

# Revolution Radio Album Review

By Shyla Murray  
Grade 6

On October 7, 2016, the 12th album by the iconic punk rock band, Green Day, was released. As a huge fan of the band, of course I have an opinion on its new album, titled *Revolution Radio*.

As a result of an unplanned four-year break, and a follow-up to the not-so-popular album trilogy, *iUno!*, *iDos!*, and *iTre!*, *Revolution Radio* was made “while no one was looking,” as described by front man Billie Joe Armstrong. The 12-track album has a back-to-basics 90’s Green Day feel, a belief shared by multiple magazine articles and fans. I think so, too. The record is incredible, in my opinion.

There are those who disagree. Sure, this album is not as great as 2004’s *American Idiot* or 2009’s *21st Century Breakdown*, but it most definitely has exceeded my expectations. Lead singles like “Bang Bang,” “Still Breathing,” and the album title track, “Revolution Radio,” brought up any fan’s hype for the long-awaited album. The first single, “Bang Bang” came out on August 1.

*Revolution Radio* is packed full of Armstrong’s stories-turned-songs about his earlier days, not to mention his political views. All in all, *Rolling Stone* magazine described it best: “louder, faster, angrier” and I couldn’t agree more.



# NES Classic Edition: Throwback or Cash Grab?

By Michael Fiore  
Grade 6

If you are a fan of video games of any caliber, you probably know what the *Nintendo Entertainment System* is and what it did for the industry as a whole. If you don’t, back in 1983, the video game industry crashed due to an infestation of low-quality content because back then, with enough programming skills, anybody could get a game published. Suddenly a Japanese company called Nintendo released its new console: the *Nintendo Entertainment System*, or the *NES*. Titles like *Super Mario Bros.* and *The Legend of Zelda* are still seen as classics today.

Obviously, Nintendo is a prominent household name to this day and is currently creating a new console/portable hybrid titled the *Nintendo Switch*. We don’t know too much about the system, but it has a detachable controller, and you can basically bring a home console on the go. But, along with the new, Nintendo wants to turn back time to 1983. Enter the *NES Classic Edition*: a miniature rendition of the gray brick itself.

It has 30 retro games, including *Castlevania*, *Super Mario Bros.*, *Kirby’s Adventure* and more. The device is very akin to “plug ‘n’ play” consoles such as the *Atari Flashback* series.

Presumably, the games are high resolution and running at 60fps. It’s highly unlikely that anybody would be playing this on a CRT television, so improvements to the graphics seem like a no-brainer. Nintendo was going to do this eventually, considering that they’ve already made two *NES Remix* games in which you replay old school games via different challenges, such as getting a certain score, or finishing a level in a limited amount of time, and numerous costumes depicting retro characters in both *Super Smash Bros. 4* and *Super Mario Maker*. The console will most likely appeal to people who grew up with the old school games who want to be nostalgic again, and people who want a taste of the old games. Everything in the list of games is the cream of the crop when it comes to NES games.

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