

THE LITERATURE OF REBELLION



The voice of dissent in contemporary
American Literature and Society.

1960S AMERICA

The Cold War continued, with the Vietnam War and Cuban Missile Crisis. The period witnessed the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, and black rights activists Malcolm X and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. America won the Space Race, landing a man on the moon in 1969.

The 70 million children of the baby boom became teenagers. They wanted change, and developed revolutionary ways of thinking that create real change in the cultural fabric of America. Minorities fought for their rights. There was revolution in the air, which was also reflected in the works of the writers of the time.

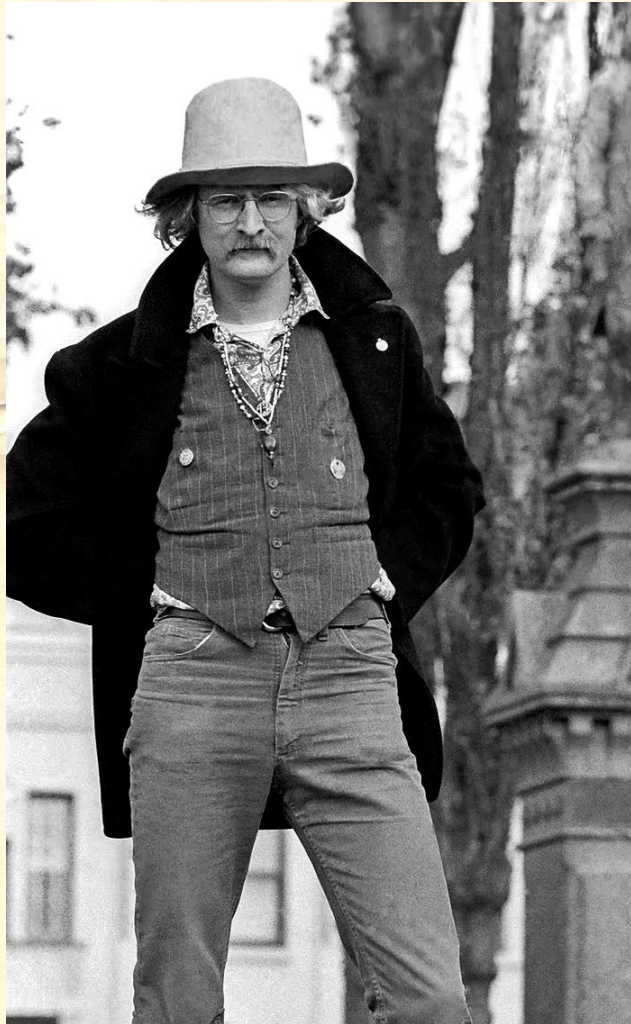
THE 1960S COUNTERCULTURE



Young people rejected the norms of the 1950s. They were against the war in Vietnam, the nuclear threat of the Cold War, and fought for the rights of minority groups. They saw the American Dream as a materialist nightmare. They protested for social justice. Their writing, art and music of the 60s reflected this.

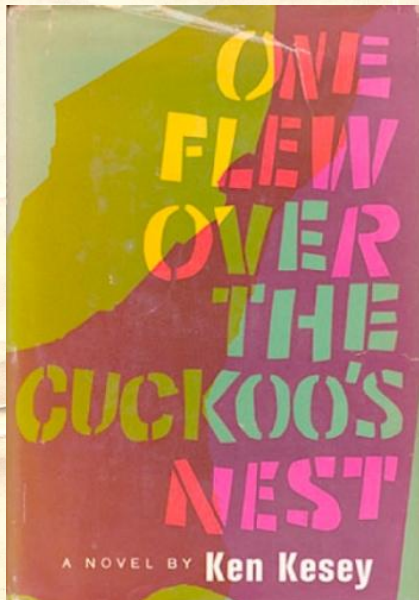
This period witnessed serious civil unrest, as the protest movement took to the streets, and occupied university campuses. Young people became political.

