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920 words

The Rolling Stones

Setting an image of half a century ago, back in 1960s, when the end of world war had waged the cold war. When people's madness made people's mind unclear, and when human's cheer was depressed by human's fear. Inspiration was needed, especially in the minds of teenagers who suffered from diplomatic instability and paranoids of sudden start of another violence.<sup>1</sup> Rolling Stones is, without a doubt, one of the most influential rock bands in the history.

The Rolling Stones began as an English rock band settling themselves in Europe and expanded its reputation to Northern America by mid-1960s. Since its emergence, the band has released 24 studio albums in the United States, with another 12 live albums for sale in the country. They put out chains of albums, and approximately 200 million copies of which are sold worldwide. In 1989, the band was admitted into the "Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, and in 2004, prior to the release of its most recent album, the band was ranked number four in Rolling Stone magazines' 100 Greatest Artists of All Time. Yet again in 2008, Billboard magazine recognized the band as the tenth on "Billboard Hot 100 Top All-Time Artists".<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Wikipedia contributors. "Effects of the Cold war." *Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopedia*. 3 Feb. 2012. <[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Effect\\_of\\_the\\_Cold\\_War](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Effect_of_the_Cold_War)>

<sup>2</sup> Wikipedia contributors. "The Rolling Stones." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. 5 Feb. 2012. <[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Rolling\\_Stones](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Rolling_Stones)>

What had given the band so much fame and recognition? Back in the 1960s, people were afraid of the cold war. They had no guarantee that their country would not go to war and give them harsh time, or that other countries would not have waged violence on them. People were depressed, and the only thing that could have cheered them up was music. Not just any music, but they kind that actually stimulates their emotion. Rock bands are just right for this purpose – to make people forget about their grief and enjoy their moments. With strong, quick, and loud music, it beats the beats of the heart and made adrenaline pumped so people could have do their normal activities as if they weren't being depressed.<sup>3</sup>

So how does strong, quick, and loud music inspire people? It wasn't necessarily the kind of music that inspired people, but more of what music was used to represent. In young teenager's mind, all that they care for is happiness. Not only that the band did prompt people to start moving away from misery, but it shed the light that even in times of war, pleasure is not too far away from reality. People need to have a model of what they could be. By coming out in public and show that they can overcome the stress, the band posses an inspiration in a way that people, too, can overcome their sorrow. That was the inspiration people needed. As much as they wanted to view the world as a peaceful place, people wanted to see that positive words are practical, and that rock music is a prove that new ideas are being used to create entertaining things – something not seen quite often if the world is only interested in combating each other.

More importantly than coming up with great music and showing the people that ideas are being fetched to songs, the contribution on inspiration must also come up in

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<sup>3</sup> Chris M.. "Influences of the Rolling Stones Roots." *Revelations on the Rolling Stones*. 14 Feb. 2012 <<http://www.rollingstonesnet.com/influenc.htm>>

the sense of entertainment. Great music without listeners is a shame of afford, and listeners who don't appreciate great music is a sympathy of ignorance. The rock band did one thing that all other bands could not have done – to capture the attention. No matter how much inspiration is induced in the music, if no one is going to listen, then the message is not being sent. Back in the times of cold war, teenagers are one of the most unjustifiably suffered. For one moment, they can enjoy the rapture they, as children, should deserve, while on other moments, they had to fear the force of problems they didn't created. Rock songs did capture the attention of these listeners because they are stimulating enough to steal some attentions to the message. More than just delivering the message by using style, The Rolling Stones' music itself is full of inspiration. This is important because, although the message is sent, but if the band fails to demonstrate inspiration by putting some of them into the songs, then so likely people are not going to buy it, or at least are going to get bored of it too quickly. It was the new innovation into the songs that boosted The Rolling Stones' popularity, and the way songs are presented that contributes to inspiring people in the times of war.<sup>4</sup>

When contribution to mankind is at question, not only should the contribution part be answered, but “mankind” part must also be argued upon. Inspiration given by the band is not limited to just USA or UK, but the band had gained popularity worldwide, and millions of albums were being sold across the globe. This means that the entire human race is being cheered to be happy. During the cold war, it was not just USA or Russia that fought for the best, but the entire world was affected by it. That is why people suffered. That is why inspiration was needed, and that is how

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<sup>4</sup> Unknown. “The Stones in the Sixties – a Historical Review.” *Rolling Stones in the Sixties*. 2 Feb. 2012 <<http://members.chello.nl/f.dejonge/stoneshistory.htm>>

contribution to mankind was seen, not only to some parts of the world, but the entire mankind had enjoyed the relief.

To the mankind where happiness is sought, inspiration sparks motives for people to struggle for their lives. Inspiration speaks sacred words for people to venture. Inspiration spells “H-A-P-P-I-N-E-S-S” in people’s mind. That was the most important “The Rolling Stones” had contributed to mankind.