

= Youthanasia =

Youthanasia is the sixth studio album by American thrash metal band Megadeth , released on November 1 , 1994 through Capitol Records . The album is not a large stylistic departure from the band 's earlier recordings ; however it marked the continuing evolution of Megadeth , following the footsteps of the previous album Countdown to Extinction ( 1992 ) . The album 's title is a play on words , implying that society is euthanizing its youth . The cover art features an elderly woman hanging babies by their feet on a seemingly endless clothesline ; the artwork concept was directly inspired from a line of the title track .

Youthanasia received positive reviews upon its release . It was commercially successful , peaking at number 4 on the Billboard 200 chart , and was certified platinum for shipping one million copies in the United States ? a distinction achieved in 1995 . A remixed and remastered edition featuring several bonus tracks and detailed liner notes was reissued on July 27 , 2004 .

= = Background and recording = =

Megadeth 's previous studio release , Countdown to Extinction , became the band 's biggest commercial accomplishment , entering the Billboard 200 at number two and eventually becoming double platinum . As a result , they continually sold out arenas across North America , in addition to developing a strong following overseas . With the next album , Youthanasia , the band moved towards a more mainstream sound .

It was a time of problems and conflicts for Megadeth , that in every two weeks or so , according to frontman Dave Mustaine , there were " outrageous emotional interventions " in order to make the group a democracy . Many band meetings during this period concerned Mustaine 's creative control over a " successful formula " , so that the rest of the band could better exercise their creativity . Another problem was the indecision on where the recording would take place . Mustaine did not want to record in Los Angeles , so it was eventually decided to record in Phoenix , since the majority of the band resided in Arizona . The sessions for the album initially began in Phase Four Studios ( Tempe ) in January 1994 , after a few weeks the sessions were moved to Vintage Recorders in Phoenix and continued ther into May- this studio is often the location for scenes in the Evolver video . Producer Max Norman suggested that they build a new self @-@ dedicated studio , in cooperation with the Band , Capitol and Max 's funding a modular studio was built in a warehouse in South Phoenix . Talking about the recording process , Mustaine said that Youthanasia was written solely in the studio . " We weren 't playing any old , cataloged material . None of the past really influenced the new record . " He mentioned that he gave " more freedom " to the other members and called the album " very much a total band effort " . Of interest is that this was hoped to be the " First " album recorded solely on hard drives ( rather than magnetic tape ) , Both Max and Dave were believers is being on the cutting edge of technology , Max had long been using computers to sample , tune and comp tracks . Digidesign was working on expanding ProTools from a single track to multitracking and it was hoped that as many as 48 digital tracks could be synched and used to record . The computers used were mostly Apple Quadra 400 / 500 models and with a great effort by all , it was soon evident that magnetic tape would have to be used .

= = Artwork and release = =

The cover art features an elderly woman hanging babies by their feet on a seemingly endless clothesline . According to bassist David Ellefson , the artwork concept was directly inspired from a line of the title track . He explained that the title track " was probably the strongest representation of how we feel about the young people who listen to our music and what their future holds for them . It 's like you have a choice , you can become proactive or you can choose ' Youthanasia ' . " The title is a combination of the words " youth " and " euthanasia " . Mustaine has stated that the idea for the title stems from hearing about Jack Kevorkian , as well as the declining state of well @-@ being of young people , specifically referring to issues like drugs , crime and violence , and a lack of

parenting .

The album was released on November 1 , 1994 through Capitol Records . It was commercially successful , debuting and peaking at number 4 on the Billboard 200 , with 143 @,@ 000 units sold in its first week . That was slightly below the peak position of its predecessor , which hit number two in 1992 . Several weeks after its release , the record was certified platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America ( RIAA ) for shipping one million copies in the United States . The album also managed to enter into the top 10 in the United Kingdom and some other European countries as well . It eventually received a platinum certification from Music Canada and a silver award from the British Phonographic Industry ( BPI ) for shipments of 100 @,@ 000 and 60 @,@ 000 copies , respectively . A remixed and remastered edition featuring several bonus tracks and detailed liner notes was reissued on July 27 , 2004 .

Three singles were released from Youthanasia : " Reckoning Day " , " Train of Consequences " and " A Tout le Monde " . The latter would later be re @-@ recorded with Lacuna Coil vocalist Cristina Scabbia under the title " À Tout le Monde ( Set Me Free ) " . This version was also released as a single , and included on United Abominations ( 2007 ) . Both " Train of Consequences " and " A Tout le Monde " charted on the Mainstream Rock Tracks chart .

