

# Whatever Happened to Alternative Nation? A Journey Through the Era of Grunge, Post-Punk, New Wave, and Industrial Music

In the 1980s and 1990s, alternative music exploded onto the mainstream scene. Bands like Nirvana, Pearl Jam, Soundgarden, and Alice in Chains brought grunge to the masses, while Depeche Mode, The Cure, and New Free Download topped the charts with their post-punk and new wave anthems. Industrial music also found a niche audience, with bands like Nine Inch Nails and Ministry pushing the boundaries of what was considered acceptable music.



## Whatever Happened To Alternative Nation? by Stefan Hollos

★★★★☆ 4.1 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 349 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 132 pages  
Lending : Enabled



But what happened to alternative nation? In the early 2000s, the alternative music scene seemed to implode. Grunge bands faded away, post-punk and new wave bands became less popular, and industrial music was relegated to the underground. What caused this decline? And what became of the bands that once ruled the alternative airwaves?

In *Whatever Happened to Alternative Nation?*, author David Browne explores the rise and fall of alternative music in the 1980s and 1990s. The book features interviews with key figures from the era, including musicians, producers, and journalists. Browne traces the evolution of alternative music from its roots in the 1970s punk scene to its peak in the early 1990s. He also examines the factors that led to the decline of alternative music in the 2000s.

*Whatever Happened to Alternative Nation?* is a fascinating look at one of the most important and influential eras in music history. Browne's book is a must-read for anyone who wants to understand the rise and fall of alternative music.

## **Interviews with Key Figures**

One of the strengths of *Whatever Happened to Alternative Nation?* is the author's interviews with key figures from the era. Browne spoke to dozens of musicians, producers, and journalists, including:

- Kurt Cobain (Nirvana)
- Eddie Vedder (Pearl Jam)
- Chris Cornell (Soundgarden)
- Layne Staley (Alice in Chains)
- Dave Gahan (Depeche Mode)
- Robert Smith (The Cure)
- Bernard Sumner (New Free Download)
- Trent Reznor (Nine Inch Nails)

- Al Jourgensen (Ministry)

These interviews provide a unique insight into the rise and fall of alternative music. The musicians discuss their influences, their songwriting process, and their experiences on the road. The producers and journalists offer their perspectives on the evolution of alternative music and the factors that led to its decline.

## **The Rise and Fall of Alternative Music**

Browne traces the evolution of alternative music from its roots in the 1970s punk scene to its peak in the early 1990s. He discusses the key bands and albums of each era, and he examines the factors that led to the rise of alternative music.

In the 1980s, alternative music emerged as a reaction to the corporate rock and hair metal that dominated the mainstream. Bands like Nirvana, Pearl Jam, and Soundgarden combined the energy of punk with the melody of metal to create a new sound that appealed to a wide range of listeners.

In the early 1990s, alternative music reached its peak. Nirvana's album *Nevermind* was a commercial and critical success, and it helped to bring alternative music to the mainstream. Other bands like Pearl Jam, Soundgarden, and Alice in Chains also achieved mainstream success.

However, the decline of alternative music began in the mid-1990s. Grunge bands faded away, post-punk and new wave bands became less popular, and industrial music was relegated to the underground. What caused this decline? Browne examines several factors, including the death of Kurt Cobain, the rise of nu-metal, and the changing tastes of music listeners.

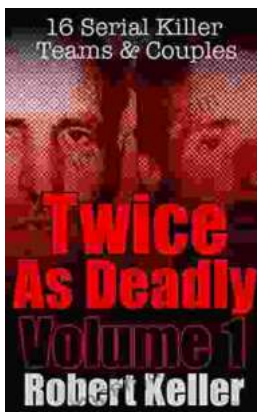
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