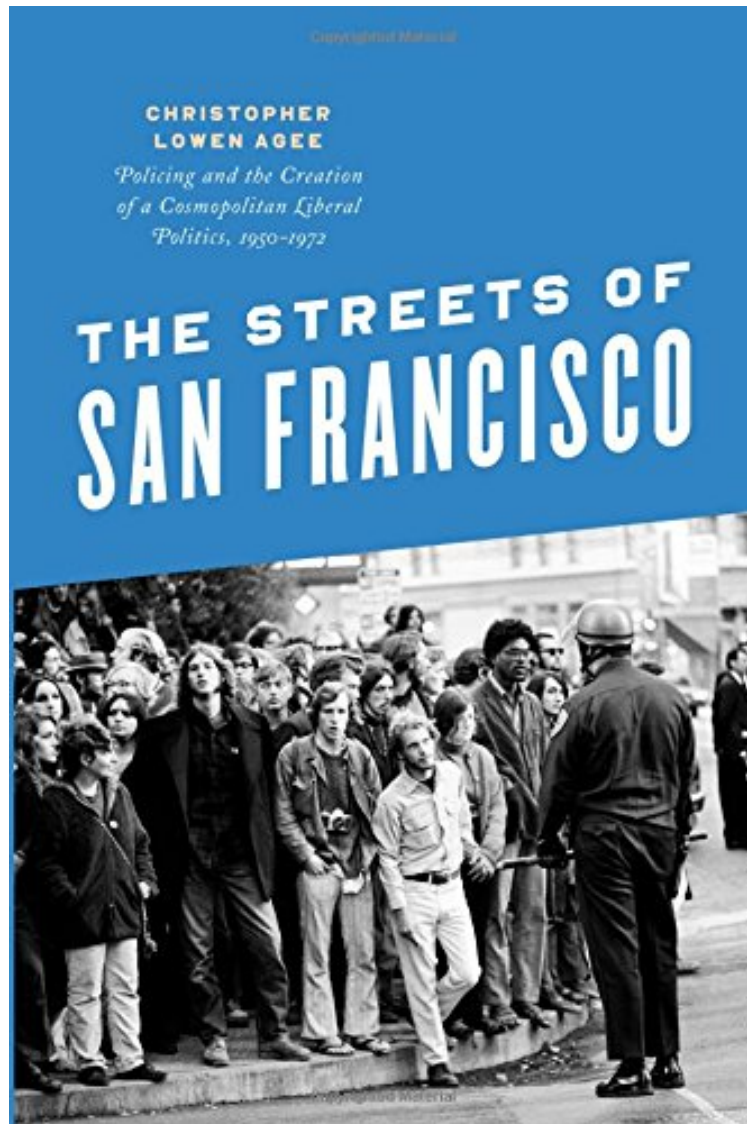


(Mobile book) The Streets of San Francisco: Policing and the Creation of a Cosmopolitan Liberal Politics, 1950-1972 (Historical Studies of Urban America)

The Streets of San Francisco: Policing and the Creation of a Cosmopolitan Liberal Politics, 1950-1972 (Historical Studies of Urban America)

Christopher Lowen Agee

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#923697 in Books Christopher Lowen Agee 2016-01-28 2014-03-31 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.00 x 1.00 x 6.00l, .0 #File Name: 022637808X339 pages The Streets of San Francisco Policing and the Creation of a Cosmopolitan Liberal Politics 1950 1972 Historical Studies of Urban America | File size: 56.Mb

