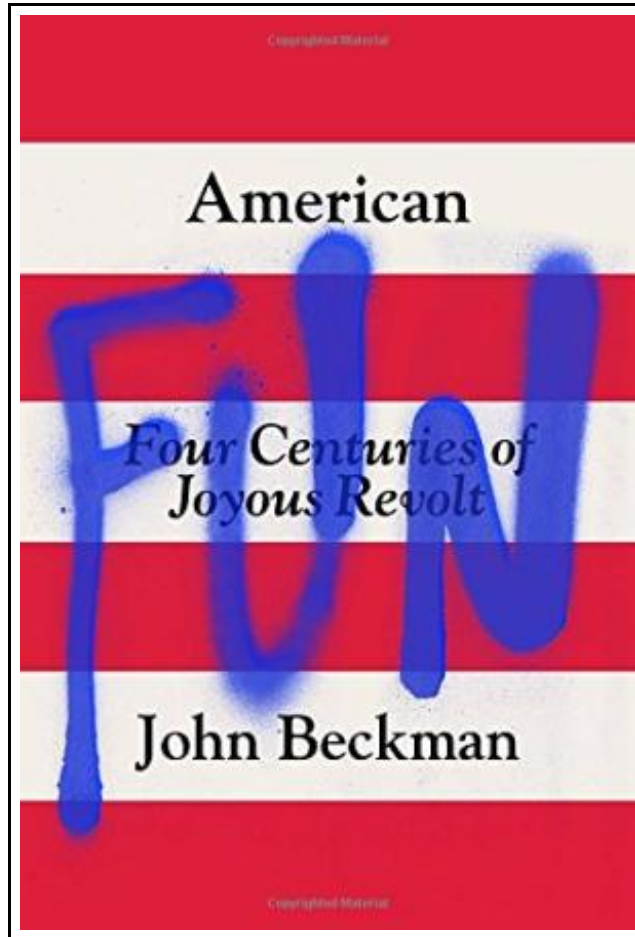


## American Fun: Four Centuries of Joyous Revolt



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## AMERICAN FUN: FOUR CENTURIES OF JOYOUS REVOLT



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Pantheon, 2014. Book Condition: New. Brand New, Unread Copy in Perfect Condition. A+ Customer Service! Summary: "John Beckman's *American Fun* is a raucous, frequently dazzling tour through the country's wild and crazy side, the joyous out-of-control culture that, as he writes, 'flouts couth.' In an age of bleak spectacle, Beckman reminds us in living color that 'folk fun' and 'coarse civility' are deep in the American grain. At once learned, thrilling, splendidly written and wicked smart, this is the best book I've read about popular culture in ages--or ever." --Todd Gitlin, author, *The Sixties: Years of Hope, Days of Rage* "Folksinger and Yippie organizer Phil Ochs once proclaimed, 'A demonstration should turn you on, not turn you off.' There's even a band named Fun. But who could ever have predicted that there would be this unique, comprehensively researched, scholarly approach to 400 years of fun in America, a historical tradition of ridicule that has served as a threat to the status quo--from King Charley to Dick Gregory, from Thomas Morton to Ken Kesey, from Mark Twain to Abbie Hoffman--in a myriad of forms that provide a strong sense of continuity. Like pasta fazool, which features a bean in every macaroni, a satirical ploy is embedded with a level of irreverent truth. 'Laughter,' said Malcolm Muggeridge, the editor of *Punch*, 'is the most effective of all subversive conspiracies, and it operates on our side.' And now, with the aid of technology, that process can go viral, fast and furious. Joyous revolt, after all, is not an oxymoron." --Paul Krassner, author of *Confessions of a Raving, Unconfined Nut: Misadventures in the Counterculture* " *American Fun* reads like a graphic novel as John Beckman connects the dots between Thomas Morton, the flappers, Abbie Hoffman and punk rock, celebrating fun as a great...



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