FROM BEATS TO HIPPIES



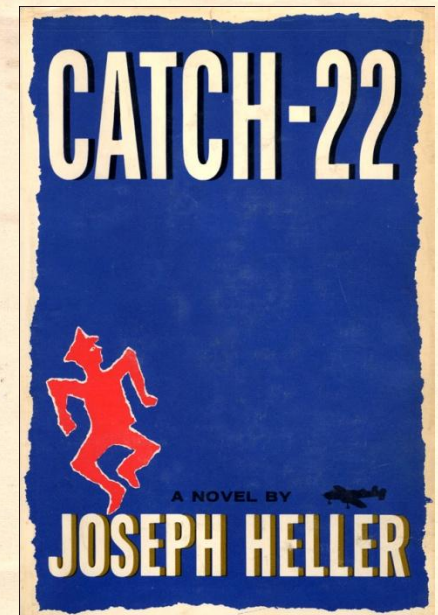
Often referred to as 'the last of the Beats and the first of the Hippies, Richard Brautigan was a significant figure in the San Francisco counterculture scene that developed from the Beats of 1950s, into the Hippies of the 1960s. The etymology of 'hippie' is from 'hipster', initially used to describe beatniks who had moved into San Francisco's Haight-Ashbury district.

WAR AND MADNESS IN NOVELS



Published in 1962, rebellious Randle Patrick McMurphy fakes insanity to escape a prison sentence. Only to end up fighting against the rules of institution, represented by Nurse Ratched.

'Catch-22' published in 1961 is the story of Capt. John Yossarian's battle against the insanity of military bureaucracy and the futility of war, during WWII.



LAST EXIT TO BROOKLYN

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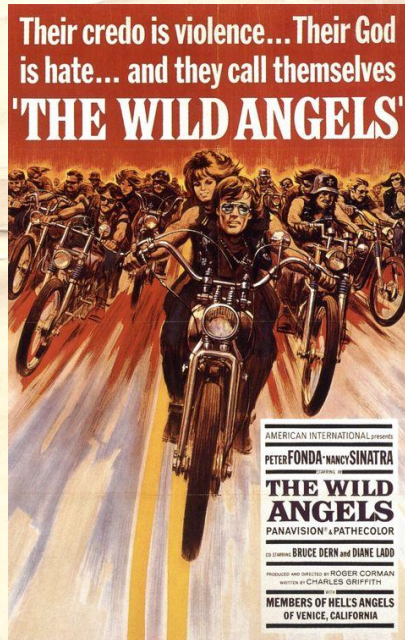
"LAST EXIT TO BROOKLYN WILL EXPLODE LIKE A RUSTY
HELLISH BOMBHELL OVER AMERICA AND STILL BE EAGERLY
READ IN 100 YEARS" ALLEN GINSBERG

HUBERT SELBY JR.

Last Exit to Brooklyn is a 1964 novel by American author Hubert Selby, Jr. The novel has become a cult classic because of its harsh, uncompromising look at lower class Brooklyn in the 1950s. And due to its frank portrayals of taboo subjects, such as drug use, street violence, homosexuality, transvestism, gang rape and domestic violence.

HELLS ANGELS

Hells Angels motorcycle gangs originated in 1948, but gained cultural significance in the 1960s.



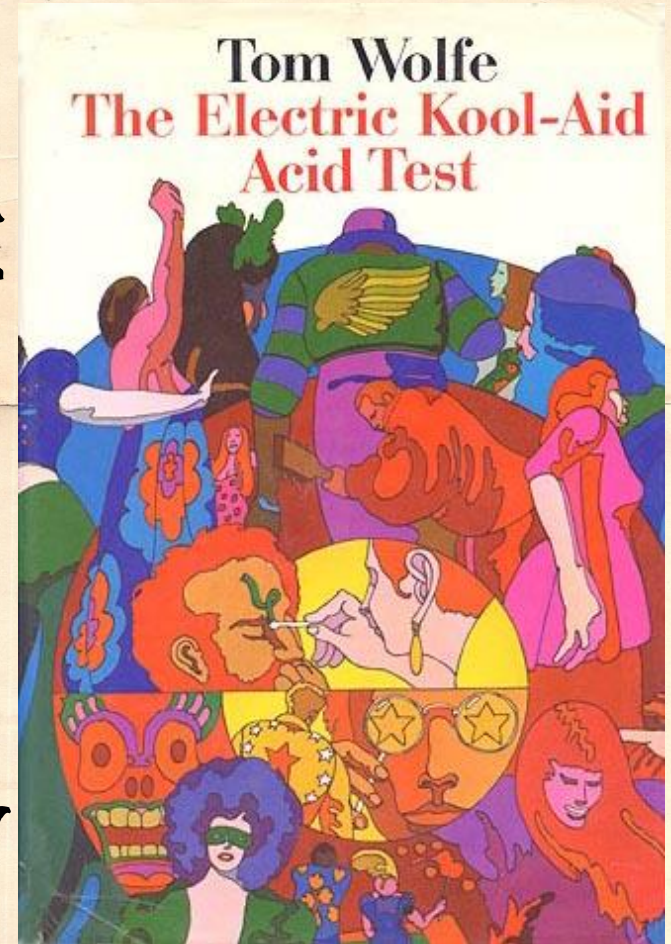
The Wild Angels a 1966 movie, made on location in Southern California. A story of drugs and violence, it came out 3 years before the more famous Easy Rider which also featured Peter Fonda playing the main character.

