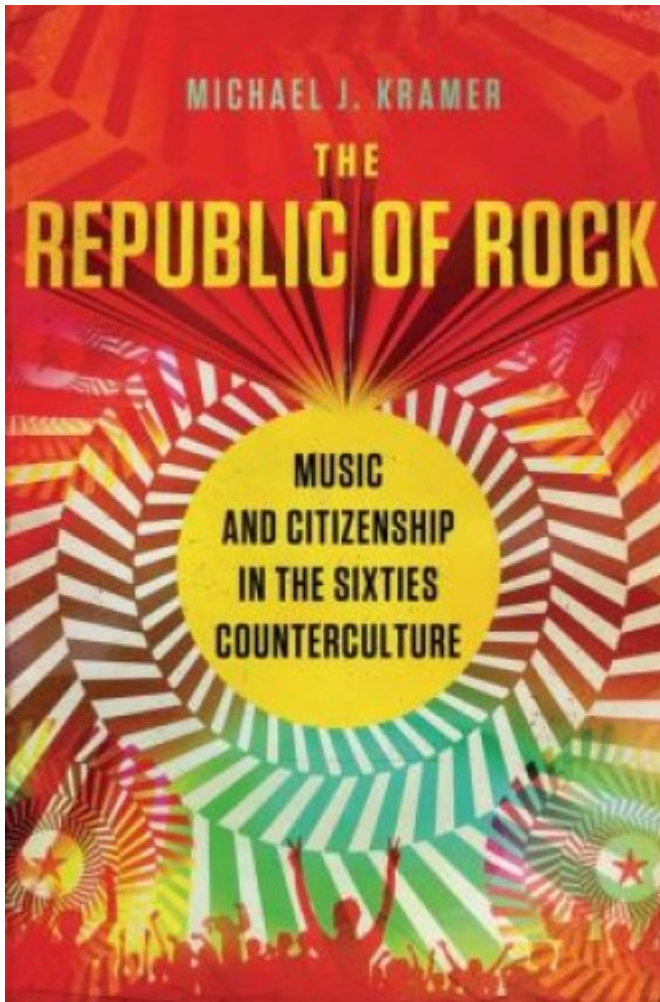


The Republic of Rock, by Michael J. Kramer

Books in the [September 4, 2013](#) issue

In Review



The Republic of Rock

By Michael J. Kramer
Oxford University Press

During the Vietnam War, San Francisco was the center of antiwar protest and the counterculture. Nothing could seem more antithetical to the war effort than the drug culture of the city's Haight-Ashbury district. Michael J. Kramer documents how the

youth who congregated in San Francisco and those who reluctantly marched off to the war in Vietnam had quite a bit in common. Rock music provided the background texts for both groups. The Defense Department appropriated rock music, even though much of it was identified with the antiwar movement. Rock music played over the military airwaves in Vietnam had a double edge: to relax the soldiers and to charge them up for battle.