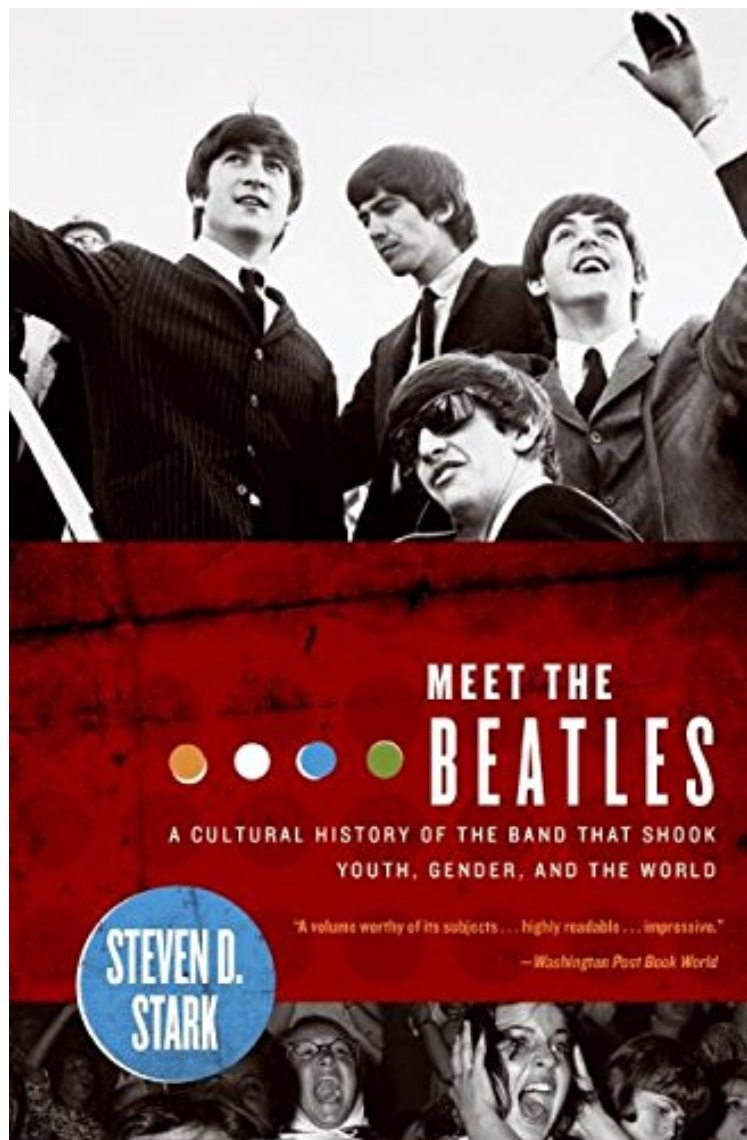


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Meet the Beatles: A Cultural History of the Band That Shook Youth, Gender, and the World

Steven D. Stark

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Steven D. Stark : Meet the Beatles: A Cultural History of the Band That Shook Youth, Gender, and the World before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Meet the Beatles: A Cultural History of the Band That Shook Youth, Gender, and the World:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Well researchedBy John C. HoltonAlmost 40% of the total size of the book is references to other works, but Stark comes up with some interesting ideas and observations. Not much new, if you've read other histories of The Beatles, but a lot of good background, and he summarizes material gathered elsewhere into a good narrative. Worth reading.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A subtle insight into what the Fab Four really meant and still embodyBy TamaraA very subtle, fascinating and intricate insight into the Beatles' influence, role and legacy within our society and theirs. I used it for an essay in one of my classes and everything i found inside was extremely relevant to the subject. It's most likely to be one of the best books you can find upon The Beatles and their influence over society. I definitely advise it, would it be for your studies or your personal knowledge. It's well-written, enjoyable, and it doesn't indulge in gossips nor is it flooded by "useless" facts (or facts that you can find into any good biography).Steven D. Stark definitely stresses more the analysis rather than the cold, plain facts, and that's what makes his book genuinely interesting and worthy.4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Excellent book, but know what you are getting firstBy J. LibertorThe Author assumes some working knowledge of the Beatles - which I hardly had. But from the preface the author, and subtitle, explicitly state that this is not a comprehensive, or even an abridged, history of the Beatles. Instead this book aims to explain the cultural status at the time of the Beatles and their impact on that culture.This is my first book on the Beatles that I have read. Since I was born in the late 70's, I was looking for a book that would help explain the cultural context of the Beatles. The book delivers on this point.The writing style was engaging, and the book was pleasant to read. I recommend it.

