

Battleground Chicago: The Police and the 1968 Democratic National Convention

By Frank Kusch

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The 1968 Democratic Convention, best known for police brutality against demonstrators, has been relegated to a dark place in American historical memory. *Battleground Chicago* ventures beyond the stereotypical image of rioting protestors and violent cops to reevaluate exactly how—and why—the police attacked antiwar activists at the convention.

Working from interviews with eighty former Chicago police officers who were on the scene, Frank Kusch uncovers the other side of the story of ’68, deepening our understanding of a turbulent decade.

“Frank Kusch’s compelling account of the clash between Mayor Richard Daley’s men in blue and anti-war rebels reveals why the 1960s was such a painful era for many Americans. . . . to his great credit, [Kusch] allows ‘the pigs’ to speak up for themselves.”—Michael Kazin

“Kusch’s history of white Chicago policemen and the 1968 Democratic National Convention is a solid addition to a growing literature on the cultural sensibility and political perspective of the conservative white working class in the last third of the twentieth century.”—David Farber, *Journal of American History*

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Editorial Review

Review

“This retelling of a well-known story is significant partly for its detail and objectivity, but mostly because the author focuses on telling the story from the perspective of the police rather than the protesters. . . . Highly recommended.”
(*Choice*)

“Kusch’s history of white Chicago policemen and the 1968 Democratic National Convention is a solid addition to a growing literature on the cultural sensibility and political perspective of the conservative white working class in the last third of the twentieth century.”

(*Journal of American History*)

“A fascinating story unfolds, of family-oriented cops recruited from white ethnic communities confronting middle-class ‘longhairs’; of both the police and the activists able to perceive one another only as stereotypes . . . of the cumulative and destructive mutual antipathy between police and press.”

(*History*)

“Masterful. . . . Kusch’s interviews contribute invaluable material to one wishing to decipher and make theoretical sense of what happened in Chicago during the 1968 Convention.”

(*Contemporary Sociology*)

"Battleground Chicago is especially valuable because it lets the police officers involved in the riots in Lincoln and Grant Parks have their say."
(Julia Keller *Chicago Tribune* 2008-07-13)

About the Author

Frank Kusch has worked as a freelance editor, a communications consultant, and a political speechwriter. He is the author of *All American Boys: Draft Dodgers in Canada from the Vietnam War.*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

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Often the book Battleground Chicago: The Police and the 1968 Democratic National Convention has a lot of knowledge on it. So when you make sure to read this book you can get a lot of advantage. The book was compiled by the very famous author. Mcdougal makes some research ahead of write this book. This specific book very easy to read you can obtain the point easily after looking over this book.

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