= = Musical style = =

Youthanasia was not a large stylistic departure from the band 's earlier recordings . According to Billboard , from the drumbeat opening of " Addicted to Chaos " to the precise instrumentation of " Train of Consequences " , Megadeth delivered " trademark aggressive rage ' n ' roll to powerful effect " . Billboard noted that even the slower songs such as " A Tout le Monde " were tending towards " lusty explosion " . Authors Pete Prown and Harvey P. Newquist opined that lyrically , Youthanasia contained more thematic variations from Megadeth . They wrote that the record was musically diverse , from the " slow @-@ tempo acoustic lines " of " A Tout le Monde " to the " breakneck riffing " of " Train of Consequences " and " Family Tree " . Q found that Megadeth 's " trademark crunchy riffs , thundering drums and bitter vocals " were still present on the album , with the lyrics being more introspective .

Mike Stagno said that Youthanasia features " a more traditional type of metal " . He explained that even though the music on a number of tracks remains quite heavy , it was obvious that the thrash metal is " very scarce " on this record . Stephen Thomas Erlewine agreed that Megadeth have abandoned some of the more experimental , progressive elements in their music . Similarly , Chris Ayers of Exclaim ! felt that with Youthanasia , the band " eroded their brilliant thrash to mid @-@ paced chug " . According to the band 's official website , " Youthanasia marked the continuing evolution of Megadeth , following the footsteps of their previous album . " Speaking about the stylistic direction of the album , then @-@ guitarist Marty Friedman stated : " We pretty much stick to our guns . It 's not like we 're gonna change our next album to try and follow the trend . We don 't really change with the times . "

= = Critical reception = =

The album received positive reviews upon its release . Stephen Thomas Erlewine , reviewing the album for AllMusic , commented that , compared to Countdown to Extinction the album lacks focus . However , Erlewine suggested that the album 's production quality made up for that . He also commented favorably on " Train of Consequences " , calling out its " jackhammer riffs " . Mike Stagno of Sputnikmusic reviewed the album positively . Though noting that the album , like its predecessor , was a distinct move away from the sound heard on 1990s Rust in Peace , Stagno suggested that the lack of a fast @-@ tempo is made up for by the catchiness of the tracks .

In a contemporary review , Q magazine wrote that Youthanasia has " greater depth and breadth than its predecessors " . Tom Sinclair of Entertainment Weekly , gave a brief review of the album saying that Youthanasia would " impress , but not impact . " Neil Arnold of Metal Forces named the record " the last true Megadeth opus before the mid @-@ to @-@ late 90s slump " . He further said

that the album " pales " in comparison to the previous records , but still keeps the band in their element . Paul Corio , in a retrospective review for Rolling Stone , wrote that the album features " metal @-@ machine music " that is " calibrated to kill " . He highlighted " Elysian Fields " and " Victory " as examples of Mustaine in his prime . Despite the outcry of some fans , Pete Prown called Youthanasia " more than worthy follow @-@ up " to Countdown to Extinction . In 2014 , Guitar World ranked Youthanasia at number 29 on their list of " Superunknown : 50 Iconic Albums That Defined 1994 " .

= = Touring and aftermath = =

Megadeth toured heavily in support of Youthanasia . They started the tour in November 1994 , with live performances in South America . The tour continued in 1995 , with a number of opening acts such as Korn , Flotsam and Jetsam and Fear Factory . During this period Megadeth also visited Europe , where they stayed for eight weeks . Ellefson shared his impressions from performing in front of European fans : " So far , the audiences have been really good and it seems to me that heavy metal and especially Megadeth are very much at the forefront of music in Europe . It seems like the attendance is better than it has ever been " . The worldwide tour ended in September 1995 , with the band performing at Monsters Of Rock in South America with Ozzy Osbourne and Alice Cooper as the headliners .

In the middle of 1995 , the band underwent changes on the business side . Manager Ron Lafitte was hired by EMI Records and essentially disbanded his management company . Megadeth later signed with ESP Management and hired Bud Prager , a previous manager of Foreigner and Bad Company , to be the band 's new creative manager . As with Max Norman before him , Prager would go on to be highly influential in shaping the direction of the band . In an interview for Hard Rock Examiner , Mustaine revealed that there is a possibility that Megadeth are going to perform the album in its entirety in 2014 , honoring the 20 @-@ year anniversary of the record 's release .

= = Track listing = =

All songs written and composed by Dave Mustaine , except where noted ..

^ ? On the 2004 reissue of the album , Dave Mustaine credits all songs to Ellefson / Friedman / Menza / Mustaine

= = Personnel = =

Credits are adapted from the album 's liner notes .

= = Charts = =

= = Certifications = =