

douglas coupland generation x

Douglas Coupland Generation X

The term Douglas Coupland Generation X refers to both a cultural era and a literary movement largely shaped by the influential Canadian novelist Douglas Coupland. His groundbreaking 1991 novel *Generation X: Tales for an Accelerated Culture* not only coined the term "Generation X" but also encapsulated the attitudes, values, and struggles of those born roughly between the early 1960s and the early 1980s. This article explores the origins of the term, its cultural significance, Douglas Coupland's role in shaping the identity of Generation X, and the lasting impact of his work on literature, pop culture, and societal perceptions.

Origins of the Term "Generation X"

The Literary Roots

The phrase "Generation X" was popularized by Douglas Coupland's 1991 novel. The book depicts a disaffected, postmodern youth navigating a world characterized by economic uncertainty, technological change, and shifting social norms. Coupland's narrative captured the mood of a generation feeling alienated and disconnected from traditional values.

Historical Context

Generation X grew up during a period of significant social change, including:

- The decline of manufacturing jobs in North America and Europe.
- The rise of neoliberal economic policies.
- The dawn of the digital age and the advent of personal computers.
- Increasing divorce rates and changing family dynamics.
- Cultural shifts toward individualism and skepticism of authority.

Coupland's work reflected these realities, resonating with millions of young people who felt overlooked or misunderstood.

Defining the Characteristics of Generation X

Key Traits and Values

Generation X is often characterized by the following traits:

- Skepticism and Cynicism: Distrust in institutions such as government, corporations, and traditional media.

- Individualism: Emphasis on personal freedom and self-reliance.
- Pragmatism: Practical approach to career and life choices amid economic uncertainties.
- Technological Adaptability: First generation to grow up with computers and the internet.
- Cultural Diversity: Embrace of multiculturalism and global perspectives.

Common Lifestyle Aspects

Members of Generation X tend to:

- Value work-life balance.
- Prioritize experiences over material possessions.
- Embrace alternative lifestyles and subcultures.
- Use digital technology for communication and entertainment.

Douglas Coupland's Literary Contributions and Their Cultural Impact

Overview of Coupland's Major Works

While *Generation X: Tales for an Accelerated Culture* remains his most influential work, Coupland's bibliography includes:

- *Microserfs* (1995): Explores life in the tech industry and the millennial workforce.
- *Girlfriend in a Coma* (1998): A satirical look at death, youth, and societal change.
- *All Families Are Psychotic* (2001): A dark comedy about family dynamics.
- *JPod* (2006): A satirical novel about a group of tech workers.

The Novel "Generation X" and Its Significance

Coupland's *Generation X* is credited with:

- Introducing the term into popular culture.
- Providing a narrative that articulated the frustrations, hopes, and identity of a generation.
- Influencing other media, including music, film, and advertising, to reflect Generation X themes.

Impact on Literature and Media

Coupland's writing style—marked by:

- Postmodern narrative techniques.
- Use of pop culture references.
- Irony and satire.

has influenced countless writers, filmmakers, and artists addressing youth culture and societal change.

The Cultural and Societal Impact of Generation X

Shaping Popular Culture

Generation X has left a significant mark on popular culture through:

- Music: Bands like Nirvana, Pearl Jam, and Radiohead.
- Film and Television: Shows like The X-Files and movies like Reality Bites.
- Fashion: Grunge style, minimalist aesthetics.

Economic and Political Influence

As a sizable demographic, Generation X has influenced:

- Consumer behavior emphasizing authenticity and sustainability.
- Political shifts, including voting patterns and activism.
- Workplace culture, advocating for flexibility and purpose-driven careers.

Challenges Faced by Generation X

Despite their influence, Generation X has faced:

- Economic hardships, including stagflation and recession impacts.
- The digital divide during early internet adoption.
- Balancing traditional expectations with modern realities.

Douglas Coupland's Legacy and the Continuing Relevance of Generation X

Legacy in Literature and Art

Coupland remains a pivotal figure in contemporary literature, often associated with:

- Postmodern storytelling.
- Cultural critique.
- The depiction of generational identity.