Christopher Lowen Agee : The Streets of San Francisco: Policing and the Creation of a Cosmopolitan Liberal Politics, 1950-1972 (Historical Studies of Urban America) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it

would be worth my time, and all praised *The Streets of San Francisco: Policing and the Creation of a Cosmopolitan Liberal Politics, 1950-1972* (Historical Studies of Urban America):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Professor Agee tackles a difficult subject with an interesting and ...By BjejuneProfessor Agee tackles a difficult subject with an interesting and informative look at San Francisco as it developed from a traditional blue-collar city into a pluralistic one that struggled with difference and diversity from 1940s through and up to the 1970s. He focuses his observations and investigation around San Francisco citizenry interactions with city government and the SFPD. He focuses on the different types of city government models (machine vs. managerial approaches), neighborhood developments and their struggles (North Beach, Hunter's Point, and Haight-Ashbury), and grass root organizations within these communities and the police department itself. In doing so, he offers an insightful and well-documented presentation of the times and the forces of work within this crucial period in San Francisco's history. I grew up in the Bay Area, lived in San Francisco from '72-'84, and the East Bay for a number of years and found his discussion fascinating and revealing as to the politics and temperaments of those times, districts, and movements in San Francisco. There are other histories which take a broader view and look at those times with a focus on media, cultural, and institutional forces that shaped this time period that add another layer to Agee's discussion (e.g., Gray Brechin's "Imperial San Francisco; Kevin Starr's "Embattled Dreams"). Agee does not attempt to duplicate those stellar works, but instead he carves out a element/subject matter of SF history with a focus and intensity that deserves serious consideration by anyone interested in the myriad of forces and issues that influenced and contributed to its development. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A fresh, groundbreaking look at San Francisco history By East Coast reader As a frequent visitor to the Bay Area, I found this book to be a very compelling and often surprising account of how San Francisco became a welcoming place for people of diverse cultural and racial backgrounds. The process revolved in considerable measure around policing practices, both as a result of direction from City Hall and -- perhaps more frequently -- tactics devised by police officials or the cop on the street. Just as Atlanta became the business and cultural capital of the New South by embracing moderate and relatively progressive racial policies, San Francisco -- despite widespread antagonism against people who were "different" -- emerged as a symbol of liberalism and acceptance because, in large measure, it was ultimately deemed to be in the city's best interest. The process was often antagonistic, oppressive and complex, and Agee spells it out clearly and fully, and with a confidence and authoritativeness that is possible only through thorough research and story-telling. Agee's writing digs deep, but is always focused, purposeful and on point. "The Streets of San Francisco" broadens the scope of understanding of San Francisco's history, and, in a broader sense, is sure to focus greater attention on police tactics in studies of other American cities. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I am glad it was required reading. By Danielle Farmer I had to read this book for a California history class. I already wrote a paper on it, so excuse the brevity of the review. I am glad it was required reading. I lived in SF for ten years, and this book really put a new lens on my understanding of the shaping of the city and the police force. Very interesting material. I definitely recommend this book.

During the Sixties the nation turned its eyes to San Francisco as the city's police force clashed with movements for free speech, civil rights, and sexual liberation. These conflicts on the street forced Americans to reconsider the role of the police officer in a democracy. In *The Streets of San Francisco* Christopher Lowen Agee explores the surprising and influential ways in which San Francisco liberals answered that question, ultimately turning to the police as partners, and reshaping understandings of crime, policing, and democracy. *The Streets of San Francisco* uncovers the seldom reported, street-level interactions between police officers and San Francisco residents and finds that police discretion was the defining feature of mid-century law enforcement. Postwar police officers enjoyed great autonomy when dealing with North Beach beats, African American gang leaders, gay and lesbian bar owners, Haight-Ashbury hippies, artists who created sexually explicit works, Chinese American entrepreneurs, and a wide range of other San Franciscans. Unexpectedly, this police independence grew into a source of both concern and inspiration for the thousands of young professionals streaming into the city's growing financial district. These young professionals ultimately used the issue of police discretion to forge a new cosmopolitan liberal coalition that incorporated both marginalized San Franciscans and rank-and-file police officers. The success of this model in San Francisco resulted in the rise of cosmopolitan liberal coalitions throughout the country, and today, liberal cities across America ground themselves in similar understandings of democracy, emphasizing both broad diversity and strong policing.

The history that Agee recounts offers important lessons for the current movement to rein in America's hyper-aggressive, overmilitarized police departments. In designing solutions, reformers must grapple not only with formal laws and policies, but also, and perhaps more importantly, with the welter of personal motives and workplace grievances that drive individual officers' day-to-day decisions.