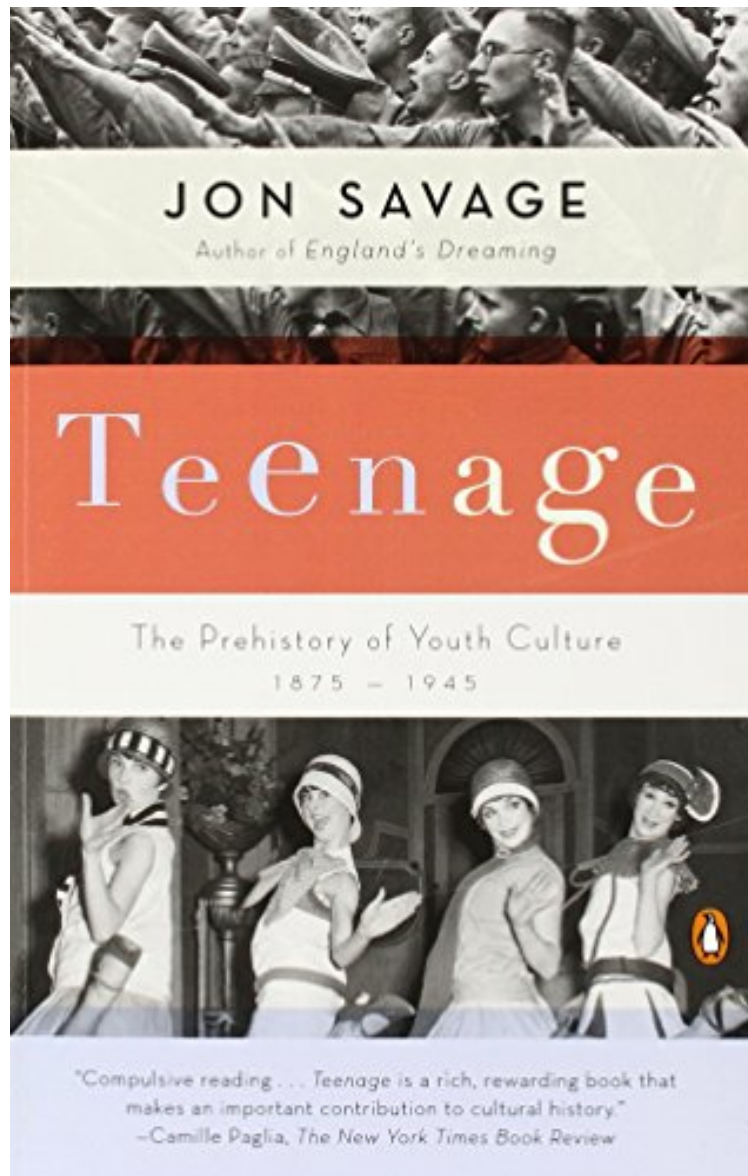


[E-BOOK] Teenage: The Prehistory of Youth Culture: 1875-1945

Teenage: The Prehistory of Youth Culture: 1875-1945

Jon Savage

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Jon Savage : Teenage: The Prehistory of Youth Culture: 1875-1945 before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Teenage: The Prehistory of Youth Culture: 1875-1945:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating Cultural History By Lynette McClenaghan Jon Savage had already made his mark as a cultural historian with the exceptional England's Dreaming. This book is a similarly well-researched and absorbing account of social and cultural history that is marginalised by the more conventional

