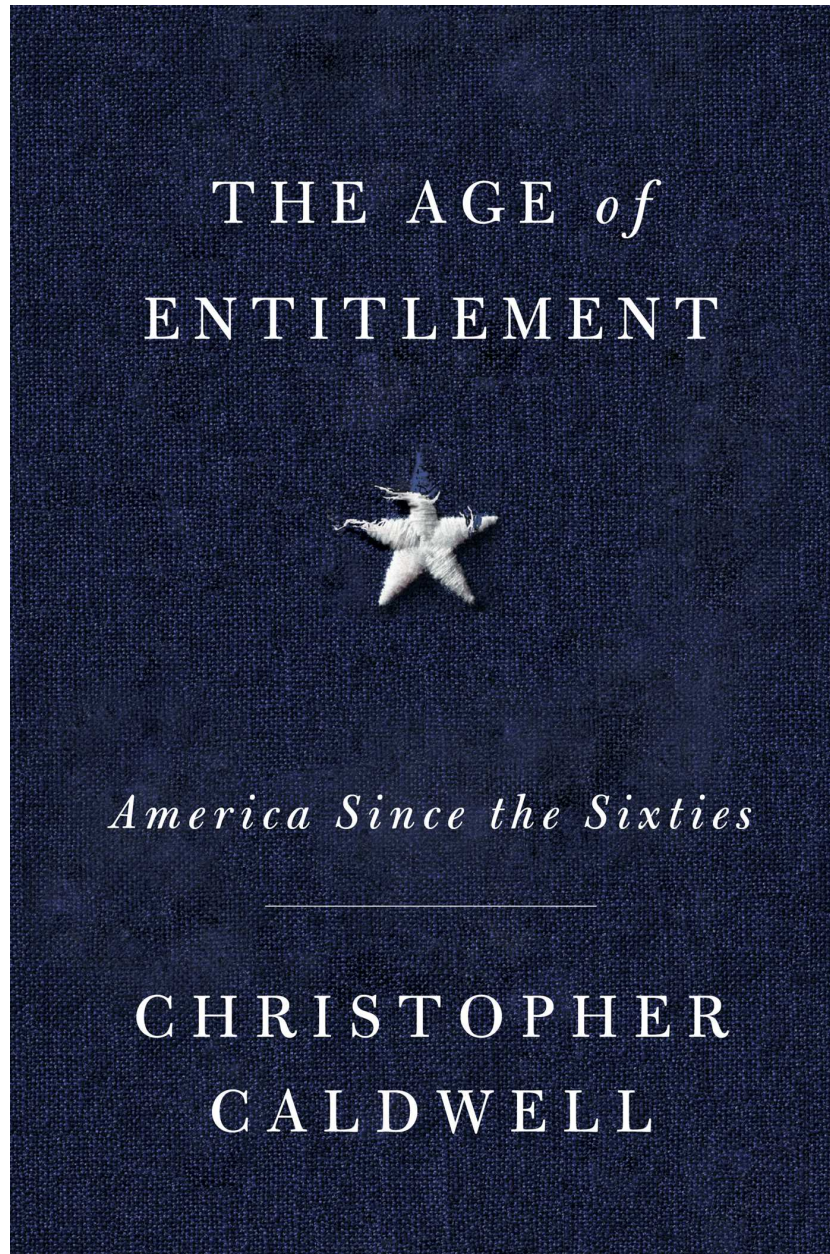


# The Age of Entitlement: America Since the Sixties Book PDF Download



**By:**  
**Christopher Caldwell**

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### Murtaza

Anyone who has studied the history of an era, let alone personally lived through it, will undoubtedly find things to mourn in its passing. None of us are free of this, nor is anything wrong with such nostalgia. I'm interested in reactionary political thought because it is a powerful force in our present-day politics but also because many reactionaries are deeply intelligent and provocative thinkers.

