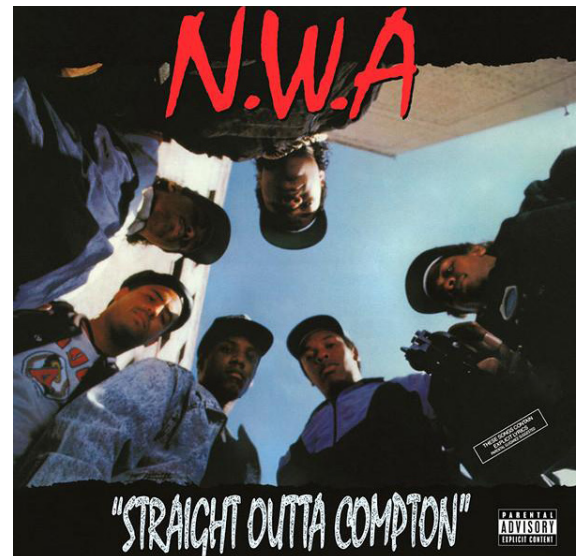


N.W.A.

NWA became active in 1987, smashing the gangsta rap scene with their significant popularity and message regarding police brutality and racial inequity. The members of NWA were

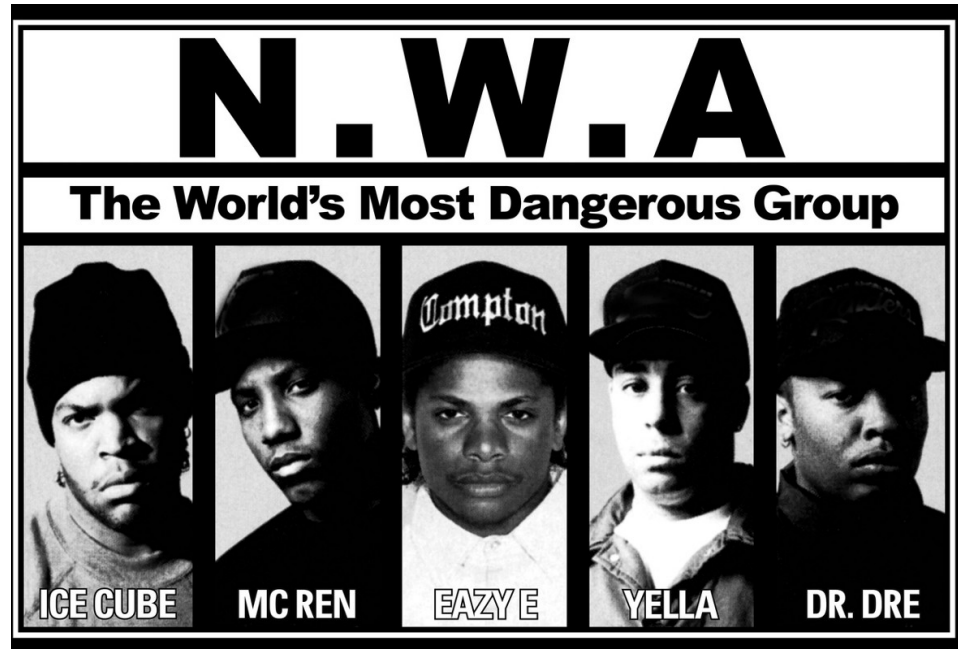


all incredibly talented musicians: Eazy-E, MC Ren, Ice Cube, Dr. Dre, DJ Yella, and Arabian Prince. Their debut studio album was released in 1988 in just 6 weeks with an \$8,000 budget, and “Straight Outta Compton” quickly became incredibly successful and controversial. Many took issue with the anti-police sentiments of NWA’s music while others loved them for speaking out against police brutality and injustice, particularly since no one else was speaking out. Their hit single “Straight Outta Compton” was a catalyst for mass social change. Radio stations and MTV refused to add it to their playlist, politicians launched attacks against it, and the FBI refused to provide security for NWA shows—and yet the album sold 3 million records.



Black History

NWA called themselves “street reporters” – they launched a commentary on hedonism and violence of gangs and drugs and poverty, still speaking for the disenfranchised, in reaction to Reagan-era politics and the war on drugs that disproportionately affected Black Americans.



It is impossible to discredit or forget the impact NWA had on the industry and the integration of anti-police activism into popular culture. In 2016, the group was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, further solidifying their place in history forever.