historical perspectives. By bringing teenagers into the limelight Savage creates new and fascinating perspectives on some very well trodden areas. For example to see the Hitler Youth in the context of young people's lives during the Third Reich shows us that this world was interestingly complex and contradictory. The sweep and breadth of this book is demanding on readers. It is rigorously academic, yet reads like a thriller, with almost every page revealing something new and fascinating. It is also sobering to see that attitudes towards young people by governments and corporations have been condescending and exploitative for a long time. Any student of the culture or history of the twentieth century should read this wonderfully original exploration of a significant area of study. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By Scott Penneygood7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Move Over, Your Replacements Have Arrived By takingadayoff The concept of teenagers as a group separate from children and adults is relatively new. It wasn't until World War II that the word "teenager" existed and that was in response to advertisers who realized that young people had money to spend. But teenagers weren't invented during the 1940s. In writing the history of teenagers from Victorian times until World War II, author Jon Savage has shown that their history is our history. They don't govern nations or run companies, but they fight wars, earn money, commit crimes and when it comes to movies and music, it's teenagers who decide the trends. Savage defines teenage loosely, as being from about age twelve to mid-twenties. Teenagers aren't children anymore, but they don't have the responsibilities or the experience of adults. They are like adults who haven't mastered their emotional volume control yet. Their highs are higher and their lows are lower than adults who've learned to expect disappointments and are too self-conscious to enjoy with abandon. Teenagers have their lives ahead of them and anything is possible. They have little to lose and can take risks that most adults wouldn't dare. Teenage is full of interesting stories of trend-setting teenagers such as Oscar Wilde and Arthur Rimbaud, but it's not until World War I that teenagers became really influential. With the invention of movies and radio, teenagers became the early-adopters of their times. Rudolph Valentino's fame and the reaction to his death and funeral remind me of the arrival of the Beatles in New York. Leopold and Loeb killed a child and thought they were too smart to get caught. When they were caught, they acted like celebrities during the trial, wearing stylish clothes and attracting an ardent following of young admirers. Judy Garland and Mickey Rooney were overwhelmed at first by their hysterical fans, but quickly adapted. Savage's study examines teenagers in the U.S., England, France, and Germany. We see the youth who followed the rules: the Boy Scouts and the Hitler Youth. We see the ones who rebelled: the Zoot Suiters and the White Rose, an anti-Hitler German group who came to a tragic end. The dilemmas of when to treat teenagers as adults and when to treat them as children have been around as long as teenagers have. When do you try a teenage criminal as an adult? At what age should young adults be allowed to drink alcohol? Get married? Join the military? Leave school? Earn a living? Leave home? There are no answers here, but it might help to realize that we aren't the first to ask the questions. And even if it doesn't help, Teenage is an excellent social history.

In his previous landmark book on youth culture and teen angst, the award-winning *England's Dreaming*, Jon Savage presented the "definitive history of the English punk movement" (*The New York Times*). Now, in *Teenage*, he explores the secret prehistory of a phenomenon we thought we knew, in a monumental work of cultural investigative reporting. Beginning in 1875 and ending in 1945, when the term "teenage" became an integral part of popular culture, Savage draws widely on film, music, literature high and low, fashion, politics, and art and fuses popular culture and social history into a stunning chronicle of modern life.

"The definitive history of youth in revolt, from the gaslight age to the dawn of rock." -David Fricke, *Rolling Stone*
"Compulsive reading . . . Teenage is a rich, rewarding book that makes an important contribution to cultural history." - Camille Paglia, *The New York Times Book "Resonant . . . Savage explores . . . [an] array of teenager types, from the wild, sensational precursors to juvenile delinquency to the straight-laced good-citizen proto- preppie. It's Savage's claim to being a great historian, and it's mighty convincing."* -The Onion
About the Author Jon Savage is a leading punk expert (*AllMusic*) and the author of *1966: The Year The Decade Exploded*; *England's Dreaming: Sex Pistols and Punk Rock*; and *Teenage: The Creation of Youth, 1875-1945*. He is the writer of the award-winning film documentaries *The Brian Epstein Story* and *Joy Division*, as well as the feature film *Teenage*. Savage has written liner notes for *Wire*, *St. Etienne* and the *Pet Shop Boys*, among others, and his compilations include *Dreams Come True: Classic Electro 1982-87 (Domino)*; *Meridian 1970 (Heavenly/EMI)*; and *Queer Noises: From the Closet to the Charts, 1961-1976 (Trikont)*. He is a regular contributor to the *Guardian*.