

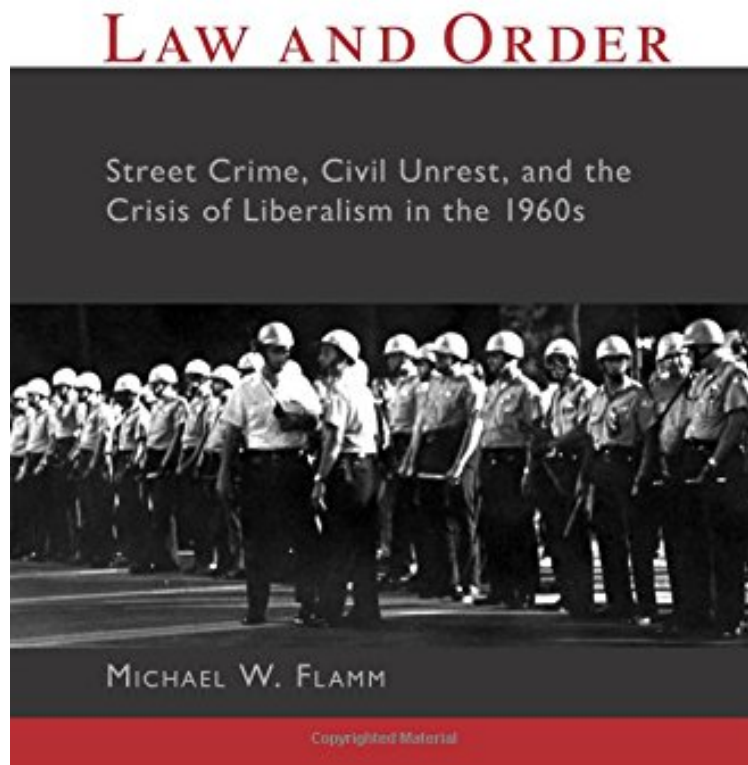
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(Columbia Studies in Contemporary American History)

Law and Order: Street Crime, Civil Unrest, and the Crisis of Liberalism in the 1960s (Columbia Studies in Contemporary American History)

Michael Flamm

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#1218227 in Books Michael W Flamm 2007-02-13 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.86 x .72 x 5.781, .91
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the 1960s | File size: 24.Mb

Michael Flamm : Law and Order: Street Crime, Civil Unrest, and the Crisis of Liberalism in the 1960s
(Columbia Studies in Contemporary American History) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it

would be worth my time, and all praised *Law and Order: Street Crime, Civil Unrest, and the Crisis of Liberalism in the 1960s* (Columbia Studies in Contemporary American History):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. *Law Order - a 60s phenomenon?* By Eric Hobart Michael Flamm has provided us with an exceptionally well researched and elegantly written book regarding the political uses of "Law Order" to discredit liberals in the 1960s and catapult Conservatives into leadership positions in American government. The book focuses on how the crisis of Law and Order, as seen by Americans in the 60s (primarily street crime urban riots), led to a downfall of liberalism as the dominant political philosophy. Flamm does an outstanding job of demonstrating how liberal programs such as the Great Society were unable to combat people's fears of rising criminal activity, and how Conservative candidates such as Goldwater Nixon were able to play on those fears to bring Conservatism into power in 1968. Undoubtedly this was a critical piece in the rise of modern Conservatism, but it seems that this focus on "law order" was lost shortly after Nixon gained the Presidency. As Flamm demonstrates in his epilogue, this seems to have been a one or two election wonder at the federal level, thus posing the question of why did this problem only impact national politics for a short period - less than a decade? Flamm starts to get into some of the reasons why (resignation of Nixon as a "criminal", stagflation, end of the cold war, etc.), but the book tends to give a lot of credit for the rise of Conservatism to this one topic, but I'm not 100% persuaded. After reading this book, I believe that Law Order was a significant, but not the primary, factor leading to the rise of Conservatism. Other factors, such as the fear of Communism, opposition to increased taxation, and racial divisions must be considered in conjunction with crime.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. *Typical textbook* By Brandon Stanley College course requirement. He should have just written it like this: <http://cledonism.blogspot.com/2015/05/the-gangsta-version-of-american-history.html>

