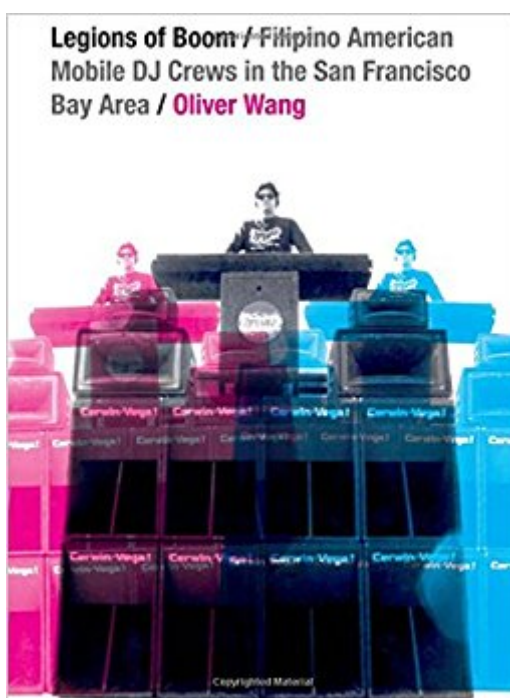


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# Legions Of Boom: Filipino American Mobile DJ Crews In The San Francisco Bay Area (Refiguring American Music)



## Synopsis

Armed with speakers, turntables, light systems, and records, Filipino American mobile DJ crews, such as Ultimate Creations, Spintronix, and Images, Inc., rocked dance floors throughout the San Francisco Bay Area from the late 1970s through the mid-1990s. In *Legions of Boom* noted music and pop culture writer and scholar Oliver Wang chronicles this remarkable scene that eventually became the cradle for turntablism. These crews, which were instrumental in helping to create and unify the Bay Area's Filipino American community, gave young men opportunities to assert their masculinity and gain social status. While crews regularly spun records for school dances, weddings, birthdays, or garage parties, the scene's centerpieces were showcases or multi-crew performances which drew crowds of hundreds, or even thousands. By the mid-1990s the scene was in decline, as single DJs became popular, recruitment to crews fell off, and aspiring scratch DJs branched off into their own scene. As the training ground for a generation of DJs, including DJ Q-Bert, Shortkut, and Mix Master Mike, the mobile scene left an indelible mark on its community that eventually grew to have a global impact.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"As a writer and scholar Oliver Wang is relentlessly insightful and compulsively readable. Here it's impossible not to feel his passion for the pleasures and follies of immigrant and second-gen Filipino American youth, as he follows them from their suburban garages into the rapture of flashing

lights and rising tempos, and the warm electricity of bodies moving together on a Saturday night. With *Legions of Boom*, Wang has created something indispensable—a singular document of a forgotten yet influential era in west coast hip-hop and dance music, a rare and rich account of protean Asian American creativity, and a subtle, poetic work of ethnography." (Jeff Chang, author of *Who We Be: The Colorization of America*) "For more than a decade Oliver Wang has produced some of the keener insights on what's been happening in popular culture and popular music in particular. *Legions of Boom* is the best evidence of what Wang's instinctive intellect looks like when allowed to flourish in the long form, and will prove to be indispensable to future analyses of the cultural formations that coalesce around popular expression." (Mark Anthony Neal, author *Looking for Leroy: Illegible Black Masculinities*) "Wang's account strikes a careful balance between oral history and analysis, grounded in ethnography while also working to interpret and elaborate the significance of the story. With an annotated oral history at its core, *Legions Of Boom* is centred on the words of the scene's participants and Wang's insightful perspectives as a scholar, a journalist and a DJ." (Wayne Marshall *The Wire* 2015-06-01) "It's not easy to write a book that works both as an academic text and is readily accessible to the general public, but Wang does an excellent job walking that line with *Legions of Boom*. His research is great, and he explains things in a way that is very easy to digest. I couldn't recommend this book enough." (Chi Chi Scratched Vinyl 2016-01-20) "This highly readable book significantly advances our understandings of music scenes and their symbiotic relationship with marginalized communities of youth. Since historically Filipino Americans have been excluded from U.S. racial/ethnic discourse, Wang does sociology a tremendous service in shining further light on a key aspect of this important group's history." (Anthony Kwame Harrison *American Journal of Sociology* 2016-07-01) "The greatest strength of Wang's work, above and beyond providing important historical documentation of a neglected musical scene, is that he offers a sophisticated theoretical analysis that highlights how social class, gender, and ethnicity structure the distribution of various types of capital (symbolic, erotic, cultural, economic) within mobile DJing." (Athena Elafros *Contemporary Sociology* 2016-09-01) "Wang writes in an accessible style appealing to both scholars and casual readers.... *Legions of Boom* is a substantial work that shines light on yet another example of a musical genre's relation to the formation and maintenance of cultural identities." (Niel Scobie *Perfect Beat* 2016-01-01)

Oliver Wang is Associate Professor of Sociology at California State University, Long Beach. He is the editor of *Classic Material: The Hip-Hop Album Guide* and has written for NPR, Vibe, Wax

Poetics, the Los Angeles Times, the Oakland Tribune, and the Village Voice, amongst others.

Such an awesome book, highly recommend for people in search of Bay Area history, Filipino history or music history.

Good read. Very informative. O-Dub is a true hip hop historian.

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