

Reviews and Endorsements of *The Stonewall Riots*

“With this carefully curated collection, Marc Stein invites us to read the sources critically and draw our own conclusions. His excellent introduction offers a guided tour through longstanding debates about a landmark event.” Joanne Meyerowitz, Professor of History at Yale University and author of *How Sex Changed: A History of Transsexuality in the United States*

“Marc Stein has done an extraordinary job of uncovering a wealth of not-easy-to-access documents that create deep context for the Stonewall Uprising of 1969. Together they provide a powerful sense of the passionate activism that Stonewall provoked. Fifty years after this historic event occurred, it comes alive once more through this collection and helps us understand why ‘Stonewall’ occupies such an important place in history.” John D’Emilio, Emeritus Professor of History and Women and Gender Studies at the University of Illinois, Chicago, and author of *Intimate Matters: A History of Sexuality in America*

“Marc Stein has done a profound service by amassing key contextualizing documents surrounding the Stonewall Riots that enrich our relationship to history. By sharing conflicting origin stories that emerged at the time, *The Stonewall Riots* reveals that there is not one truth, but instead, multi-faceted collective experiences of difference that enhance our comprehension of queer liberation as united only by a desire for freedom and the imaginings of a better world.” Sarah Schulman, Professor of Humanities at the College of Staten Island and author of *The Cosmopolitans*

“A comprehensive collection of 200 transcribed documents from the early stages of the LGBTQ rights movement, centered around the riots at the Stonewall Inn.... Insightful opening essay and brief introductions to the chapters provide needed context, but he refrains from editorializing, leaving the documents to speak for themselves. This worthwhile dive into LGBTQ history unearths many little known documents and presents them in a manner accessible to scholars and ordinary readers alike.” *Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

“A generous survey of LGBTQ lives before and after the Stonewall Riots in Greenwich Village in June 1969, Stein’s research fills in gaps in the American history of the fight for free expression of sexuality.... A valuable resource for high school, college, and public libraries, Stein’s work offers reason for pride and hope.” *Booklist*

“An essential collection of primary sources including newspaper articles, opinion pieces, court documents, and photos that place a central event in LGBTQ+ history in context.... Stein’s introduction gives a crystal-clear overview of current thinking on what led to the Stonewall uprising, what happened there, and how it influenced later LGBTQ+ activism and policies.... The documents themselves represent an impressive range of voices that describe meetings, marches, arrests, and bar raids.... An invaluable addition to LGBTQ+ history, gathering for the first time a wealth of primary documents that will deepen understanding of a pivotal, culture-changing event.” *Foreword Reviews*

“A compendium of primary sources on the historic uprising for LGBTQ liberation.... Together they create a mosaic of the cultural and political realities before, during, and after the riots. The editor helpfully provides source descriptions for each section...as well as a perceptive introduction.... The book reflects both the brilliance and contradictions of a multifaceted history.... Stein’s reflective curation is an important contribution to understanding what Stonewall was and what it represents.... An illuminating, worthy addition to the scholarship.”
Kirkus Reviews

“A powerful volume of documents that provides a historically accurate account of not just the riots themselves but also the background and context of the times.... A serious yet inviting collection of accounts and perspectives.... Captures the radical spirit of the time.... Shows the vibrancy of gay life at the time with colorful descriptions of gay bars and bathhouses, inspiring examples of political empowerment and courageous protest.... A deep and accurate look at the riots in serious format that provides plenty of real-life evidence.” Donald Padgett, *The Advocate*

“Stein provides a thorough education about Stonewall and the events that surrounded it.... Like the best archaeologists, Stein unearths forgotten aspects to further our understanding.... What really stays with you is how many factions of society banded together to make queers hate themselves and what strength it took to fight back. By giving us a broad view of history, Stein brings Stonewall back down to its proper size. No longer is it this huge event that overshadows everything else, but one of a series of important happenings that took place during a unique, productive, chaotic, sometimes sad, sometimes comical, and ultimately exhilarating era.” Gena Hymowech, *Lambda Literary Review*

“The fiftieth anniversary of Stonewall—the protests in Greenwich Village that kickstarted the modern LGBTQ+ movement—is coming up this summer, and this documentary history is the perfect way to celebrate the occasion.... Stein’s introduction is a valuable and detailed overview, but he mostly lets the documents speak for themselves. They provide a fascinating glimpse into the struggles and the triumphs of a movement that shaped the world we know today.” Rebecca Hussey, *Book Riot*

“An invaluable addition to the existing literature on the LGBT movement and the sexual revolution. It is a perfect tribute to the LGBT resistance struggles that have shaped the modern world.” *Washington Book Review*

“When you’re trying to figure out what Stonewall meant to people at the time, these documents, many of which were first printed in the couple of years afterward, are indispensable.” Rebecca Onion, *Slate*

“An encyclopedic work that invites readers to look past legends and examine primary documents for themselves.... A must read for students and scholars of LGBT history.” *Washington Blade*

The Stonewall Riots: A Documentary History received a starred review in *Publishers Weekly* and was selected for the *Advocate*'s "Best Queer(ish) Non-Fiction Tomes" list for 2019, the *Library Journal*'s "Best Reference" list for 2019, and the American Library Association GLBT Round Table's 2020 "Over the Rainbow" non-fiction longlist.