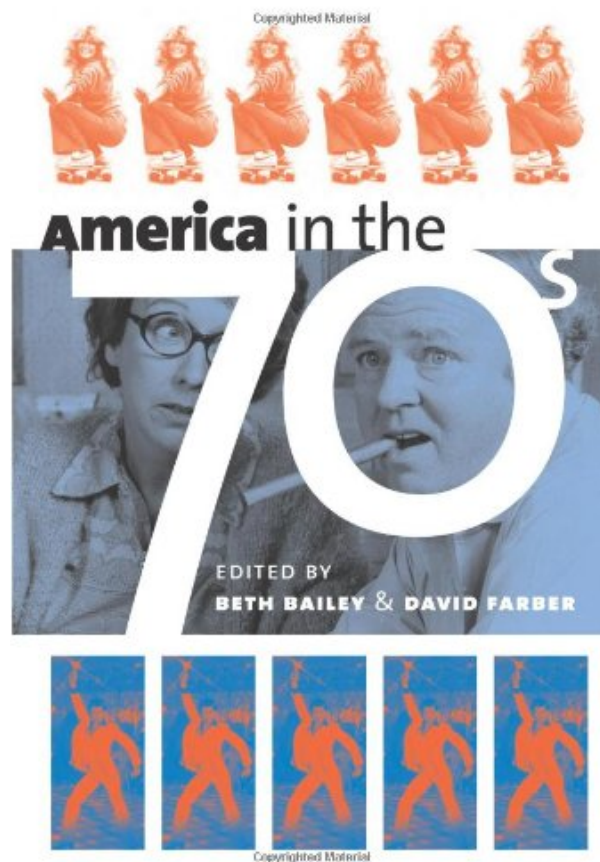
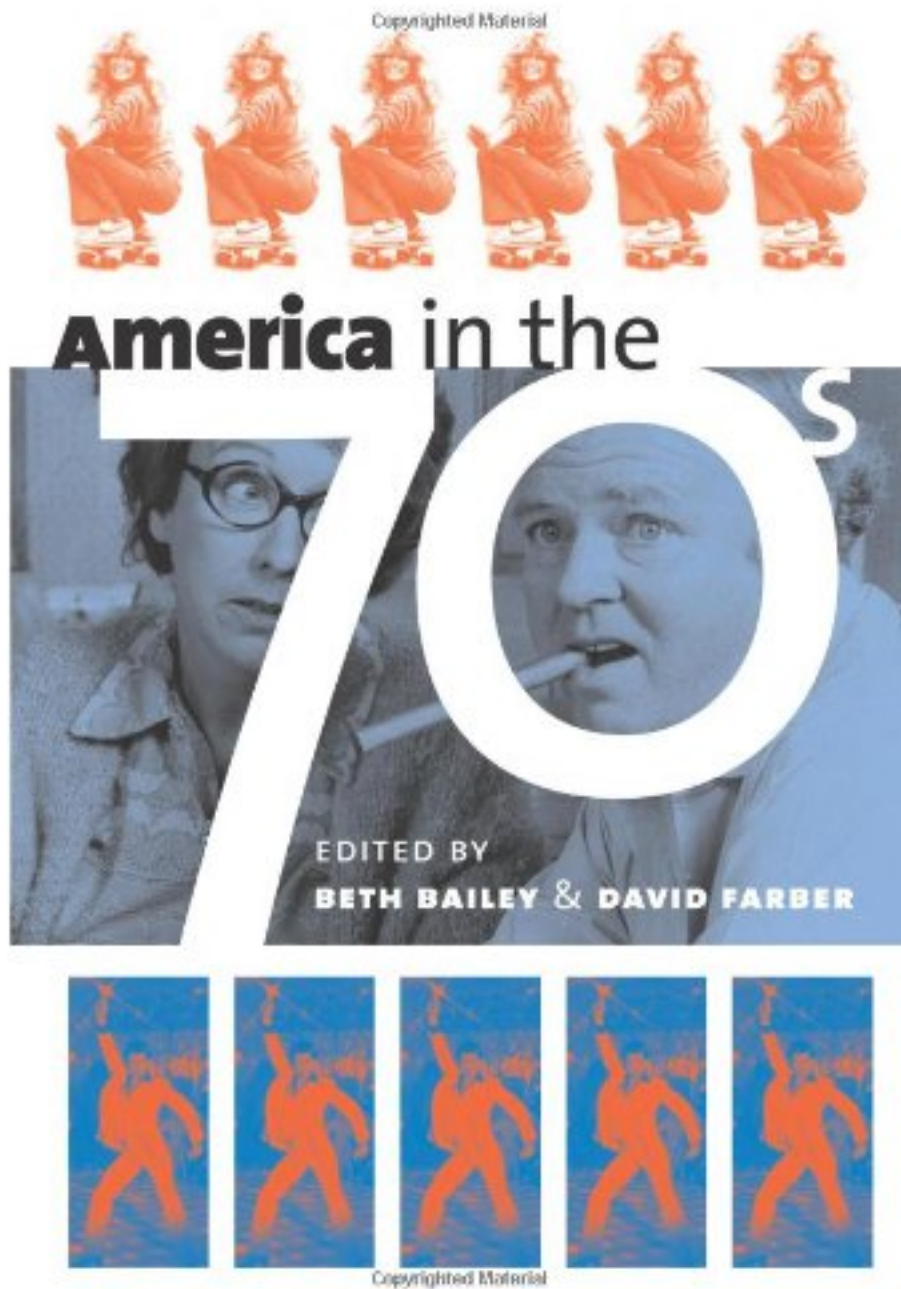


