book editor miserably ensconced at Pistakee, a dinky Chicago publisher, where he toils on titles like 37 Rambles Through the Windy City. He

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