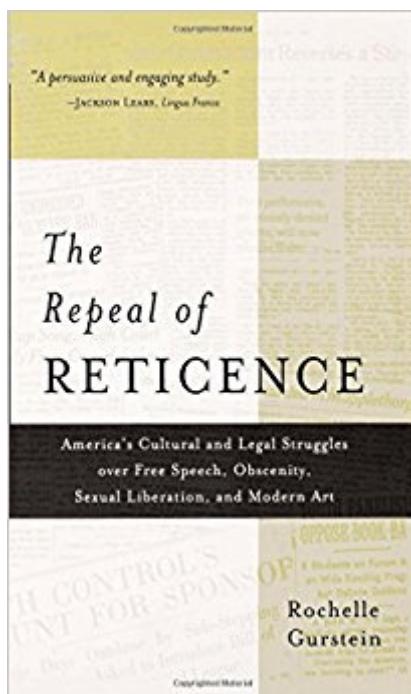


The book was found

The Repeal Of Reticence: America's Cultural And Legal Struggles Over Free Speech, Obscenity, Sexual Liberation, And Modern Art



Synopsis

At a time when America's faculties of taste and judgmentâ •along with the sense of the sacred and shamefulâ •have become utterly vacant, Rochelle Gurstein's *The Repeal of Reticence* delivers an important and troubling warning. Covering landmark developments in America's modern culture and law, she charts the demise of what was dismissively called "gentility" in the face of First Amendment triumphs for journalists, sex educators, and novelistsâ •from Margaret Sanger's advocacy of birth control to Judge Woolsey's celebrated defense of Ulysses. Weaving together a study of the legal debates over obscenity and free speech with a cultural study of the critics and writers who framed the issues, Gurstein offers a trenchant reconsideration of the sacred value of privacy.

Book Information

Paperback: 372 pages

Publisher: Hill and Wang (September 1, 1998)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0809016125

ISBN-13: 978-0809016129

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.8 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,071,167 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #79 inÂ Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Specific Topics > Privacy & Surveillance #2006 inÂ Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Specific Topics > Political Freedom #4351 inÂ Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Specific Topics > Civil Rights & Liberties

Customer Reviews

â œThe pollution of our moral environment has finally provoked a response comparable to Silent Spring, Rachel Carson's famous warning about the natural environment.â •â •Roger Shattuck, *The Wall Street Journal*

This striking study of America's battles over what we can decently say and do in public traces how and why principled debate about the character of our common world has been displaced by a new kind of public noise. Rochelle Gurstein offers a brilliant history of the arguments made for and against the forces - invasive journalism, realist fiction, and sex reform - that altered public discourse

between the late nineteenth century, when they first appeared, and the 1960s, when new controversies erupted about mass culture, avant-garde art, and sexual liberation. Now the public sphere is dominated by rights talk, by puritan-baiting, and by knee-jerk liberalism or illiberalism. Is this the best we can do? Gurstein gives a detailed account of how the "party of exposure" successfully opened American public life to matters that had once been hidden away in private, and studies the unexpected consequences of that victory. And she retrieves a way of thinking, wrongly discredited as "Victorian", that could in fact move us beyond our stalemates over what should and what should not be said or done in public. Once, Americans influenced by the "party of reticence" held that if personal matters were exposed to public scrutiny they risked becoming trivial or obscene; they thought that any indiscriminate display of private matters deformed standards of taste and judgment, lowered the tone of public conversation, and polluted public space. Ms. Gurstein's penetrating analysis suggests that we must reconsider these positions, and she establishes the vital connection between our legal-cultural history and current debates about obscenity, privacy, and issues of public decency.

Enjoyed this so much I bought back issues of Raritan to read more of her published work. This book does an historic analysis of publicity vs privacy in the US with it's roots in British culture. It placed the contemporary discussion over rights to privacy vs "public's right to know" in a context far more complex than the current discussion of "1st amendment anything goes or it is censorship blah blah" that usually passes for debate. It also enriched my thinking and reading on Appropriation and other forms of contemporary art. This started as her dissertation, so as a scholarly work it is a demanding read. I did wish for her to take on the debate in it's current state in more specific terms.

Nevertheless it is an excellent book I will return to. Here a quote from the intro:"Many modern liberals and radicals are now in the sorry predicament in which they can no longer discriminate between the essential circulation of ideas, which is the cornerstone of liberal democracy, and the commercial exploitation of news, entertainment, and sex as commodities..." Here is a quote from the second chapter:"While personal freedom and individuality are among the most cherished values of liberal democracy, they can become problematic when democracy is equated not with self-rule among equals, public deliberation and debate, or open elections, but with equality of social condition, with the imposition of mass standards of taste, or with the display of relaxed, casual manners." Often media outlets justify publishing something on the grounds that it sold well, or that many people read it. That tells us nothing about the first amendment or public debate in a republic. Instead it tells us that the consumer capitalist values are determining what is acceptable in the public realm. Those

are not the values of, as she points out, a democratic society. Very rich ideas. Highly recommended.

a blueprint to our current cultural experience. An excellent sociological analysis.

It's very difficult to understand attitudes from the past, like what "privacy" meant a century ago. I was fascinated by Gurstein's analysis.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The Repeal of Reticence: America's Cultural and Legal Struggles Over Free Speech, Obscenity, Sexual Liberation, and Modern Art Speech Therapy for Kids : Techniques and Parents Guide for Speech Therapy (speech therapy, speech therapy materials) Sext Ed: Obscenity versus Free Speech in Our Schools Allergy-free Desserts: Gluten-free, Dairy-free, Egg-free, Soy-free, and Nut-free Delights Debt Free for Life: The Ultimate Guide to Get Out of Debt (FREE Bonuses Included) (Debt, Debt Free, Debt Free Forever, Debt Free for Life, Debt Free for Good, Debt Management, Get Out of Debt) Antitrust: The Case for Repeal Modern Housing for America: Policy Struggles in the New Deal Era (Historical Studies of Urban America) The Whole Life Nutrition Cookbook: Over 300 Delicious Whole Foods Recipes, Including Gluten-Free, Dairy-Free, Soy-Free, and Egg-Free Dishes The Healthy Gluten-Free Life: 200 Delicious Gluten-Free, Dairy-Free, Soy-Free and Egg-Free Recipes! Gluten Free: Gluten Free Diet for Beginners: Create Your Gluten Free Lifestyle for Vibrant Health, Wellness & Weight Loss (Gluten-Free Diet, Celiac Disease, Wheat Free, Cookbook Book 1) What is Obscenity?: The Story of a Good For Nothing Artist and her Pussy Obscenity Blasphemy Sedition: 100 Years of Censorship in Australia Unseen Masters: Modern Struggles Against Hidden Powers (Cthulhu Modern Roleplaying) COSTA RICA THEN/COSTA RICA NOW: Prostitution is legal in Costa Rica. Talking about prostitution in Facebook will get you Life in prison with no paroll. Costa Rica's no longer permits Free Speech. The Complete Book of Speech Communication: A Workbook of Ideas and Activities for Students of Speech and Theatre The Passive Voice and Reported Speech: Your grammar torch to shed light on passive voice, reported speech, complex subject, complex object and cleft (Brookgarbolt's treasure Book 2) Speech Science Primer: Physiology, Acoustics, and Perception of Speech Eulogy Writing: For Beginners! How To Write The Perfect Eulogy & Funeral Speech (Funeral, Obituary, Eulogy, Speech Writing, Public Speaking) Clinical Measurement of Speech & Voice (Speech Science) The Street Politics of Abortion: Speech, Violence, and America's Culture Wars (The Cultural Lives of Law)

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)