The "what if" game has long been a favorite form of political discussion. What if the South had been allowed to secede? What if Hitler had invaded England early in World War II? What if (fill in the blank) had been elected president, instead of the actual winner? Spinning out the results of the "what if" game can keep political junkies happily occupied for hours.


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*America in Revolt During the 1960s and 1970s* turns the game into a teaching tool. Taking twelve situations from the turbulent decades of the title, it first outlines the actual events and results of such important turning points as John F. Kennedy’s assassination, the escalation of the Vietnam War under President Lyndon B. Johnson, the killing of four students by National Guardsmen at Kent State. It then presents alternate endings, speculating about how one event would lead to another. What other, subsequent, elections would have been influenced and changed? What legislation would have passed? What defeated? What leaders who emerged from the actual events would have remained in obscurity? What others would have come to prominence? How profoundly different would the United States and the world be if events had turned out differently? At the end of each chapter, after the presentation of the alternate history, the authors offer discussion questions for use in class, as well as brief bibliographies for further reading.

In appearance, *America in Revolt* is both attractive and useful. Throughout each chapter are ample illustrations of actual events. The typography of the book helps keep the focus on the difference between the real and the speculative, as the alternate history is presented in boxed, shaded text.

Although histories of the intense decades of the sixties and seventies abound, none are quite like this. For one thing, many concentrate on one aspect of the era, rather than this more comprehensive approach. Titles such as *Make Love, Not War: The Sexual Revolution, An Unfettered History* (Little Brown, 2000), *Civil Rights: An A-Z Reference of the Movement That Changed America* (Louis Publications, 2005), or *Encyclopedia of the Vietnam War* (Oxford Univ. Pr., 2000) concentrate on one aspect of the era. Others, such as *The Martin Luther King, Jr., Encyclopedia* (Greenwood, 2008), are biographies of major figures. This title takes a more comprehensive approach, as well as a more innovative one.

While speculating about what didn’t happen can lead one down unproductive roads, *America in Revolt* avoids this by its careful juxtaposition of the actual and the what ifs. Its main purpose is as a teaching tool, a job it should do admirably.

High school libraries would find this a fine addition.—*Terry Ann Mood, Professor Emerita, University of Colorado at Denver*