7 of 8 people found the following review helpful. *The Political 1960s* By R. G. Peterson For one who (like me, born in 1936) lived through the period, *LAW AND ORDER* is truly compelling. Michael Flamm has written a non-pedantic account of most important social and political aspect of the domestic scene in the USA in the 1960s. His narrative has a vibrant, multi-dimensional quality that seems to take us right into the heads of the people involved--from President Johnson and public figures on all levels to persons struggling in the many urban jungles which seemed on the point of destroying all social cohesion. The story is here: how Johnson's Presidency was eaten away as much by crime, violence, and riots in the cities and on the streets of the homeland as by the escalating death and destruction in Vietnam. Master politician though he was, Johnson was unable to maintain the combination of liberalism and populism which had characterized the Democratic Party throughout its best years. The eighth chapter is a vivid re-creation of those sad days during the Chicago convention in August 1968, when Mayor Daley's police battled it out with radicalized liberals. The ninth explains--correctly, I think--how Law and Order trumped Vietnam as an issue in the election. The Democrats lost by a narrow margin; but conservatism was the real winner. A brief "Epilogue" summarizes events through 9/11. President Nixon more or less dropped both Johnson's domestic "Wars," on Poverty and on Crime. And everything that followed his doomed administration has demonstrated the political utility of fear over hope. It is impossible for me not to reflect that we now have two more such politically motivated, open-ended, "Wars," a War on Drugs and a War on Terrorism. *LAW AND ORDER* is a highly readable book, but it also has documentation massive enough to satisfy the most demanding professional critics.

Law and Order offers a valuable new study of the political and social history of the 1960s. It presents a sophisticated account of how the issues of street crime and civil unrest enhanced the popularity of conservatives, eroded the credibility of liberals, and transformed the landscape of American politics. Ultimately, the legacy of law and order was a political world in which the grand ambitions of the Great Society gave way to grim expectations. In the mid-1960s, amid a pervasive sense that American society was coming apart at the seams, a new issue known as law and order emerged at the forefront of national politics. First introduced by Barry Goldwater in his ill-fated run for president in 1964, it eventually punished Lyndon Johnson and the Democrats and propelled Richard Nixon and the Republicans to the White House in 1968. In this thought-provoking study, Michael Flamm examines how conservatives successfully blamed liberals for the rapid rise in street crime and then skillfully used law and order to link the understandable fears of white voters to growing unease about changing moral values, the civil rights movement, urban disorder, and antiwar protests. Flamm documents how conservatives constructed a persuasive message that argued that the civil rights movement had contributed to racial unrest and the Great Society had rewarded rather than punished the perpetrators of violence. The president should, conservatives also contended, promote respect for law and order and contempt for those who violated it, regardless of cause. Liberals, Flamm argues, were by contrast unable to craft a compelling message for anxious voters. Instead, liberals either ignored the crime crisis, claimed that law and order was a racist ruse, or maintained that social programs would solve the "root causes" of civil disorder, which by 1968 seemed increasingly unlikely and contributed to a loss of faith in the ability of the government to do what it was above all sworn to do--protect personal security and private property.

Recommended. (Choice) Meticulously documented... an important contribution to the literature on the 1960s era and

its link to today's political discourse. (Edward P. Morgan *Political Science Quarterly*) Law and Order is essential reading for anyone interested in American society during the 1960s (James Miller *Journal of American Studies*) A cohesive study of the politics-law-and-order nexus. (John C. McWilliams *The Historian*) This book will be of interest to anyone who teaches and/or writes about the politics of the 1960s. (Timothy N. Thurber *H-Net*) This is must reading. (Michal R. Belknap, California Western School of Law and University of California, San Diego *American Historical*) This is an exceptionally smart, utterly realistic, and splendidly narrated study of a vital political issue that historians of the 1960s have ignored -- until now. Michael Flamm explains how the fear of urban crime helped end the liberal era and begin the conservative ascendancy. It will provoke and enlighten anyone who reads it. (Michael Kazin, Georgetown University, co-author, *America Divided: The Civil War of the 1960s*) About the Author Michael W. Flamm is associate professor of history at Ohio Wesleyan University and the coauthor of *The Chicago Handbook for Teachers and Debating the 1960s*. Michael Flamm is Associate Professor of History at Ohio Wesleyan University. He is co-author of *The Chicago Handbook of Teaching* (University of Chicago Press, 1999). He received his Ph.D. at Columbia University.