Hell's Angels: The Strange and Terrible Saga of the Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs by Hunter S. Thompson, was also published in 1966.



THE ELECTRIC KOOL-AID ACID TEST

A work of literary journalism by Tom Wolfe, published in 1968. It tells the story of Ken Kesey (author of *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*) and his band of 'Merry Pranksters' (which included Neal Cassady and Timothy Leary). They drove across America in an old psychedelic painted school bus. A seminal book about the hippy movement and the drugs culture of the late 1960s.



WOODSTOCK (1969)

A defining moment in history. Three days of peace & music. 32 acts played to around 500,000 people.

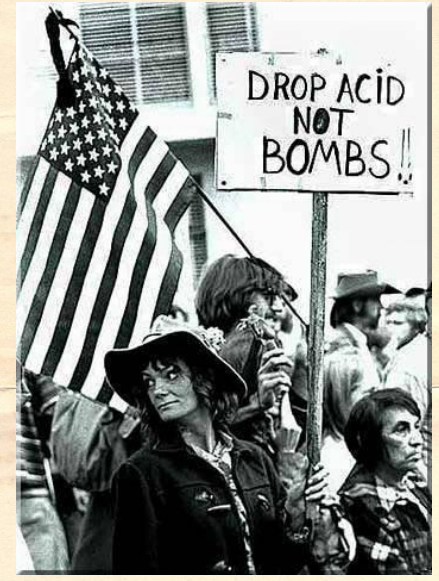
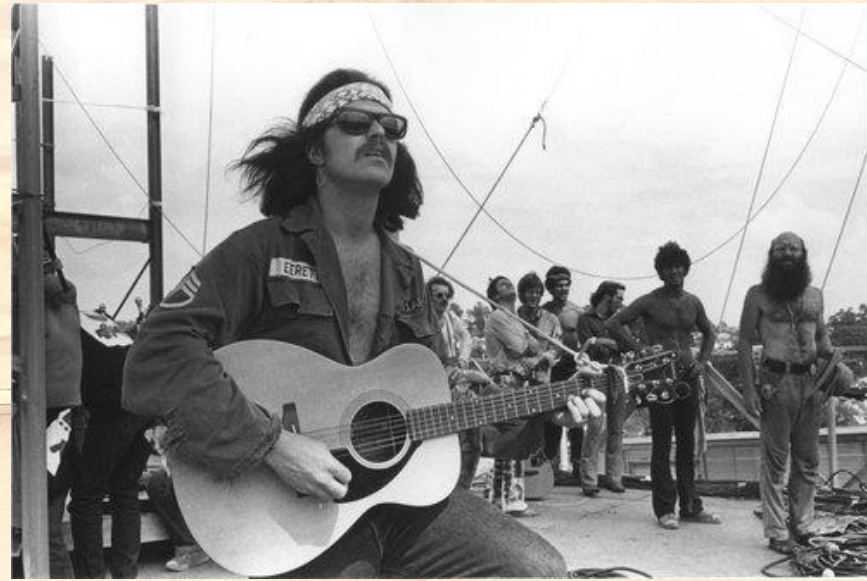


JIMI HENDRIX PLAYING HIS FAMOUSLY CONTROVERSIAL ANTI-WAR VERSION OF THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER AT WOODSTOCK 1969.



The sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll concert featured counterculture musical artists that went on to become icons of the 20th century.

PROTEST SONGS AND VIETNAM



COUNTRY JOE McDONALD – “FEEL LIKE I'M FIXING TO DIE” AT WOODSTOCK 1969.

The war in Vietnam hung heavy over the whole of the 1960s. The peace movement found its voice in music. The protest song was a way of expressing how people felt about the atrocities of war.



BREAK TIME

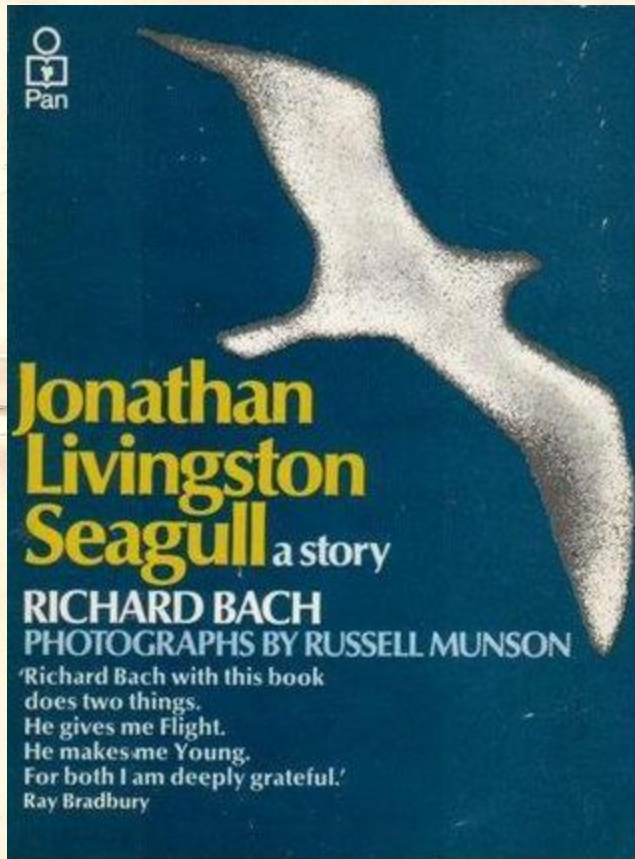


1970S AMERICA

The activism of the 1960s continued in the 1970s, particularly for women and other minorities. As the war in Vietnam came to an end, new social causes came to the fore, especially environmentalism. In 1974 President Richard Nixon was forced to resign over the Watergate scandal. 1976 was the country's bicentennial.

The avant-garde artists of the 60s, refined their work, slowly becoming accepted by the public. Many books published in the 70's revolved around a general theme of man's alienation from his spiritual roots. The period also saw the rise of the investigative journalist.

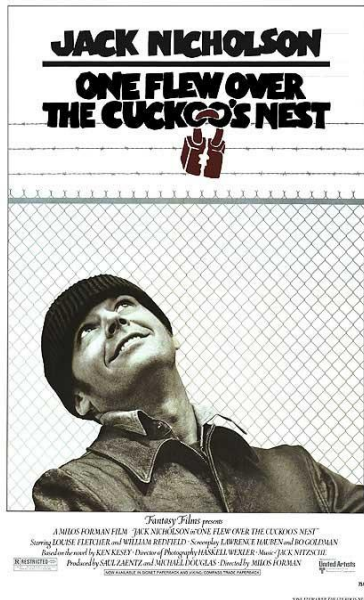
JONATHAN LIVINGSTON SEAGULL



1970 novella by Richard Bach, is a fable about a seagull is bored with the daily squabbles, learning about life and flight. His unwillingness to conform results in his expulsion from his flock. As an outcast, he learns to 'spread his wings' through knowledge. He returns home to gather around him the others that have been outlawed for not conforming, to teach them the truth he has learned.

