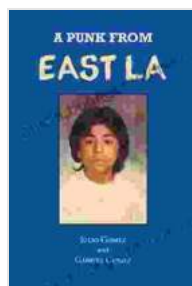


# Punk From East L.A.: A History of Chicano Punk and its Legacy

Chicano punk is a subgenre of punk rock that emerged in East Los Angeles in the late 1970s. It is characterized by its fast tempo, aggressive lyrics, and political themes. Chicano punk bands often sing about issues such as racism, poverty, and police brutality.



## A Punk from East LA by Anne Green Gilbert

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 281 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 55 pages



The origins of Chicano punk can be traced back to the 1960s, when Chicano youth began to form their own gangs and street organizations. These gangs often clashed with the police, and some of them began to adopt punk rock as a way to express their anger and frustration. In the early 1970s, several Chicano punk bands formed in East L.A., including The Plugz, The Zeros, and The Germs.

The Chicano punk scene flourished in the late 1970s and early 1980s. During this time, several Chicano punk bands released albums and toured

the United States and Europe. Some of the most popular Chicano punk bands of this era include Black Flag, Fear, and Dead Kennedys.

Chicano punk had a significant impact on the development of punk rock. It helped to create a more diverse and inclusive punk scene, and it inspired other punk bands to explore political and social issues in their music. Chicano punk also had a lasting impact on the Chicano community. It provided a voice for Chicano youth and helped to raise awareness of the issues they faced.

## **The Origins of Chicano Punk**

The origins of Chicano punk can be traced back to the 1960s, when Chicano youth began to form their own gangs and street organizations. These gangs often clashed with the police, and some of them began to adopt punk rock as a way to express their anger and frustration.

One of the earliest Chicano punk bands was The Plugz, which formed in East L.A. in 1970. The Plugz were influenced by the music of The Stooges and The Ramones, and their songs often dealt with themes of racism, poverty, and police brutality.

Another early Chicano punk band was The Zeros, which formed in 1976. The Zeros were more melodic than The Plugz, but their lyrics were just as angry and political. The Zeros' song "Vamos a Bailar" became a Chicano punk anthem.

The Germs were one of the most influential Chicano punk bands of the early 1980s. The Germs were led by singer Darby Crash, who was known

for his nihilistic lyrics and stage presence. The Germs' album *GI* is considered a classic of Chicano punk.

## **The Chicano Punk Scene in the 1980s**

The Chicano punk scene flourished in the late 1970s and early 1980s. During this time, several Chicano punk bands released albums and toured the United States and Europe. Some of the most popular Chicano punk bands of this era include Black Flag, Fear, and Dead Kennedys.

Black Flag was one of the most influential hardcore punk bands of the 1980s. Black Flag's music was characterized by its fast tempo, aggressive lyrics, and political themes. Black Flag's album *Damaged* is considered a classic of hardcore punk.

Fear was another popular Chicano punk band of the 1980s. Fear's music was more humorous than Black Flag's, but it was just as political. Fear's song "I Don't Care About You" became a punk rock anthem.

Dead Kennedys were one of the most controversial Chicano punk bands of the 1980s. Dead Kennedys' music was often satirical and offensive, and their lyrics dealt with topics such as religion, politics, and war. Dead Kennedys' album *Fresh Fruit for Rotting Vegetables* is considered a classic of punk rock.

## **The Legacy of Chicano Punk**

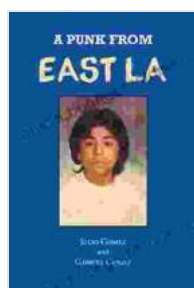
Chicano punk had a significant impact on the development of punk rock. It helped to create a more diverse and inclusive punk scene, and it inspired other punk bands to explore political and social issues in their music. Chicano punk also had a lasting impact on the Chicano community. It

provided a voice for Chicano youth and helped to raise awareness of the issues they faced.

Today, Chicano punk bands continue to produce music that is both political and personal. Chicano punk is a vibrant and vital part of the punk rock scene, and its legacy continues to inspire new generations of musicians and fans.

Chicano punk is a unique and important genre of punk rock. It emerged from the Chicano community in East Los Angeles in the late 1970s, and it quickly spread to other parts of the United States and Europe. Chicano punk bands sing about issues such as racism, poverty, and police brutality, and their music has a powerful impact on both the punk rock scene and the Chicano community.

The legacy of Chicano punk continues to inspire new generations of musicians and fans. Chicano punk is a vibrant and vital part of the punk rock scene, and it is sure to continue to influence punk rock for years to come.



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