Rob Sheffield, the Rolling Stone columnist and bestselling author of *Love Is a Mix Tape*, offers an entertaining, unconventional look at the most popular band in history, the Beatles, exploring what they mean today and why they still matter so intensely to a generation that has never known a world without them. *Meet the Beatles* is not another biography of the Beatles, or a song-by-song analysis of the best of John and Paul. It isn't another exposé about how they broke up. It isn't a history of their gigs or their gear. It is a collection of essays telling the story of what this ubiquitous band means to a generation who grew up with the Beatles music on their parents' stereos and their faces on T-shirts. What do the Beatles mean today? Why are they more famous and beloved now than ever? And why do they still matter so much to us, nearly fifty years after they broke up?As he did in his previous books, *Love is a Mix Tape*, *Talking to Girls About Duran Duran*, and *Turn Around Bright Eyes*, Sheffield focuses on the emotional connections we make to music. This time, he focuses on the biggest pop culture phenomenon of all timeThe Beatles. In his singular voice, he explores what the Beatles mean today, to fans who have learned to love them on their own terms and not just for the sake of nostalgia. *Meet the Beatles* tells the story of how four lads from Liverpool became the world's biggest pop group, then broke upbut then somehow just kept getting bigger. At this point, their music doesn't belong to the pastit belongs to right now. This book is a celebration of that music, showing why the Beatles remain the world's favorite thingand how they invented the future were all living in today.

From Publishers WeeklyJournalist Stark wants to tell the story of John, Paul, George and Ringo in a "somewhat new way," focusing as much on the cultural trends that produced the Beatlesand the trends they createdas on the Fab Four themselves. He explores how the band's 1964 arrival in America coincided with both the adolescent explosion of the baby boomers and the cultural void left by Kennedy's assassination. He then backtracks to the Beatles' childhoods in Liverpool, a city with traditions of absent fathers, strong mothers and permissive attitudes toward androgynyall major elements in the Beatles' music. Their mop-top haircuts? A combination of "mild gender-bending" and German art college chic. Their trademark wit? Inspired by the *Goon Show*, a popular BBC radio program. Their long-term impact? Practically impossible to overestimate, as Stark finds their influence on '60s protest movements, drug culture, women's liberation and more. Stark provides a thorough biography of the band and includes bits of trivia, such as the band's 1960 gig playing backup to a stripper. Throughout, Stark is sharp and insightful, even when he wades into the psychoanalytic waters of the John/Yoko and Paul/Linda relationships. Photos. Agent, Nat Sobel. (June 1) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.From BooklistIn the introduction, Stark boldly asks, "Why on earth would anyone need another book about the Beatles?" He proceeds to describe his as an attempt to connect the band to "the larger cultural forces they triggered and came to represent." To that end, he expounds on the provocative premises that the Beatles feminized the culture, challenging the concept of masculinity, while Beatlemania empowered young women; that the group converged with its era in an unprecedented way, coming to embody 1960s counterculture; and that it possessed an unprecedented power over crowds. Adopting a generally chronological approach, Stark examines the Beatles' musical development as they continually reinvented themselves from their Liverpool days to their late '60s dissolution, which mirrored the collapse of the counterculture, and offers perceptive insights into their continuing appeal. Although he treads well-covered ground, Stark draws from fresh interviews with more than 100 Beatles experts and intimates and convinces us that his contribution is at least as worthy as the entire plethora of self-important insiders' memoirs and coffee-table tomes. Gordon FlaggCopyright American Library Association. All rights reserved A volume worthy of its subjects . . . thoughtful, provocative, and

valuable (Washington Post Book World)Insightful . . . Stark embeds the band in ideas and movements (Newsday)[A] remarkably fresh perspective . . . Starks style, though scholarly, is incisive and altogether entertaining. (Knoxville News-Sentinel)A thorough biography of the band . . . Stark is sharp and insightful (Publishers Weekly)At the forefront of a new wave of Beatles studies (Boston Globe Sunday Magazine)A clear, new picture of the Beatles as pop-culture phenomenon. . . . thoughly entertaining and engaging (Buffalo News)