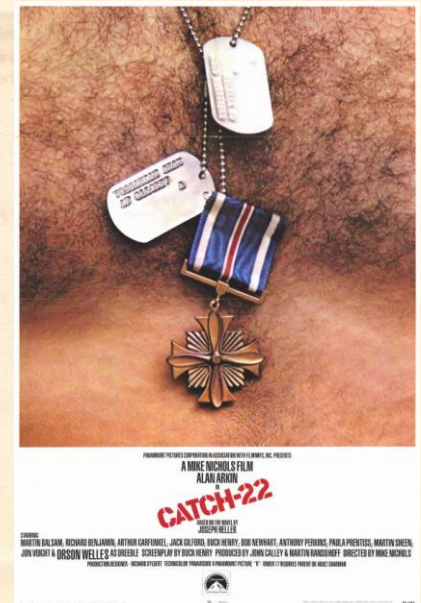
CONSIDERED TO BE A
'SPIRITUAL CLASSIC'.

WAR AND MADNESS IN MOVIES



The 1975 version film of the 1962 novel, starring Jack Nicholson as the anti-authoritarian Randle McMurphy. It was shot at Oregon State Hospital which was also the setting of the novel.

The 1970 satirical black comedy, revolving around the 'lunatic characters' of the complex 1961 novel. A difficult task to adapt, the non-chronological novel.

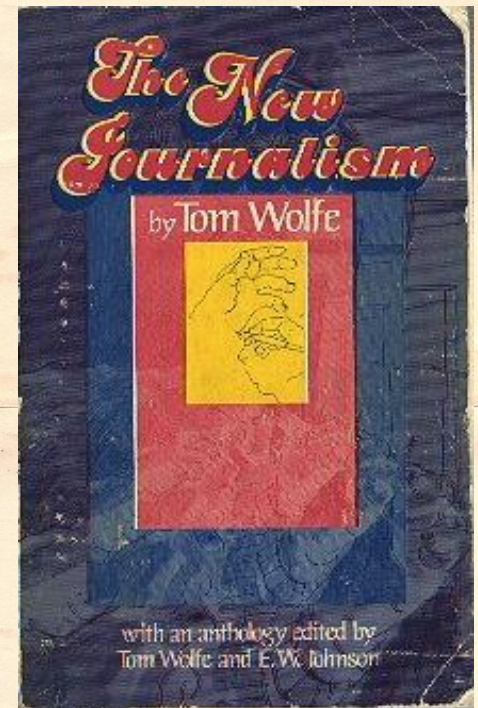


NEW JOURNALISM

1973 Tom Wolfe edited an anthology of 'new journalism'. It became a manifesto for a new non-conformist style of journalism, using literary devices usually found in fiction.

Among the writers of this new creative nonfiction were Hunter S. Thompson, Truman Capote, Norman Mailer and Tom Wolfe himself.

Articles in the New Journalism style tended not to be found in newspapers, but rather in magazines such as Rolling Stone and Esquire in the early 70s.



THE BIRTH OF GONZO



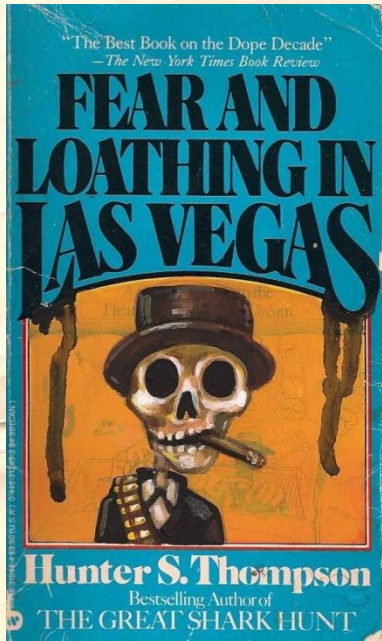
THE 'GONZO
FIST' HOLDING A
PEYOTE. FIRST
USED BY HUNTER
S. THOMPSON IN
1970.

Gonzo is a style of journalism that is written without claims of objectivity, often including the reporter as part of the story via a first-person narrative.

The style was a personal experience rather than the fact based journalism of tradition. This was part of the 'new journalism' movement.

