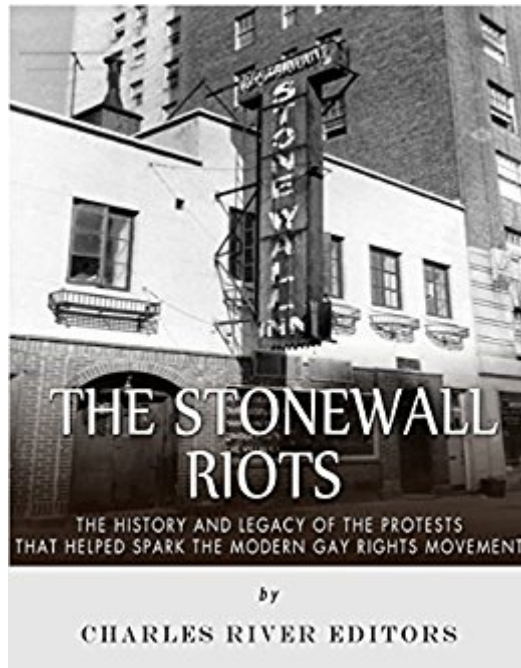


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The Stonewall Riots: The History And Legacy Of The Protests That Helped Spark The Modern Gay Rights Movement



Synopsis

*Includes pictures*Includes accounts of the riots by protesters and police*Includes online resources and a bibliography for further reading*Includes a table of contents

"The Stonewall riots were a key moment for gay people. Throughout modern history, gays had thought of themselves as something like a mental illness or maybe a sin or a crime. Gay liberation allowed us to make the leap to being a 'minority group,' which made life much easier."

— Edmund White

In 1969, America was still undergoing plenty of social turmoil, much of it the result of sweeping changes made via the Civil Rights Movement and the Vietnam War, which helped spark the counterculture. Protests were prominent across the country, and one of the movements galvanized during this time was on behalf of the LGBT community, who were often subjected to discrimination in all facets of life. However, LGBT rights were naturally on the backburner for most Americans at the time, and it's safe to say few considered them until hearing about the Stonewall riots that took place at the end of June 1969 in New York City. Given the discrimination, gay people tried to meet in secret gay bars, and it was common for police to try to bust up such gatherings, but on the night of June 28, the patrons at the Stonewall Inn had enough. As the police tried to line everybody in the bar up and identify them, the crowd hanging around the place began to swell, and tensions began to rise as there were increasing calls to challenge the propriety of the police action. As people sang "We Shall Overcome" and there were chants of "Gay Power," a scuffle eventually broke out, and the police resorted to anti-riot tactics to break up the crowd, injuring an untold number with bats and other objects. The next day, there were further riots, and in the coming days, as news of what happened spread, a gay rights movement began to sprout, consisting of more peaceful protest and pickets. Eventually, the Stonewall riots became a rallying cry across the country for gay rights, and gay rights groups popped up in every state. There would be gay pride marches on the anniversary of the Stonewall riots to commemorate the event, and gay rights entered the mainstream and truly became part of the national debate. As historian Lillian Faderman put it, "The Stonewall Rebellion was crucial because it sounded the rally for that movement. It became an emblem of gay and lesbian power. By calling on the dramatic tactic of violent protest that was being used by other oppressed groups, the events at the Stonewall implied that homosexuals had as much reason to be disaffected as they."

The Stonewall Riots: The History and Legacy of the Protests that Helped Spark the Modern Gay Rights Movement chronicles the fateful chain of events that brought about the raid and the uprising that many consider the first step in the fight for gay rights. Along with pictures of important people, places, and events, you will learn about the Stonewall riots like never before, in no time at all.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I like this book about the Stonewall riots because it gives the history of the gay and lesbian community in the United States. I did not realize that the Mafia controlled the gay bars in New York City and overcharged the gay community for their services. The authors of the book indicated that the Stonewall bar catered to a segment of the gay community that were not welcome in other homosexual social gatherings. The Stonewall clientele included "Queens", young homosexuals and the young gays that tended to be too poor or too new to the community to fit into the other gay social gatherings. I knew that being openly gay in the past could potentially destroy the individuals future job opportunities but the book explained this fact in greater detail. Also one will find the history of the various gay and lesbian organizations starting with the Mattachine Society through the Gay Liberation Front to the Gay Activists Alliance. If you're looking for a brief and concise history of the gay movement then this is a good book for you

I have always heard about these riots but never read about it in depth. From the outset, the police were a constant presence in that community. It never really discussed the Mafia's role in these arrests. But it did discuss a lot of the influence "The StoneWall" had on the gay rights movement,

among other freedoms of the homosexual society. Excellent book, I definitely recommend it

Charles River Editors has done a public service by publishing "The Stonewall Riots." This book explains much about the origins of the Gay movement. Before I saw the book, I had never heard of the Stonewall riots. This book clarified why the movement happened. Anyone interested in the early movement would profit greatly from reading this book.

Very well written and understandable

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