

# ABOUT THE VOLUME

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The 1970s continued the tumult of the previous decade with new political and social conflicts. While the country remained embroiled in the Vietnam War for the first half of the decade, the Nixon administration found itself sinking under the weight of the Watergate scandal. President Richard Nixon ultimately resigned before he could be impeached for his infractions, but not before he pulled U.S. troops out of Vietnam. The U.S. Supreme Court both pleased and appalled the public, depending on one's opinion of the matter, when it ruled that abortion was legal. A medical, social, and moral controversy surrounded the first test tube baby. By the decade's close, floppy disks were for sale, Microsoft was founded, and Americans had been taken hostage at the U.S. Embassy in Iran. The following documents are just a sampling of the offerings available in this volume.

## Highlights of Primary Sources, 1970–1979

- “Born to Run,” by Bruce Springsteen
- *Looking Out for Number One* by Robert J. Ringer
- *Now is the Time of the Furnaces . . . And the Light Will be Seen* Kent State SDS Flyer, and statements from witnesses to events that led to the deaths of four students
- Leisure suits—from the Sears, Roebuck Catalog
- *Yellow Ribbon*, the diary of Iran Hostage Crisis survivor Bruce Lanigen
- *U.S. v. Nixon*, the case against Richard M. Nixon

- Self-help books: *The Book of est* and *I'm OK, You're OK*
- “A Personal Report from Ms.” an article about the creation of the magazine
- “A M\*A\*S\*H Note for Docs,” commencement speech given by Alan Alda
- Letter from the Catholic Bishops declaring racism a sin: *Brothers and Sisters To Us*
- Article from *Scientific American* about the Viking mission to Mars
- Norman Mailer's article on the first fight between Muhammad Ali and Joe Frasier, 1971

## Volume Structure and Content

### Front matter

- Table of Contents—lists primary sources, authors, and dates of origin, by chapter and chronologically within chapters.
- About the Set, About the Volume, About the Entry essays—guide the reader through the set and promote ease of use.
- Highlights of Primary Sources—a quick look at a dozen or so primary sources gives the reader a feel for the decade and the volume's contents.
- Using Primary Sources—provides a crash course in reading and interpreting primary sources.

- Chronology of Selected World Events Outside the United States—lends additional context in which to place the decade’s primary sources.

**Chapters:**

- The Arts
- Business and the Economy
- Education
- Fashion and Design
- Government and Politics
- Law and Justice
- Lifestyles and Social Trends
- The Media
- Medicine and Health
- Religion
- Science and Technology
- Sports

**Chapter structure**

- Chapter table of contents—lists primary sources, authors, and dates of origin chronologically, showing each source’s place in the decade.
- Chapter chronology—highlights the decade’s important events in the chapter’s subject.
- Primary sources—displays sources surrounded by contextual material.

**Back matter**

- General Resources—promotes further inquiry with books, periodicals, websites, and audio and visual media, all organized into general and subject-specific sections.
- General Index—provides comprehensive access to primary sources, people, events, and subjects, and cross-referencing to enhance comparison and analysis.
- Primary Source Type Index—locates primary sources by category, giving readers an opportunity to easily analyze sources across genres.