Generation X in the 21st Century

Though aging, Generation X continues to influence:

- Technology: The rise of social media and digital entrepreneurship.
- Social Movements: Advocacy for mental health, environmental issues.
- Cultural Narratives: Films, books, and documentaries revisiting the themes Coupland captured.

Why Douglas Coupland's Work Still Matters

His insights into the complexities of modern life and the identity struggles of Generation X remain relevant because:

- They encapsulate a transitional period in societal history.
- They provide a lens to understand subsequent generations like Millennials and Generation Z.
- They highlight the importance of cultural self-awareness in a rapidly changing world.

Conclusion

Douglas Coupland's Generation X signifies more than just a demographic label; it embodies a cultural phenomenon that reshaped perceptions of youth, societal change, and the role of technology. Coupland's literary contributions gave voice to a generation grappling with postmodern realities, economic uncertainty, and shifting social norms. Today, the legacy of Generation X continues to influence various facets of society, from popular culture to workplace dynamics, making Coupland's work an enduring touchstone for understanding modern history and identity. As we move further into the digital age, the insights gleaned from Douglas Coupland's depiction of Generation X serve as a crucial foundation for understanding the complexities of contemporary life.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is Douglas Coupland and how is he connected to Generation X?

Douglas Coupland is a Canadian author and artist best known for coining the term 'Generation X' in his 1991 novel of the same name, which explores the lives and attitudes of the post-Baby Boomer generation.

What are the main themes in Douglas Coupland's 'Generation X'?

The novel explores themes such as disillusionment, identity, consumerism, technological change, and the search for meaning among young adults in the late 20th century.

How did Douglas Coupland's 'Generation X' influence popular culture?

The book popularized the term 'Generation X,' shaping how society and media perceive this demographic, and it inspired a wave of literature, music, and cultural discussions about post-Baby Boomer youth.

What are some defining characteristics of Generation X according to Douglas Coupland?

According to Coupland, Generation X individuals are characterized by their skepticism, independence, resourcefulness, and a tendency to feel disillusioned with traditional institutions.

Has Douglas Coupland continued to write about Generation X in his later works?

Yes, Coupland has revisited themes related to Generation X in his subsequent novels and essays, often reflecting on how the generation has evolved amid technological and societal changes.

How accurate are Douglas Coupland's portrayals of Generation X today?

While some aspects are considered insightful, critics suggest that Coupland's portrayal captures certain stereotypes and cultural moments, but may not fully represent the diversity of the generation.

What influence did Douglas Coupland's 'Generation X' have on literature and media?

The novel helped establish a new genre of 'Generation X' literature and influenced media portrayals, leading to films, TV shows, and academic discussions centered around this cohort.

In what ways has Douglas Coupland's work impacted our understanding of Millennials and Generation Z?

Coupland's focus on Generation X has provided a framework for contrasting attitudes and experiences with Millennials and Generation Z, highlighting differences in cultural values and technological engagement.

Is Douglas Coupland still active in discussing Generation X today?

Yes, Coupland continues to comment on generational issues through his writings, public appearances, and social media, often reflecting on the ongoing relevance of Generation X's experiences.

Additional Resources

Douglas Coupland Generation X: An In-Depth Exploration of a Cultural Phenomenon

Introduction

In the landscape of contemporary literature and cultural discourse, few figures have encapsulated the ethos of a generation as vividly as Douglas Coupland. His seminal work, *Generation X: Tales for an Accelerated Culture*, published in 1991, not only coined a term that has become part of the global

lexicon but also offered an incisive reflection of the attitudes, anxieties, and aspirations of the cohort born roughly between the early 1960s and early 1980s. Coupland's portrayal of Generation X—often called the "latchkey kids" or the "baby bust" generation—delves into themes of alienation, consumerism, and the search for authenticity amid rapid societal shifts. This article examines Douglas Coupland's representation of Generation X, the cultural and literary context surrounding his work, and the enduring impact of his insights on understanding this pivotal generation.