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This book however is a lame contribution to that tradition. I could sum it up as one long curmudgeonly "Back in my day..." that almost reads like a caricature of conservative writing. Caldwell is nostalgic for the days before the Civil Rights Act and women's liberation for the very boring reason that people like him had more power before then. There are complaints about diversity in film and inequities in the use of racial epithets by African-Americans, not to mention of course the perennial bad happenings on college campuses. It's a real Gran Turismo of right-wing political cliches.

I grudgingly respect Caldwell for putting his argument out there nakedly without caring what others think of him, up to and including chastising Frederick Douglass for being too pushy about abolishing slavery. The problem is that he also mixes this honesty with arguments that are clearly in bad faith. In the section on women's liberation he writes:

Surely the child born of a man's adultery in another household would also be susceptible to these "ulterior allegiances"? This is just one illustrative example, where Caldwell attempts to dress up his preferences as almost an extension of natural law. If one wants to make a straightforward argument for ethnic power they should do so consistently without also trying to dress it up as an expression of higher principle. For some reason even honest tribalists find it too hard to refrain from this temptation.

My other criticism of this book is that Caldwell is a humorless writer who has no awareness of the irony of his situation. This makes him a lot less fun to read than literary reactionaries like Michel Houellebecq, let alone many talented anonymous posters on the internet. The meticulous recollections of Vietnam, Playboy Magazine and relatively arcane Supreme Court decisions of a

bygone era felt unbearably tedious to anyone not from his generation. I'm sure he remembered what the world was like before all that, but that world is scarcely imaginable today and its never coming back – so what's the point exactly? I'm also capable of remembering a time and place where people like me had greater privileges and powers but that is hardly interesting on its own terms.

After reading Ross Douthat's fascinating and forward-looking new conservative book, I found this barely digestible. About halfway through the text, my head started to nod and eyes began to glaze over. As my vision went out of focus, the blurred letters on the page directed themselves into a new arrangement that expressed my sentiments more succinctly and accurately than any extended review could: "OK BOOMER".

## **Blinkie**

A thoughtful look at the United States since the 60s. It is a mix of history, social commentary, and politics – yet reads like a novel. Completely engaging. A must read.

## Serge

A tactical and incendiary revisionist cultural history of the United States since 1964. While Caldwell may very well be a principled conservative, this book veils thinly his intellectual ventriloquism of racist populist grievance. His assertion that liberals conflate political correctness and affirmative action with civil rights is the sort of wishful thinking that can resuscitate the straw men that so obsessed "respectable" John Birch Society members, a generation ago. Neither Buckley nor

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## Dylan Wiedman

This was a hard book to put down. It's essentially an economic, political, and cultural commentary on how America's current issues have their roots in the 60s. It starts with how the 60s civil rights act bypassed the constitution to set up legal precedents that extended the government's judicial reach beyond what the founding fathers intended. Since then, the nations

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A few times he sounded like an unsubstantiated curmudgeon, letting his yearning for a time bygone consume his rationality, but they were very few. Otherwise, it’s a sobering read that sums up today’s identity politics, Reagan’s biggest yet largely unspoken legacy (it ain’t good...), how progressive policies are not the right tools to fix the issues this country faces today, and much more. Highly recommend!

## Mark Seeley

Powerful and sweeping that will provoke disagreement and debate. Once I started it, it was hard to put down. Mr. Caldwell is a conservative curmudgeon who perceives the unintended consequences of the 1964 civil rights legislation as conjuring a rival -- what he calls a "de facto" -- constitution.

Civil rights in his view directly led to affirmative action which eventually led to political correctness. What was unintended was limiting the freedoms of the first amendment, or what he calls "a

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Civil rights in his view directly led to affirmative action which eventually led to political correctness. What was unintended was limiting the freedoms of the first amendment, or what he calls "a partial appeal of the First Amendment." Civil rights legislation did not bring an end to racial discrimination but decidedly nurtured and exacerbated it. Even Ronald Reagan is blameworthy with his tax cuts and deficit spending. Big philanthropy and the technology revolution also contribute to the tribalism, demands for conformity, and "woke" culture.

Caldwell raises important, difficult questions. The last few pages left me hanging as to what might Caldwell say about Trump. All we get is a reference from Ann Coulter?