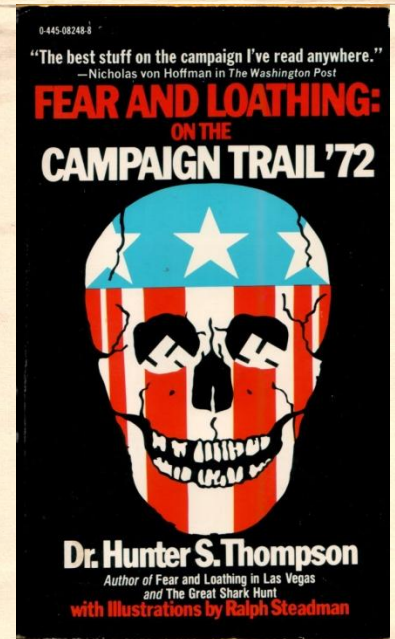
Hunter S. Thompson wrote an article, 'The Kentucky Derby Is Decadent and Depraved' first using the style.

FEAR AND LOATHING IN...

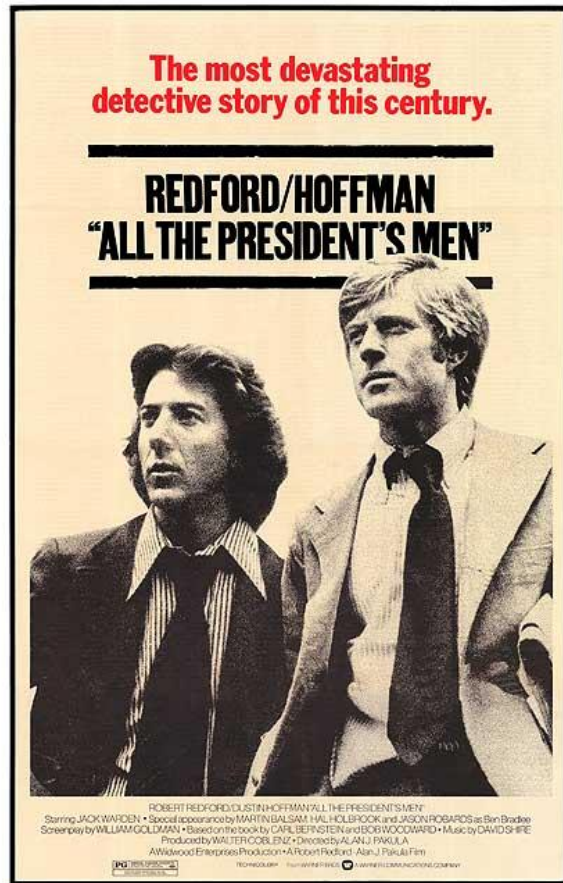


...Las Vegas published in 1971, in Rolling Stone magazine and as a novel in 1972. It was Hunter S. Thompson's drug fueled retrospective on the counterculture of the 1960s as he considered it.

...On the Campaign Trail '72, a series of Rolling Stone articles about the 1972 presidential campaign. Noted for Thompson's open hatred of president Nixon.



ALL THE PRESIDENT'S MEN



A 1976 Academy Award-winning political thriller based on the 1974 non-fiction book by Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, the journalists investigating the Watergate scandal for The Washington Post. The scandal involved a cover-up by the Nixon administration, about their involvement in a break-in at the Democratic Party HQ in the Watergate building.

THE POLITICS OF -ISMS

The 1970s can be noted as a period in history that saw the rise of the -ism, with such areas of thought such as environmentalism and feminism becoming important issues that people wrote about, discussed, and campaigned for.

An Earth-centric political movement developed sometimes wrongly called 'New Age' through grassroots movements.

GREENPEACE

GREENPEACE WAS FOUNDED IN 1971.



EARTH FIRST!
FIRST EMERGED IN
1979.

FROM BEATNIK TO PUNK

Punk rejected everything the hippies stood for, but they were influenced in some part by the Beats.

CBGB opened in 1973 giving bands of artistically anarchic do-it-yourself young rebels a place to play their 'garage band' influenced style of angry rock.

THE RAMONES, OFTEN
CITED AS THE FIRST
PUNK ROCK BAND,
FORMED IN 1974.



THE RAMONES OUTSIDE
CBGB 1975.