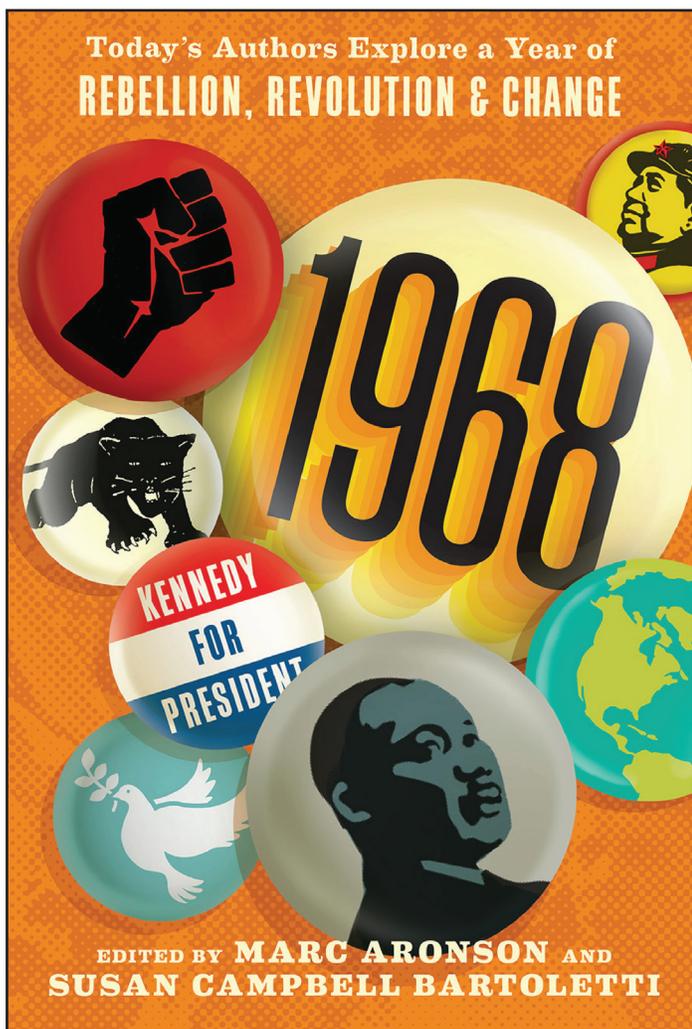


A NONFICTION COLLECTION ABOUT A PIVOTAL YEAR

Welcome to 1968—a revolution in a book. Essays, memoirs, and more by these fourteen award-winning authors offer unique perspectives on one of the world’s most tumultuous years. As we face our own moments of crisis and division, 1968 reminds us that we’ve clashed before and found a way forward—and that looking back can help map a way ahead.



HC: 978-0-7636-8993-3

Also available as an e-book and on audio

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== ABOUT THE EDITORS ==



MARC ARONSON is the author and editor of many titles for young people, including *War Is: Soldiers, Survivors, and Storytellers Talk about War*, co-edited by Patty Campbell, and *Master of Deceit: J. Edgar Hoover and America in the Age of Lies*. Marc Aronson lives in New Jersey.



SUSAN CAMPBELL BARTOLETTI is the author of many nonfiction books for young people, including *Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow*, a Newbery Honor Book. She lives in Pennsylvania.

== FROM THE EDITORS' INTRODUCTION ==

Stories matter. True stories matter. Nonfiction writers write for story in the same way that fiction writers do. We share a love of idea and words, a love for art and craft.

One of the joys of creating this nonfiction anthology was the opportunity to showcase different ways of framing and writing nonfiction. In this collection, you'll find authors who relied on memory, who conducted interviews, and who utilized archival material and scholarship. Some focused tightly on one incident or subject; others offered a broad exposition of a movement.

Each approach yields different voices, different stories, different styles of writing, different points of view. There is no reason—indeed, no excuse—for nonfiction to be bland, voiceless, and uniform.

This is where one of us—Marc—interjects, saying, “There are two common misunderstandings about nonfiction: (1) that nonfiction equals facts and (2) that since experts keep changing their views, and since even in everyday life, we all have differing points of view, ‘it is all relative.’ Facts are useful in nonfiction, but the heart of nonfiction is thinking: making a contention, a case, a story. A fact may be important, but it is not an explanation; while each of us, even an expert, may have a different approach to history, those views are not equally true. Interpretations can be compared, contrasted, evaluated. We will never have perfect knowledge, but we can determine which of our current views is more likely. Indeed, that is what we must do: compare, contrast, judge.”

And this is where the other one of us—Susan—interrupts Marc, agreeing with him but questioning the word *relative*, asking, “If what we know—knowledge—changes over time, is it contingent upon time and place and therefore relative? Is it possible to then understand the past and make meaning about the past in different, even contradictory ways, based on new facts and new knowledge? Is it possible to have multiple ownerships of the past? Is this the reason that so many interpretations of the past can be told from different points of view?”

This is where we agree: Nonfiction is a commitment to a research and writing process. Nonfiction writers utilize the same literary devices that fiction writers do, but we do not invent characters, dialogue, or other details of fact. We share our sources, research, and reasoning behind the writing. We're open to challenge. If we come across facts or interpretations that upend what we initially believed, we examine, reconsider, and rewrite accordingly. We must be willing to be wrong. In this way, we are faithful to the process of exploration and discovery—and to a reasoned construction of our subject.

Each story in this book could be written again, framed from another point of view. Another edition of the book you are reading could be written from the point of view of those who detested the student revolts at Columbia University and in Paris, or from the point of view of Chicago mayor Richard Daley and the Chicago police force or a National Guardsman, or from a perspective that shows 1968 as a key point in the growth of political conservatism, evangelical movements, and resistance to a woman's access to birth control and abortion.

No matter your point of view, we hope our book allows you to visit an earlier time when global tectonic plates seemed to be inexorably smashing into one another, even as you make sense of the quakes taking place around us now. What political forces are gathering now that will shape the next fifty years—and what role do you want to play in them?

What will be your revolution?

