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The first comprehensive study of one city, Baltimore, forty years after the unrest that swept across some 120 U.S.

Baltimore '68

Riots and Rebirth in an American City

edited by **Jessica I.
Elfenbein, Thomas L.
Hollowak and Elizabeth
M. Nix**

"Baltimore '68 deserves a prominent place on the small bookshelf of essential histories of the 1960s urban uprisings and their effects.

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Thomas J. Sugrue, author of *Sweet Land of Liberty: The Forgotten Struggle for Civil Rights in the North*

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In 1968, Baltimore was home to a variety of ethnic, religious, and racial communities that, like those in other American cities, were confronting a quickly declining industrial base. In April of that year, disturbances broke the urban landscape along lines of race and class.

This book offers chapters on events leading up to the turmoil, the riots, and the aftermath as well as four rigorously edited and annotated oral histories of members of the Baltimore community. The combination of new scholarship and first-person accounts provides a comprehensive case study of this period of civil unrest four decades later.

This engaging, broad-based public history lays bare the diverse experiences of 1968 and their effects, emphasizing the role of specific human actions. By reflecting on the stories and analysis presented in this anthology, readers may feel empowered to pursue informed, responsible civic action of their own.

Baltimore '68 is the book component of a larger public history project, "Baltimore '68 Riots: Riots and Rebirth." The project's companion website (<http://archives.ubalt.edu/bsr/index.html>) offers many more oral histories plus photos, art, and links to archival sources. The book and the website together make up an invaluable teaching resource on cities, social unrest, and racial politics in the 1960s. The project was the corecipient of the 2009

Outstanding Public History Project Award from the National Council on Public History.

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Excerpt

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Reviews

"With extensive archival research and gripping oral interviews, Baltimore '68 offers a deeply informative study of the shattered dreams, bitter memories, and uneasy revitalization of one of America's great urban centers. This book serves as an example of academic scholarship, civic engagement, and community collaboration at its very best."

Bobby J. Donaldson, University of South Carolina, Columbia

"These essays and primary accounts examine the roots of the broad spectrum of events that led to rioting in Baltimore following Martin Luther King's assassination and how these events shaped the social and economic fabric of today's Baltimore. I know it will be taken from library shelves for many years to come as a primary resource for historical study."

Carla D. Hayden, CEO, Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore

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