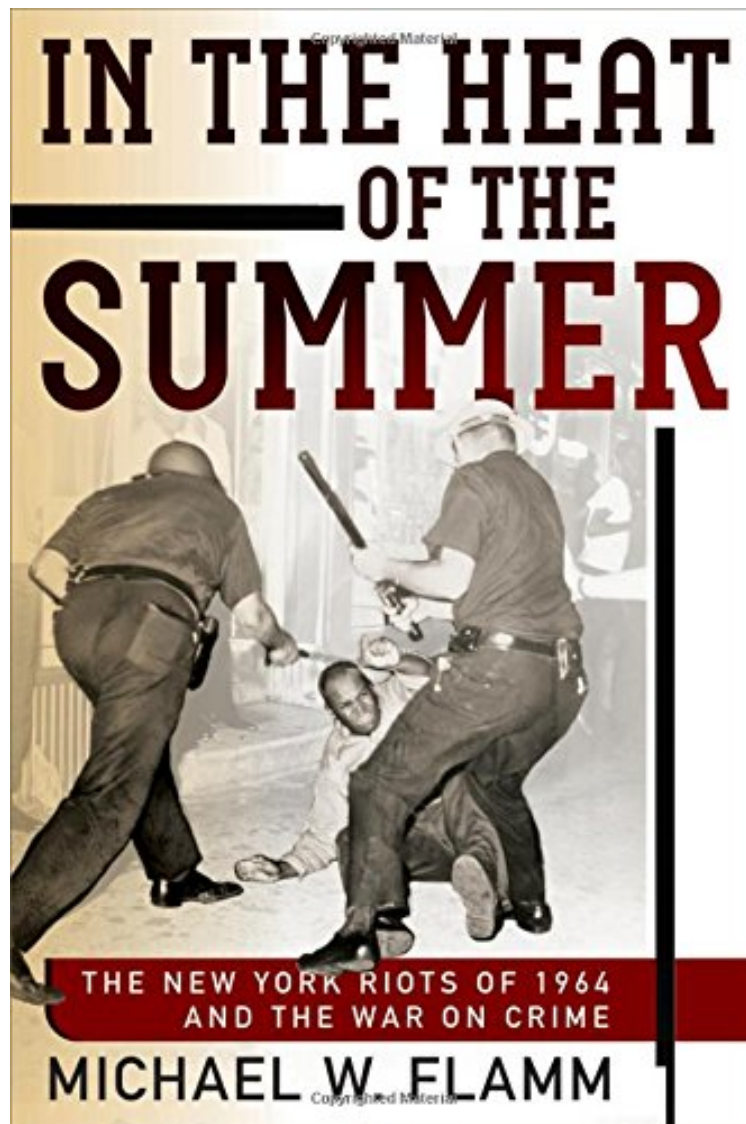


(Library ebook) In the Heat of the Summer: The New York Riots of 1964 and the War on Crime (Politics and Culture in Modern America)

In the Heat of the Summer: The New York Riots of 1964 and the War on Crime (Politics and Culture in Modern America)

Michael W. Flamm

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Michael W. Flamm : In the Heat of the Summer: The New York Riots of 1964 and the War on Crime (Politics and Culture in Modern America) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised In the Heat of the Summer: The New York Riots of 1964 and the War on Crime (Politics and Culture in Modern America):

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Growing Violence By R. G. Peterson Here is one book that is a must-read for anyone with serious interest in U.S. history of the late 20th century and these early years of the 21st. It is based on thorough research in both standard and less well-known archives, as well as interviews with many now elderly persons who were involved as police officers, government officials, participants, or witnesses. In the Heat of the Summer is a thoroughly researched and lucid account of outbreaks of violence in 1964 in two New York neighborhoods (Harlem and Bed-Sty), the police and others present, and the social and political contexts: the Civil Rights Movement, LBJ's Civil Rights Act, his promised Great Society, his War on Crime, what had become his War in Viet-Nam, and his refusal to stand for election one more time. The context afterwards is filled out in a twelfth chapter and an Epilogue: damaging riots across the country, from Washington DC, to Los Angeles, political assassinations, Nixon declaring the end of the Viet-Nam war and the beginning of a War on Drugs, less bloody than Viet-Nam, but generating mass incarceration, even more devastating for African Americans part of the general public, as well as militarization of local police forces with battlefield weapons, body armor, armored personnel carriers, like occupying troops controlling hostile populations. This is an important scholarly book, with endnotes, bibliography, a source list for the oral interviews, and a detailed index—but for non-specialists (like me) it is also a clean, well-lighted place with a darkening message.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Gripping history that illuminates our time By TPM The 1964 civil unrest in New York is best known as the "Harlem Riot." Michael Flamm's fabulous book makes clear that the unrest was more extensive than that name would suggest. Examining both long- and short-term causes, Flamm traces the sources of hostility between the police and New York's African-American communities, provides an absorbing narrative of the riots themselves, and places the events in the context of the broader civil rights movement and the political events of the Johnson-Goldwater election. Rich in telling detail and sometimes jaw-dropping anecdote, "In the Heat of the Summer" is that rarest of creatures: a scholarly treatment of a serious subject that is a gripping read, with a narrative drive that makes the book difficult to put down. Combined with his earlier book Law and Order Law and Order: Street Crime, Civil Unrest, and the Crisis of Liberalism in the 1960s (Columbia Studies in Contemporary American History), also excellent, Flamm has provided readers with a framework to understand better the present state of race relations, criminal justice, and politics, confirming Faulkner's assertion that "the past is never dead; it's not even past."

