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Wicked Messenger: Bob Dylan and the 1960s; Chimes of Freedom, revised and expanded

Mike Marqusee

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Mike Marqusee : Wicked Messenger: Bob Dylan and the 1960s; Chimes of Freedom, revised and expanded
before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Wicked Messenger: Bob Dylan and the 1960s; Chimes of Freedom, revised and expanded:*

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A THOUGHTFUL AND STIMULATING BOOK
By Sweet Spring Farmer
I came across WICKED MESSENGER in director Todd Haynes commentary for his film I'M NOT THERE.
Since I seem to be one of the few people who enjoyed Haynes's take on Dylan's ever-changing persona, I decided to

give the book a go. In WM, author Mike Marqusee skips the gossip and places Dylan within the historical context of the 60s and the decades before. BTW: This is not a "leftist" screed - unless recounting history is the domain of the Left. In any case, among its many virtues, WM examines the question of "authenticity" (versus hype), one of my longtime considerations. Since first hearing the FREEWHEELIN' album in 1963, and seeing Dylan in concert the same year, I've long thought that the burden of being "the spokesman of his generation" was an unfair and unrealistic burden. Perhaps Dylan's real importance is that he prompted us to think more deeply, more artfully, more poetically. Thinking people did not require him - or anyone - to be the voice of our generation; we employed our own voices - speaking from our minds and hearts. Another plus in WM is the great Bibliography, which I've already begun reading through; first up, John Lewis's extraordinary memoir, WALKING WITH THE WIND.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. As close as possible to understanding Bob DylanBy Kara AharonI bought this for a project I'm doing on Bob Dylan. It combines historical information, Dylan's own quotes and explanations about his songs and other interpretations and reactions to his music at different stages. A good picture of the conflict between his influence on the protest movements and his denial of his role or responsibility as an activist.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Love the ShelleyBy pat cassidyAstute, honest and insightful take on turbulent and trying times. Love the Shelley, Blake and Thoreau quotes...Dylan's forebears, ever present in our Bard's lyrics.

Bob Dylan's abrupt abandonment of overtly political songwriting in the mid-1960s caused an uproar among critics and fans. In *Wicked Messenger*, acclaimed cultural-political commentator Mike Marqusee advances the new thesis that Dylan did not drop politics from his songs but changed the manner of his critique to address the changing political and cultural climate and, more importantly, his own evolving aesthetic. *Wicked Messenger* is also a riveting political history of the United States in the 1960s. Tracing the development of the decaders' political and cultural dissent movements, Marqusee shows how their twists and turns were anticipated in the poetic aesthetic—;anarchic, unaccountable, contradictory, punk—; of Dylan's mid-sixties albums, as well as in his recent artistic ventures in *Chronicles, Vol. I* and *Masked and Anonymous*. Dylan's anguished, self-obsessed, prickly artistic evolution, Marqusee asserts, was a deeply creative response to a deeply disturbing situation. "He can no longer tell the story straight," Marqusee concludes, "because any story told straight is a false one."