The Genesis of the Term "Generation X"

Origins and Cultural Context

The term "Generation X" first gained prominence through Douglas Coupland's 1991 novel, but its conceptual roots trace back to the early 1980s. The term was initially popularized by British author and researcher Jane Deverson and Charles Hamblett in the late 1960s, but it was Coupland's book that propelled it into mainstream consciousness.

Coupland's narrative, and the subsequent cultural discourse, was shaped by a backdrop of economic restructuring, technological change, and shifting social norms. The 1980s and early 1990s marked a period of significant upheaval—corporate downsizing, the rise of digital technology, increased divorce rates, and a sense of disillusionment among youth. Coupland's generation was characterized by a feeling of dislocation and a search for meaning in a rapidly commodified society.

The Significance of "X"

The "X" in Generation X symbolizes the unknown, the variable, and the undefined—a reflection of the generation's ambiguous identity. Unlike the preceding Baby Boomers, who were characterized by optimism and social activism, Generation X was often viewed as disengaged, skeptical, and pragmatic.

Douglas Coupland's Literary Portrayal of Generation X

The Novel: Generation X: Tales for an Accelerated Culture

Published in 1991, Coupland's *Generation X* is a collection of interconnected vignettes narrated by three young adults—Andy, Dag, and Claire—who navigate the alienation and disillusionment of their era.

Key Themes in the Novel

- **Alienation and Disconnection:** The characters often feel detached from traditional institutions, family structures, and societal expectations. Their relationships are transient, and their sense of purpose is tenuous.
- **Consumerism and Media Saturation:** The novel critiques the pervasive influence of mass media, advertising, and consumer culture, illustrating how these shape identity and aspirations.
- **Search for Authenticity:** Amidst superficiality, the characters seek genuine experiences and

connections, often through humor and irony.

- Technology and Modern Life: The early 1990s technological landscape—personal computers, the internet's nascent stages—serves as both a symbol of progress and alienation.

Literary Style and Impact

Coupland's style blends satire, humor, and philosophical insight, creating a voice that resonates with young adults feeling adrift in a mass-produced world. His candid exploration of themes like nihilism, existential angst, and the quest for authenticity made the book a cultural touchstone for Generation X.

Impact on Literature and Culture

Coupland's work helped to formalize the concept of Generation X in popular culture, influencing countless writers, musicians, and filmmakers. His candid, often humorous tone provided a voice for a generation that felt overlooked or misunderstood.

Characteristics and Identity of Generation X as Depicted by Coupland

Social and Demographic Attributes

- Birth Years: Typically 1961-1981, although dates vary slightly among researchers.
- Population Size: Smaller than the Baby Boomers, leading to a sense of being "the middle child" in demographic terms.
- Economic Factors: Many faced economic instability, job insecurity, and the decline of manufacturing industries.

Cultural Traits

1. Skepticism and Cynicism

Generation X is often portrayed as skeptical of authority, institutions, and the promises of consumerism. Coupland's characters exemplify this, questioning the motives behind advertising and corporate culture.

2. Independence and Self-Reliance

Growing up in an era of rising divorce rates and increased maternal employment, many Xers became self-reliant, often caring for themselves from a young age (the "latchkey kids").

3. Digital Natives

While not as digitally immersed as Millennials or Gen Z, Generation X was among the first to adopt personal computers and the internet, shaping their worldview around technological change.

4. Cultural Diversity

The cohort experienced increasing multiculturalism and globalization, influencing their perspectives

and cultural consumption.

Psychological and Societal Challenges

- Alienation: Feelings of disconnection from societal institutions and traditional success metrics.
- Nihilism: Some exhibit a sense of nihilism or apathy, questioning the meaning of life and societal progress.
- Workplace Transition: Witnessing the decline of lifelong employment and corporate loyalty.

