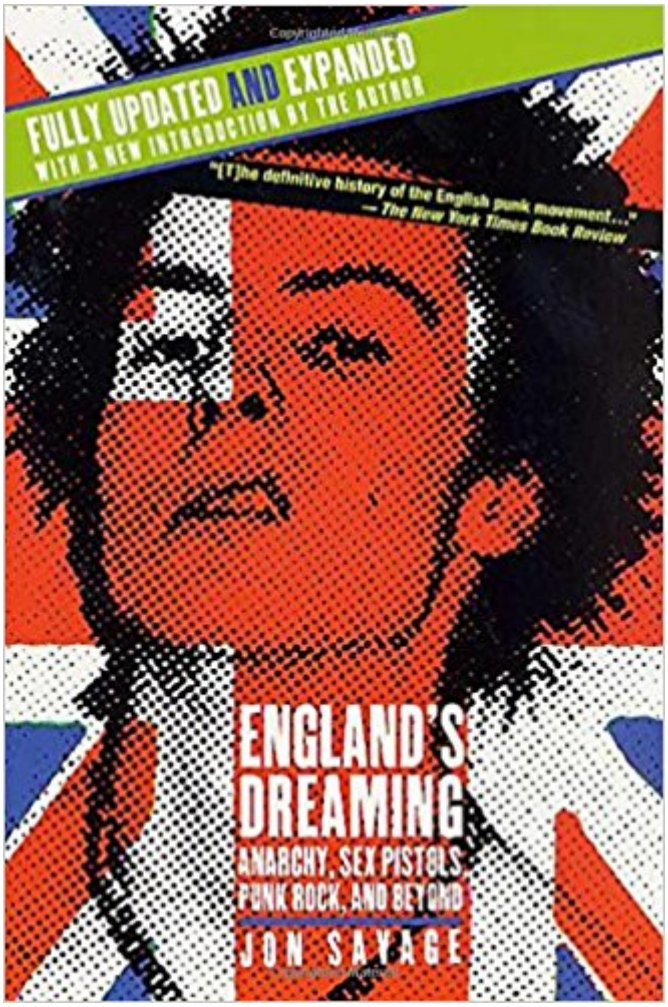
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England's Dreaming, Revised Edition: Anarchy, Sex Pistols, Punk Rock, And Beyond



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Synopsis

England’s Dreaming is the ultimate book on punk, its progenitors, the Sex Pistols, and the moment they defined for music fans in England and the United States. Savage brings to life the sensational story of the meteoric rise and rapid implosion of the Pistols through layers of rich detail, exclusive interviews, and rare photographs. This fully revised and updated edition of the book covers the legacy of punk twenty-five years later and provides an account of the Pistols’ 1996 reunion as well as a freshly updated discography and a completely new introduction.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

With wit and authority, freelance writer Savage pens an entertaining, exhaustive chronological history of punk rock and politics through 1980. For the first several chapters the account focuses on attention-getting impresario Malcolm McLaren, who opened a series of outrageous clothing shops including Let It Rock and Sex during the early ’70s with companion Vivienne Westwood. McLaren’s visits to New York City left him enamored of such iconoclastic American bands as the New York Dolls and Television, and, using the nervy, bored adolescents he met while selling punk fashion, he nurtured a group that would become the Sex Pistols. McLaren and the Pistols’ shenanigans are set against a background of such seminal punk bands as Iggy and the Stooges, the Clash, the Damned and the Ramones. Savage also devotes attention to McLaren’s flamboyant shop maven Jordan, Chrissie Hynde of the Pretenders and Siouxsie Sioux of Siouxsie and the Banshees as he chronicles the Pistols’ ascent and decline. Even readers who consider this volume’s length somewhat daunting will find it the definitive source of early-punk anecdotes. Photos. Copyright 1992

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Savage uses the band the Sex Pistols as the core of this definitive history of the punk rock and pop culture movements of the 1970s. Music critics consider this the book on the subject. (LJ 4/1/02)
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I became interested in music around the late 70s early 80s and so can relate to this book. Also being British I know the areas, shops and clubs in it well and can remember visiting these places when younger. The country as whole was on the skids with un-employment rife, strikes, terrorism and no future prospects for school leavers. It was a grim time in British history and ripe for this music/culture explosion. For me this is a trip down memory lane and a good book to reminisce over, but I remember at the time that it was anything but exciting. I think the author has done a great job of explaining the history and background of the UK (and especially London) at the time, the scene, music and circumstance leading to punk, however the book starts off slowly with some very in depth political chapters about obscure beliefs and fringe groups. Other then this (too much detail?) - great memories and thank God we dont live in 1975/80 London anymore!

An excellent document of the British punk scene framed as socio-cultural near-history. The approach isn’t likely to appeal to those who just want to read about sex and drugs and rock & roll (though there’s no lack of any of those), but as an American punk fan since "back in the day" I learned a lot about the gestation and pathetic demise of the movement.

Oi! A Sweeping epic not only of punk music but of the British political and social culture from which it arose and the culture it left in its wake. Savage uses the Sex Pistols’ very brief but very bright existence to chronicle the story of the punk genre. told in painstaking detail, England’s Dreaming covers everything from the life of Malcolm McClaren to the inner workings of the band (including the tragic Sid and Nancy story) and its impact on popular culture and music. England’s Dreaming elevates punk from its notoriety into a serious (if hated and controversial) art form and critique of modern culture. Savage manages to keep the personalities front and center, and walks the reader through the punk movement in all its fame and infamy. A must-read for any serious student of music. Book contains many photos and documents, and an appendix and discography which are very helpful for further research.

So far I’m immersed in this book and there’s a whole lot I never knew before. It really has broadned my insight and horizons on what was going on back then in England. Definately met my expectations. Why I chose this rating was because, like I said I’m deeply stuck in it and I give it 5 stars because it’s so informative on my favorite genre of Rock as well as The Sex Pistols.

10/10.

Very good

I started this book thinking I would learn a thing or two about the Sex Pistols, but ended up -- about 700 pages later -- an armchair expert on the cultural history of the 1970s. In other words, Jon Savage is one hell of a writer.

Eh

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