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A dense but fascinating window into history By naruvoll Flamm manages to include so much detail that it is hard to feel separate from the events even as he refuses to give easy answers, demanding the reader draw their own conclusions from the profusion of facts. The most interesting and disheartening part of the book for me was how familiar the setting and situation felt, much of the rhetoric and social discord feels as if it could have happened as easily last year as it did in 1964. Which is one of the deep undercurrents of the book, that the riots of 1964 and the political action in response to them in many ways set the stage for the current politics of today. The facts presented offer a compelling argument even as Flamm avoids making an argument until the final pages, all the more deft for the preponderance of evidence presented.

On the morning of July 16, 1964, a white police officer in New York City shot and killed a black teenager, James Powell, across the street from the high school where he was attending summer classes. Two nights later, a peaceful demonstration in Central Harlem degenerated into violent protests. During the next week, thousands of rioters looted stores from Brooklyn to Rochester and pelted police with bottles and rocks. In the symbolic and historic heart of black America, the Harlem Riot of 1964, as most called it, highlighted a new dynamic in the racial politics of the nation. The first "long, hot summer" of the Sixties had arrived. In this gripping narrative of a pivotal moment, Michael W. Flamm draws on personal interviews and delves into the archives to move briskly from the streets of New York, where black activists like Bayard Rustin tried in vain to restore peace, to the corridors of the White House, where President Lyndon Johnson struggled to contain the fallout from the crisis and defeat Republican challenger Barry Goldwater, who had made "crime in the streets" a centerpiece of his campaign. Recognizing the threat to his political future and the fragile alliance of black and white liberals, Johnson promised that the War on Poverty would address the "root causes" of urban disorder. A year later, he also launched the War on Crime, which widened the federal role in law enforcement and set the stage for the War on Drugs. Today James Powell is forgotten amid the impassioned debates over the militarization of policing and the harmful impact of mass incarceration on minority communities. But his death was a catalyst for the riots in New York, which in turn foreshadowed future explosions and influenced the political climate for the crime and drug policies of recent decades. In the Heat of the Summer spotlights the extraordinary drama of a single week when peaceful protests and violent unrest intersected, the freedom struggle reached a crossroads, and the politics of law and order led to demands for a War on Crime.

"Until now, the 1964 Harlem Riot has not been properly fixed in American and literary lore. Michael Flamm's riveting retelling of the saga—against the backdrop of a single black teenage death and replete with the journalists, politicians, and activists who were there—fills the missing gap in a work that is necessary, and unbelievably timely."—Wil Haygood, author of *Showdown: Thurgood Marshall and the Supreme Court Nomination That Changed America* "This moving and insightful book takes us back to the fateful summer of 1964 when law and order moved to the center of

political discourse. It tells the story of the Harlem riot or uprising from the viewpoint of all participants with verve, empathy and grace."—Laura Kalman, University of California, Santa Barbara"Michael Flamm's important book gives us the first detailed look at the event that ignited the long, hot summers of the 1960s. Flamm provides us with rich portraits of the politicians, officers, community leaders, and hard-working people in the neighborhoods who were affected by the riots. This remarkable book brilliantly tackles the tangled nexus of race and criminal justice that is at the core of this history and continues to be its legacy."—Alan Brinkley, author of *The Publisher: Henry Luce and His American Century*"Michael Flamm has written a searing account of the 1964 New York City riots, the first of the many violent uprisings that galvanized the United States in the 1960s. Flamm's riveting history of black anger, police misconduct, and the politics of law and order sets the stage for today's debates over incarceration, police-community relations, and the struggle for racial justice in the United States."—David Farber, University of Kansas"In the Heat of the Summer is not simply the best history ever written about race and urban violence in the 1960s. It brilliantly reveals the roots of the ongoing mistrust between police and African-Americans. And Michael Flamm's vivid narrative is hard to put down."—Michael Kazin, author of *War Against War: The American Fight for Peace, 1914-1918*About the AuthorMichael W. Flamm is Professor of History at Ohio Wesleyan University.