Socioeconomic and Cultural Shifts Influencing Generation X

Economic Restructuring

The shift from manufacturing to service economies, globalization, and neoliberal policies led to job insecurity and economic precarity for many Xers. Coupland captures this atmosphere through his characters' struggles and attitudes.

Technological Revolution

The rise of personal computing, the internet, and mobile technology transformed communication, work, and leisure. Generation X experienced these shifts firsthand, fostering a generation comfortable with ambiguity and rapid change.

Cultural and Media Evolution

The proliferation of cable television, MTV, and the Internet created new avenues for self-expression and cultural engagement. Coupland's characters often navigate a media-saturated environment that shapes their worldview.

Social Norms and Family Structures

Increased divorce rates and changing gender roles contributed to a more fragmented family life, influencing Generation X's sense of stability and identity.

The Enduring Legacy and Critiques

Cultural Impact

Coupland's depiction of Generation X resonated widely, influencing music, film, and art. Artists like Nirvana, Pearl Jam, and filmmakers like Quentin Tarantino echoed themes of disillusionment and rebellion that Coupland articulated.

Critiques and Evolving Perspectives

While influential, Coupland's characterization of Generation X has faced critique for generalization and oversimplification. Some argue it overemphasizes cynicism and alienation, neglecting the diversity and resilience within the cohort.

Evolving Self-Perception

Recent scholarship and cultural commentary have sought to nuance the narrative, highlighting Generation X's adaptability, entrepreneurial spirit, and role as mediators between Baby Boomers and Millennials.

The Transition to the Digital Age

Generation X's familiarity with digital technology has positioned them as crucial agents in the development of the modern internet economy, social media, and digital innovation.

Conclusion: The Cultural Significance of Douglas Coupland's Generation X

Douglas Coupland's *Generation X* remains a landmark work that captured the zeitgeist of a complex, often misunderstood cohort. Through his literary craftsmanship, Coupland provided a mirror for a generation grappling with rapid societal change, technological revolution, and existential questions. His portrayal—marked by skepticism, irony, and a quest for authenticity—resonates even decades later, offering insights into the challenges and resilience of Generation X.

As society continues to evolve, understanding the nuances of this generation—its struggles, achievements, and cultural footprint—remains essential. Coupland's work not only defined an era but also laid the groundwork for ongoing dialogue about identity, change, and the human condition in a rapidly shifting world. The legacy of Generation X, as articulated by Coupland, reminds us that even in times of uncertainty, there exists a profound capacity for adaptation, humor, and redefining what it means to belong.

[Douglas Coupland Generation X](#)

douglas coupland generation x: *Generation X* Douglas Coupland, 1991 Three twenty-something young adults, working at low-paying, no-future jobs, tell one another modern tales of love and death.

douglas coupland generation x: *Generation X* Douglas Coupland, 2021-11-23 *Generation X* is Douglas Coupland's classic novel about the generation born in the late 1950s and 1960s—a generation known until then simply as twenty somethings. Andy, Claire, and Dag, each in their twenties, have quit pointless jobs in their respective hometowns to find better meaning in life. Adrift in the California desert, the trio develops an ascetic regime of story-telling, boozing, and working McJobs—low-pay, low-prestige, low-benefit, no-future jobs in the service industry. They create their own modern fables of love and death among the cosmetic surgery parlors and cocktail bars of Palm Springs as well as disturbingly funny tales of nuclear waste, historical overdosing, and mall culture. A dark snapshot of the trio's highly fortified inner world quickly emerges—peeling back the layers on their fanatical individualism, pathological ambivalence about the future, and unsatisfied longing for permanence, love, and their own home. Andy, Dag, and Claire are underemployed, overeducated, intensely private, and unpredictable. They have nowhere to assuage their fears, and no culture to replace their anomie.

douglas coupland generation x: "*Gen Xers*" and "*Boomers*" Martin Villwock, 2007-11-20 Seminar paper from the year 2004 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies -