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"Bailey and Farber, both brilliant and original historians, have taken a fresh and revealing look at a neglected and misunderstood decade. The remarkable essays they have assembled show that the 1970s were in some ways even more important than the preceding 'age of great dreams.'" --Chester Pach, author of *Arming the Free World*

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This is the first major work to relate the economic decline and cultural despair of the Seventies to the creative efforts that would reshape American society. Dogged by economic and political crises at home and foreign policy failures abroad, Americans responded to a growing sense of uncertainty in a variety of ways. Some explored the new freedoms promised by the social change movements of the late Sixties. Some challenged the technological verities that ruled corporate America. Others sought to create autonomous zones in the ruins of decaying cities or on the bleak landscape of anomic suburbia. And, against a backdrop of massive economic dislocation and bicentennial celebrations, many Americans struggled to redefine patriotism and the meaning of the American dream.

Focusing on how Americans made sense of their changing world by analyzing such sources as film, popular music, use of public space, advertising campaigns, and patriot rituals, these essays interweave the themes of economic transformation, identity reconfiguration, and cultural uncertainty. The contributors cover such topics as the public's increasing mistrust of government, the reshaping of working-class identity, and the tensions between the ideological and economic origins of changing gender roles.

From existential despair in popular culture to the reactions of youth subcultures, these provocative articles plot the lives of Americans struggling to redefine themselves as their nation moved into an uncertain future. Together they recapture the essence and spirit of that era for those who lived it and for curious readers who have come of age since then and struggle to understand their own time.

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5 of 5 people found the following review helpful.

Saw excerpt on Delancey Place morning e-mail and was intrigued

By Louise S. Anderson

I subscribe to the 5 x a week Delancey Place email book excerpts because it expands my horizons as to what kinds of books I might like to read. In this case, I became an adult during the 70's and it was enlightening to me to read about the social changes that were taking place (at a macro level) and comparing them to my own experiences (at a micro level), like finding my first professional job as a woman in the marketplace, hearing about computers that you could actually have in your home (instead of creating stacks and stacks of punch cards to be feed into the enormous card readers at the all night campus computer center), The essays are well-written and foot noted, so if you want to burrow on back to the primary sources, you can,

In general, if you like to read history, sociology, biography or other non-fiction works, and don't know where to start, you should sign up at [delanceyplace.com](http://delanceyplace.com). There is always a link to purchase the book via Amazon, and a part of the profits supports literacy programs. I have purchased many books, like this one, that I wouldn't even have known about otherwise, and have thoroughly enjoyed.

8 of 10 people found the following review helpful.

Interesting Overview Of The Decade

By Darcia Helle

The lighthearted cover of this one, with photos of Archie and Edith Bunker, Farrah Fawcett and John Travolta's disco stance, is a bit misleading. This is not a light read, geared toward the fad culture of the seventies. Instead, this is a studied look at the politics, social movements and major influences of the decade.

I found some of the writing in these essays dry, even for nonfiction. Others, like 'She "can bring home the bacon"', which covered the women's liberation movement and "Adults Only", which talked about the so-called sexual revolution, fascinated me.

Whether you grew up during the seventies, as I did, were an older adult or a glimmer in your parents' eyes, this book offers a perspective of the much overlooked decade that can only be seen in hindsight.

19 of 25 people found the following review helpful.

Were The Seventies a Truly Great Decade?

By B. Wolinsky

Around the early 1990's, there began a nostalgic mania for everything 70's. Bell-bottoms, seen as a joke in the 1980's, were back in style. Disco, once the butt of jokes, was popular again. Perhaps the movie "Dazed and Confused" inspired it? But since nobody born after 1975 could remember the 70's, could young people really understand the issues of the time?

This book about 1970's America offers fresh and disturbing angles on the decade. One of the examples is the movie "Looking for Mister Goodbar" with Diane Keaton. The author uses this to show a side of the "Sexual Revolution" that college professors and horny college guys speak of frequently. Discussions of the 1970's attitude towards "free sex" is usually positive; it was a decade where consenting adults had the new freedom to explore sexuality. But the author has a darker view. Women could easily put themselves in a dangerous situations, in a decade before AIDS made us wary. He also wonders if the sense of rebellion among American women led them to make poor judgments with men, as does the character in the movie. The protagonist has a respectable job, and by night she seeks dangerous relationships. Is she rebelling against her "good girl" persona? Did rebellion lead naive girls into dangerous lifestyles? Is this a topic we can discuss without looking like male chauvinists?

Some look back fondly at the "good old days." Others say there were never any "good old days." 1970's New York was a crime-ridden hellhole, which is why my parents moved to Queens in 1980. But people still look at the 70's as a decade of color, fashion, music, and culture. Sometimes we even feel nostalgic for the grimy, dirty, New York City streets from "Taxi Driver" and "Deathwish," although at the same time you can't disappreciate the reduction in crime in the last 20 years. Today, you see retro-80's clothing in the stores, but for me it brings back no fond memories. Someone born after 1985 won't remember the AIDS scare, Iran, the Cold War, the Crack epidemic, and the things that me feel NO nostalgia for the era.

Perhaps nostalgia sometimes blinds us to reality.

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