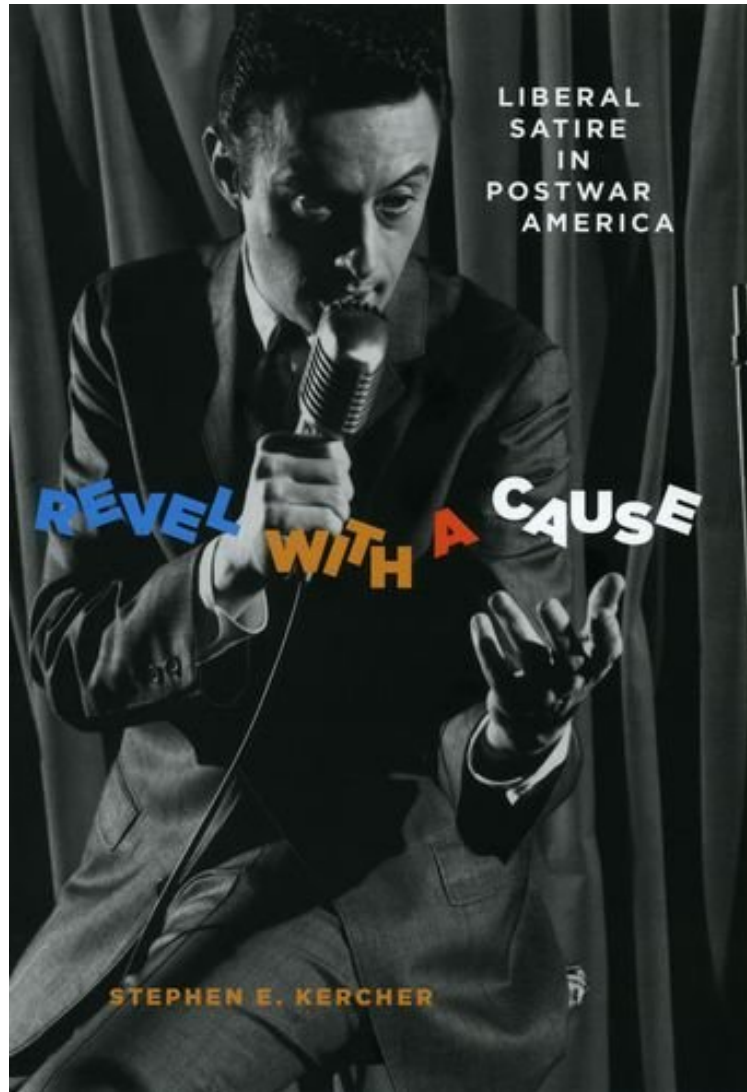


(Mobile pdf) Revel with a Cause: Liberal Satire in Postwar America

Revel with a Cause: Liberal Satire in Postwar America

Stephen E. Kercher

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#2352573 in Books Stephen E Kercher 2006-09-15Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.00 x 1.60 x 6.00l, 2.03 #File Name: 0226431649588 pagesRevel with a Cause Liberal Satire in Postwar America | File size: 61.Mb

Stephen E. Kercher : Revel with a Cause: Liberal Satire in Postwar America before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Revel with a Cause: Liberal Satire in Postwar America:

8 of 9 people found the following review helpful. A fine survey of the uses of comedy and satire in the political and social arena.By Midwest Book ReviewEarly liberal satirists helped oppose the nation's leaders and their policies, providing an alternative to political conservatism during the 1950s and 60s: REVEL WITH A CAUSE focuses on the use of comedy and satire to prove alternative commentary and nonconforming ideas to the public. College-level students of media studies or American social issues will find it a fine survey of the uses of comedy and satire in the

political and social arena. Diane C. Donovan California Bookwatch

We live in a time much like the postwar era. A time of arch political conservatism and vast social conformity. A time in which our nation's leaders question and challenge the patriotism of those who oppose their policies. But before there was Jon Stewart, Al Franken, or Bill Maher, there were Mort Sahl, Stan Freberg, and Lenny Bruce liberal satirists who, through their wry and scabrous comedic routines, waged war against the political ironies, contradictions, and hypocrisies of their times. *Revel with a Cause* is their story. Stephen Kercher here provides the first comprehensive look at the satiric humor that flourished in the United States during the 1950s and early 1960s. Focusing on an impressive range of comedy not just standup comedians of the day but also satirical publications like *MAD* magazine, improvisational theater groups such as *Second City*, the motion picture *Dr. Strangelove*, and TV shows like *That Was the Week That Was* Kercher reminds us that the postwar era saw varieties of comic expression that were more challenging and nonconformist than we commonly remember. His history of these comedic luminaries shows that for a sizeable audience of educated, middle-class Americans who shared such liberal views, the period's satire was a crucial mode of cultural dissent. For such individuals, satire was a vehicle through which concerns over the suppression of civil liberties, Cold War foreign policies, blind social conformity, and our heated racial crisis could be productively addressed. A vibrant and probing look at some of the most influential comedy of mid-twentieth-century America, *Revel with a Cause* belongs on the short list of essential books for anyone interested in the relationship between American politics and popular culture.

"The book is almost encyclopedic in its breadth, serving as a useful overview of the many ways in which postwar satire articulated cultural criticism. . . . Indispensable for understanding the role of humor in contemporary American culture."