Literature, grade: 1,7, University of Cologne (Englisches Seminar), course: Seminar, language: English, abstract: Every individual has a conception of his or her relationship to his parents. Correspondingly, most societies have an understanding of the different generations that live within them, and of the relationship that exists between these generations. In the early 1990s however, the character of the generation born during the 60s and 70s, thus mostly being in their twenties, "[remained], to many, an enigma" (Holtz, 1). There seemed to be no way of identifying them as a group, no obvious ideas, political interests or music they shared. (George, 24-26 and Holtz, 3) This explains, to some extent, the name and the success of Douglas Coupland's book *Generation X*; a book that was dubbed "most shoplifted book in America" (Rogers, 1). The publishers sensed that there might be a common interest in an identification of the young generation; consequently, the cover text of the original edition read: "Finally [my emphasis] ... a frighteningly hilarious, voraciously readable salute to [this generation] - a camera shy, suspiciously hushed generation known vaguely up to now [my emphasis] as twentysomething." The media happily accepted this input and put their focus on the characteristics they thought to be fabulously pointed out in the book; for example the contempt towards the older generation. This escalated and soon developed into sort of a small inter-generational war in magazines, books, newspapers and movies (Porsche, 10-11). Is this what Coupland tried to achieve? Was it his intention to create new front lines? The main question is how is the "Boomer" - "Gen Xer" relationship displayed in *Generation X*? In this paper, an attempt will be made to point out the popular conception of this relationship in the 90s, and to find out how it is actually represented in this book.

douglas coupland generation x: GenXegesis John McAllister Ulrich, Andrea L. Harris, 2003 Resituating the term in its neglected (sub)cultural context, this work offers a critical assessment of the 'Generation X' phenomenon and its relation to the fashioning of different identities within and against the mainstream. Topics include punk subculture, the Internet, and alternative music.

douglas coupland generation x: Generation A Douglas Coupland, 2009 In the near future bees are believed to be extinct until one autumn when five people are stung in different places around the world. This shared experience unites them in a way they could never have imagined

douglas coupland generation x: Gen Xers and Boomers Martin Villwock, 2007-11 Seminar paper from the year 2004 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Literature, grade: 1,7, University of Cologne (Englisches Seminar), course: Seminar, 16 entries in the bibliography, language: English, abstract: Every individual has a conception of his or her relationship to his parents. Correspondingly, most societies have an understanding of the different generations that live within them, and of the relationship that exists between these generations. In the early 1990s however, the character of the generation born during the 60s and 70s, thus mostly being in their twenties, remained], to many, an enigma (Holtz, 1). There seemed to be no way of identifying them as a group, no obvious ideas, political interests or music they shared. (George, 24-26 and Holtz, 3) This explains, to some extent, the name and the success of Douglas Coupland's book *Generation X*; a book that was dubbed most shoplifted book in America (Rogers, 1). The publishers sensed that there might be a common interest in an identification of the young generation; consequently, the cover text of the original edition read: Finally my emphasis] ... a frighteningly hilarious, voraciously readable salute to this generation] - a camera shy, suspiciously hushed generation known vaguely up to now my emphasis] as twentysomething. The media happily accepted this input and put their focus on the characteristics they thought to be fabulously pointed out in the book; for example the contempt towards the older generation. This escalated and soon developed into sort of a small inter-generational war in magazines, books, newspapers and movies (Porsche, 10-11). Is this what Coupland tried to achieve? Was it his intention to create new front lines? The main question is how is the Boomer - Gen Xer relationship displayed in *Generation X*? In this paper, an attempt will be made to point out the popular conception of this relationship in the 90s, and to find out how it is actually rep

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2007 Essays in this volume explore the popular cultural effects of rock culture on high literary production in Spain in the 1990s.

douglas coupland generation x: X Saves the World Jeff Gordinier, 2008-03-27 Read Jeff Gordinier's posts on the Penguin Blog In this simultaneously hilarious and incisive manifesto for a generation that's never had much use for manifestos, Gordinier suggests that for the first time since the Smells Like Teen Spirit breakthrough of the early 1990s, Gen X has what it takes to rescue American culture from a state of collapse. Over the past twenty years, the so-called slackers have irrevocably changed countless elements of our culture—from the way we watch movies to the way we make sense of a cracked political process to the way the whole world does business.

