



SEX PISTOLS

Historical Background

- Seventies were not the best times to live in the UK. The nation struggled from unemployment and economic recession. Moreover, conservative views were stronger than ever. Young generation was forced to exist in these conditions.
- As a result, **Punk** - shocking and rebellious movement has appeared.
- **The Sex Pistols** was the most famous punk rock band that formed the entire subculture and lasted a huge mark in history of popular music.

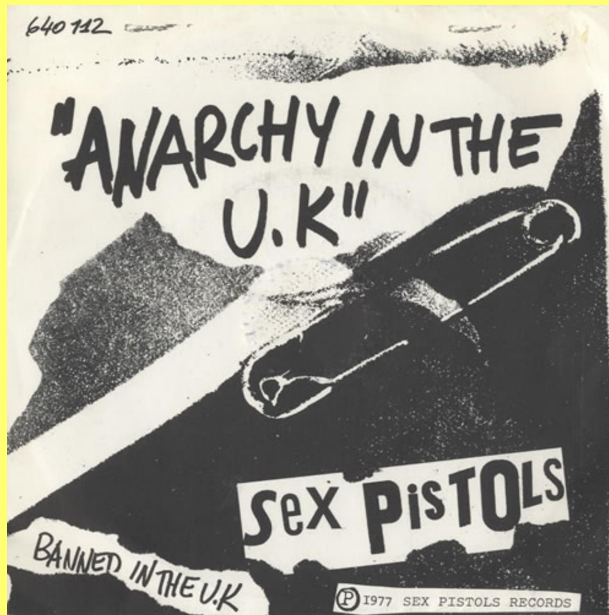


Early Days

- **The Sex Pistols** were born the day in 1975 with vocalist Johnny Rotten, guitarist Steve Jones, drummer Paul Cook and bassist Glen Matlock. For the next two years, the Pistols would tear through stages at colleges, art schools, and other establishments. Steve Jones summed up the band's philosophy when he told a reporter, *"Actually, we're not into music. We're into chaos."*
- Notorious Sid Vicious joined **The Sex Pistols** in 1977, replacing Glen Matlock not because Sid could play bass (he couldn't), but because he looked the part of a **punk**. Under the management of Malcolm McLaren, the band attracted controversies that both shocked and appalled Britain.

The Sensation of Punk

- Their first single, “**Anarchy in the U.K.**” was both a call to arms and a state-of-the-nation address. The group became a national sensation after **The Grundy Show interview** on BBC in 1976. Nobody before them let themselves to swear on a live broadcast, especially in country, where citizens buy a license to watch TV.



“God Save The Queen.... ...the fascist regime”

- In May 1977 single “**God Save The Queen**” was released. The record's lyrics, as well as the cover, were controversial at the time, and both the BBC and the Independent Broadcasting Authority refused to play the song. The song was regarded by general public as an assault on Queen Elizabeth II and the monarchy. It was banned not only by the BBC but also by nearly every independent radio station, making it the "most heavily censored record in British history".
- However, the song went to the top of the British singles chart. In late October of that year they released their only studio album, “**Never Mind the Bollocks, Here's the Sex Pistols**”, which Rolling Stone magazine then called *"just about the most exciting rock 'n' roll record of the '70s."* Several major retailers in the U.K. refused to stock the record; nevertheless, it went into the British album chart at No. 1.
- The original title for the song was “**No Future**”, with the lyrics themselves being a general expression of the band's view of the monarchy and authoritarianism.



Sunset and break up

- In January 1978, the Pistols began a US tour, but the group broke up after the final show in San Francisco, torn apart by in-fighting and drug use. At the show's conclusion, Rotten asked the audience, "***Ever get the feeling you've been cheated?***" He then dropped his microphone and left the stage.
- Thus, **The Sex Pistols** disbanded, and musicians started their own solo careers. Johnny Rotten formed Public Image Ltd. band, while Sid Vicious passed away in 1978 from a drug overdose. The era of post-punk has begun.

