“New York State of Mind”
Vibe History of Hip Hop

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AFPRL 290: Hip Hop History and Culture
Key Artists

• Nas
• Notorious B.I.G.
• Crossover success
• Sean Combs (a.k.a. Puff Daddy)/ Bad Boy Records
• Mobb Deep
• The Fugees
• Wu-Tang Clan
Key Trends

• Hip hop’s national spread/decentralization
• Mainstream pop culture status
• Crossover success
• Commercial-Artistic balance
• Crack aftermath
New York style and late 90s hip hop

“The ascendance of artists like the Notorious B.I.G. and Nas changed the national atmosphere, creating a climate that allows for a consummate New York MC like Jay-Z to achieve the sales charts without modifying his approach. The more traditional elements of hip hop style are once again in vogue across the country”.

(Vibe History of Hip Hop 335)
On Notorious B.I.G. and hip hop

“The miraculous thing about the Notorious B.I.G.’s was that for all his concessions to the national mass market, for all his crossover aspirations, he remained rooted in an unmistakably New York state of mind”.

(Vibe History of Hip Hop 331)
Album Tracks:

- “Juicy”.
- “Big Poppa”
- “Ready to Die”
- “Things Done Changed”

Release Date: 1994. Bad Boy Records (first release)

#15, Billboard Top 200 Albums
#3, Billboard Top R&B/ Hip Hop LPs
Certified Triple Platinum (3 Mil.)
Notorious B.I.G.

- Lyrically dense gangster narratives
- Centrality of crack/ hustler
- Aspirational/ success
- Bad Boy promotion
- Authenticity(?)
Album Tracks:

- “Halftime’”
- “Life’s a Bitch’”
- “One Love”
- “N.Y. State of Mind”
- “Represent”

Release Date: 1994. Columbia Records

- #12, Billboard Top 200 Albums
- #2, Billboard Top R&B/ Hip Hop LPs
- Certified Platinum (1 Mil.)
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