douglas coupland generation x: History, Violence, and the Hyperreal Kathryn Everly, 2010 What does literature reveal about a country's changing cultural identity? In *History, Violence, and the Hyperreal* by Kathryn Everly, this question is applied to the contemporary novel in Spain. In the process, similarities emerge among novels that embrace apparent differences in style, structure, and language. Contemporary Spanish authors are rethinking the way the novel with its narrative powers can define a specific cultural identity. Recent Spanish novels by Carme Riera, Dulce Chacón, Javier Cercas, Ray Loriga, Lucía Etxebarria, and José Ángel Manas (published from 1995 to 2008) particularly highlight the tension that exists between historical memory and urban youth culture. The novels discussed in this study reconfigure the individual's relationship to narrative, history, and reality through their varied interpretations of Spanish history with its common threads of national and personal violence. In these books, culture acts as mediator between the individual and the rapidly changing dynamic of contemporary society. The authors experiment with the novel form to challenge fundamental concepts of identity when the narrative acknowledges more than one way of reading and understanding history, violence, and reality. In Spain today, questions of historical accuracy in all foundational fictions—such as the Inquisition, the Spanish Civil War, or globalization—collide with the urgency to modernize. The result is a clash between regional and global identities. Seemingly disparate works of historical fiction and Generation X narrative prove similar in the way they deal with history, reality, and the delicate relationship between writer and reader.

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than a book; it's a testament to a generation's lasting impact and the critical lessons they impart for building a better tomorrow. Engage with these reflections and future directions, and see how the story of Generation X continues to shape our world.

douglas coupland generation x: *Sofia Coppola and Generation X (So Far)* Robert C. Sickels, 2024-08-19 While the work of Sofia Coppola is sometimes dismissed as being stereotypically feminine and placing more focus on spectacle over substance, *Sofia Coppola and Generation X (So Far): Anxious and Effervescent* draws attention to common characteristics present in Coppola's films to present an authorial signature and aesthetic that are both familiar yet evocative of Generation X's perception in the public consciousness. In analyzing Coppola's films from *The Virgin Suicides* (1999) to *Priscilla* (2023), this book argues that her filmography acts as a reflection of her generation's evolving mindset and self-image from its initial rise to prominence during the late 1980s to its current sentiment of discomfort with its fading influence.

douglas coupland generation x: *The Generation X Librarian* Martin K. Wallace, Rebecca Tolley-Stokes, Erik Sean Estep, 2014-01-10 Generation X includes individuals born roughly between 1961 and 1981. This generation has faced major advances in technology, environmental degradation, and widening economic injustice, all of which affect libraries and librarians. This collection of critical essays highlights the special challenges that face Generation X librarians. Topics covered include management and leadership, rapidly changing technology, social attitudes and stereotypes within popular culture, and how Generation X librarians have responded to or developed in response to those themes. This work fills many of the gaps present in the professional literature on librarianship and our younger generations.

douglas coupland generation x: *Generation X Goes Global* Christine Henseler, 2012-11-12 This edited volume is the first book of its kind to engage critics' understanding of Generation X as a global phenomenon. Citing case studies from around the world, the research collected here broadens the picture of Generation X as a demographic and a worldview. The book traces the global and local flows that determine the identity of each country's youth from the 1970s to today. Bringing together twenty scholars working on fifteen different countries and residing in eight different nations, this book presents a community of diverse disciplinary voices. Contributors explore the converging properties of Generation X through the fields of literature, media studies, youth culture, popular culture, sociology, philosophy, feminism, and political science. Their ideas also enter into conversation with fourteen other textbox contributors who address the question of Who is Generation X in other countries. Taken together, they present a highly interactive and open book format whose conversations extend to the reading public on the website www.generationxgoesglobal.com.

douglas coupland generation x: *The Hidden History of Coined Words* Ralph Keyes, 2021 Written by one of the country's most experienced and entertaining etymological detectives, *The Hidden History of Coined Words* provides a delightful excavation into the process by which words became minted. Not only does Ralph Keyes give us the who-what-where of it all, but delights in stories that reveal the mysteries of successful coinage.

