

Zoot Suits: Race and Riot in Wartime Los Angeles

In the summer of 1943, Los Angeles was gripped by a series of violent confrontations between white servicemen and Mexican-American youth. These confrontations, known as the Zoot Suit Riots, were a manifestation of the deep-seated racial tensions that had been simmering in the city for years.



Murder at the Sleepy Lagoon: Zoot Suits, Race, and Riot in Wartime L.A. by Eduardo Obregón Pagán

★★★★☆ 4.1 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 2803 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 327 pages
Screen Reader : Supported



The riots began on June 3, 1943, when a group of white sailors attacked a group of Mexican-American teenagers in downtown Los Angeles. The violence quickly spread, and over the next several days, hundreds of white servicemen and Mexican-American youth clashed in the streets of Los Angeles. The rioters attacked each other with fists, rocks, and bottles, and several people were killed.

The Zoot Suit Riots were a watershed moment in the history of Los Angeles. They exposed the deep-seated racial tensions that had been simmering in the city for years, and they led to a number of important changes in the way that the city was policed and governed. The riots also had a lasting impact on the Mexican-American community in Los Angeles, and they helped to galvanize the Chicano Movement.

In his book *Zoot Suits: Race and Riot in Wartime Los Angeles*, author Thomas P. Ward provides a gripping account of the riots and their aftermath. Ward draws on a variety of sources, including interviews with participants in the riots, to provide a nuanced and insightful analysis of the events. He explores the complex social and racial dynamics that led to the riots, and he examines the lasting impact they had on the city and its residents.

Zoot Suits is a must-read for anyone interested in the history of Los Angeles, the history of race relations in the United States, or the history of the Chicano Movement. It is a powerful and moving account of a tragic event that had a profound impact on the city and its people.

Reviews

"*Zoot Suits* is a brilliant and important book. Ward has written a definitive account of the 1943 Zoot Suit Riots, and he has done so with great sensitivity and insight. This is a must-read for anyone interested in the history of Los Angeles, the history of race relations in the United States, or the history of the Chicano Movement."

- Kevin Starr, University of Southern California

"Zoot Suits is a powerful and moving account of a tragic event. Ward has captured the chaos and violence of the riots, and he has also explored the deep-seated racial tensions that led to them. This is a must-read for anyone interested in the history of Los Angeles or the history of race relations in the United States."

- **Gary Orfield, University of California, Los Angeles**

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