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douglas coupland generation x: *Ode to Gen X* Melissa Vosen Callens, 2021-03-01 Even for the casual viewer, the Netflix series *Stranger Things* will likely feel familiar, reminiscent of popular 1980s coming-of-age movies such as *The Goonies*, *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial*, and *Stand by Me*. Throughout the series, nods to each movie are abundant. While *Stranger Things* and these classic

1980s films are all tales of childhood friendship and shared adventures, they are also narratives that reflect and shape the burgeoning cynicism of the 1980s. In *Ode to Gen X: Institutional Cynicism in Stranger Things and 1980s Film*, author Melissa Vosen Callens explores the parallels between iconic films featuring children and teenagers and the first three seasons of *Stranger Things*, a series about a group of young friends set in 1980s Indiana. The text moves beyond the (at times) non-sequitur 1980s Easter eggs to a common underlying narrative: Generation X's growing distrust in American institutions. Despite Gen X's cynicism toward both informal and formal institutions, viewers also see a more positive characteristic of Gen X in these films and series: Gen X's fierce independence and ability to rebuild and redefine the family unit despite continued economic hardships. Vosen Callens demonstrates how *Stranger Things* draws on popular 1980s popular culture to pay tribute to Gen X's evolving outlook on three key and interwoven American institutions: family, economy, and government.

douglas coupland generation x: The Cinema of Generation X Peter Hanson, 2010-06-28 When Steven Soderbergh exploded onto movie screens with sex, lies, and videotape in 1989, it represented more than the arrival of an important new director--it heralded the arrival of an entire generation of important new directors. Quentin Tarantino (*Pulp Fiction*), Kevin Smith (*Dogma*), David Fincher (*Fight Club*), M. Night Shyamalan (*The Sixth Sense*), Ben Stiller (*Reality Bites*), Michael Bay (*Pearl Harbor*), and dozens of others are all members of Generation X, the much talked about but much misunderstood successors to baby boomers. This book is a critical study of the films directed by Gen Xers and how those directors have been influenced by their generational identity. While Generation X as a whole sometimes seems to lack direction, its filmmakers have devoted their careers to making powerful statements about contemporary society and their generation's role in it. Each section of the book deals with an aspect of Gen X filmmaking, including the influence of popular culture, postmodern narrative devices, slackerdom and the lack of direction, disenfranchisement and nihilism, the ever-evolving role of technology, gender issues and sexuality, the question of race, the influence of older filmmakers, and visions of the future.

douglas coupland generation x: American Literature in Transition, 1980-1990 D. Quentin Miller, 2017-12-28 History has not been kind to the 1980s. The decade is often associated with absurd fashion choices, neo-Conservatism in the Reagan/Bush years, the AIDS crisis, Wall Street ethics, and uninspired television, film, and music. Yet the literature of the 1980s is undeniably rich and lasting. *American Literature in Transition, 1980-1990* seeks to frame some of the decade's greatest achievements such as Toni Morrison's monumental novel *Beloved* and to consider some of the trends that began in the 1980s and developed thereafter, including the origins of the graphic novel, prison literature, and the opening of multiculturalism vis-à-vis the 'canon wars'. This volume argues not only for the importance of 1980s American literature, but also for its centrality in understanding trends and trajectories in all contemporary literature against the broader background of culture. This volume serves as both an introduction and a deep consideration of the literary culture of our most maligned decade.

douglas coupland generation x: Anthropology and Social Theory Sherry B. Ortner, 2006-11-30 The award-winning anthropologist Sherry B. Ortner draws on her longstanding interest in theories of cultural practice to rethink key concepts of culture, agency, and subjectivity.

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Commission approve the L & E request, the

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