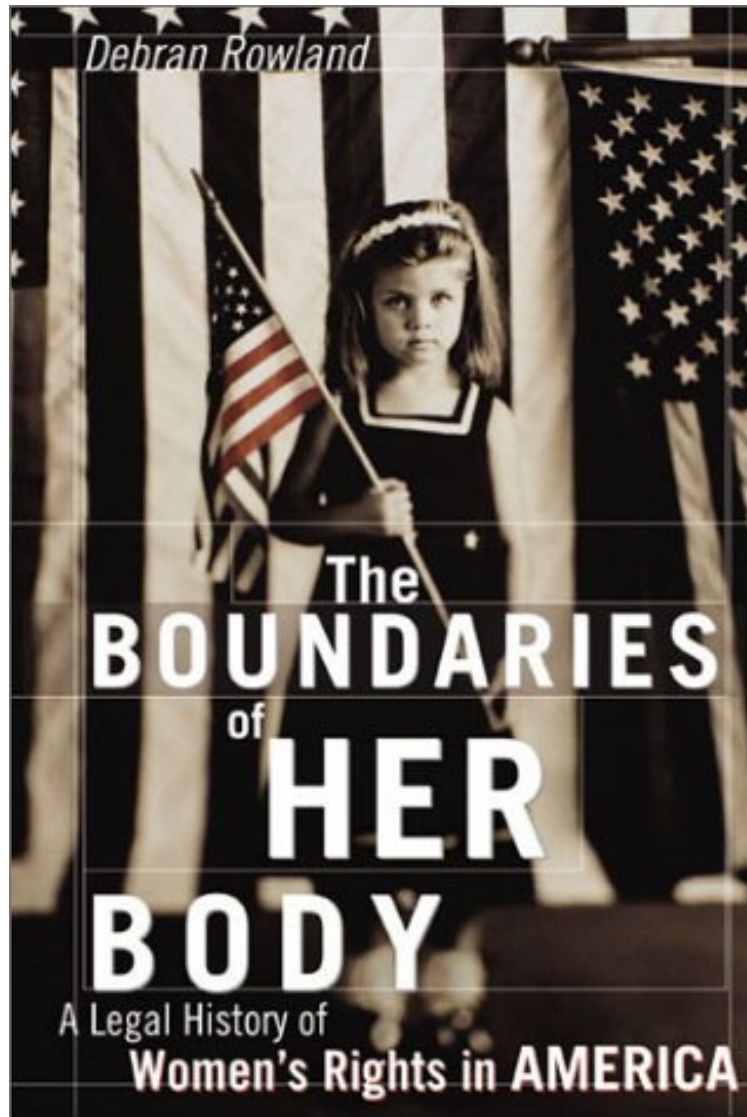


[Download free pdf] The Boundaries of Her Body: A Legal History of Women's Rights in America

The Boundaries of Her Body: A Legal History of Women's Rights in America

Debran Rowland

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Debran Rowland : The Boundaries of Her Body: A Legal History of Women's Rights in America before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Boundaries of Her Body: A Legal History of Women's Rights in America:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy CustomerExcellent book, wonderful research; every woman should have a copy of this in their library.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The rights of

women
By Mike B
The Boundaries of Her Body
This is a history of woman's rights in America. The scope of this book - and it is a huge and heavy book - is wide and due to the subject matter highly interesting. We should always be concerned with what is slightly more than one half of the population. We should also be concerned that women continue, but to a lesser extent than 60 years ago, to be treated as second class citizens. Yes - second class - why for instance are there so few female politicians and business leaders? Why are woman's roles in religion minimal - particularly in the Catholic Church and Islam? The author explores the woman's rights movement mostly from a legal perspective and for the most part in the U.S. There are times when the book does bog down in legal terms and there are a tremendous amount of footnotes. But overall there are many rewards. The author highlights that many rights for women were established during the 1960's - equal employment opportunities, equal rights and of course the legalization of abortion (Roe vs. Wade). I do feel, and the author mentions it - that the employment and educational opportunities offered to women during World War II, and the Roosevelt era in general, was beneficial for the advancement of women. There were many positive female role models during the Roosevelt period (Eleanor, Frances Perkins was Labour minister, Amelia Earhart, Margaret Bourke-White...) Of course after the war there were many advances in birth control with women beginning to take reproductive control of their bodies. Sexuality became more and more removed from pregnancy. The openness in sexuality that evolved from 1950 onwards is hardly mentioned. Terms that are in common use today were taboo in 1950. Kinsey, Master and Johnson are hardly noted in this book. The focus is on legal rights. Abortion is examined in great detail and ever since its 'legalization' there has been an ever increasing crusade (deliberate word) by anti-abortionists to diminish abortion rights. It should also be pointed out that there are many women involved in this anti-abortion crusade. They have whittled away - legally asking for 24 hour wait period for the abortion to proceed, abortion is not available under Medicaid, abortion for minors requires parental consent in some states. There are also (rabid) anti-abortion demonstrations in front of abortion clinics. Doctors and workers in abortion clinics can face daily harassment and some have been murdered. So even though abortion is legal - in many states women (and younger women especially) face a continuing onslaught of bureaucratic red tape and physical and psychological harassment. The anti-abortion crusaders have upped the anti and become increasingly sophisticated in using science. They do not refer to the 'fetus' but to an 'unborn child'. Abortion and a woman's right to control her body suffered even more under the conservative Bush administration of 2000-08. Various forms of contraceptive pills were vetoed. Pregnancy laws are also examined. Pregnancy leave in the U.S. seems to be far less regulated than in other developed countries. Sexual harassment also lags behind. In Canada, where I live, our company passed strict sexual harassment guidelines in the early 1990's. Harassment exists from the person receiving the harassment. In other words, if the victim perceives it as harassment, then it is such. The onus is placed on management to end it (not that it happens in all cases). What is most frightening is rape. The statistics are only one aspect of this serious problem - think of the damage done to a woman and all her future relationships. Not all rapes are reported, which can only add to these horrendous figures. During the Bush administration (once again) national legislation of 'Violence Against Women' was not passed. The Supreme Court could be regressing and putting 'state's rights' above the national agenda. Perhaps Europe has now surpassed the U.S. in the rights of women. This is an issue which was not examined in the book. For sure, women in Europe (and Canada for that matter) have far greater access to abortion and contraception than in many U.S. states. Liberalization and woman's rights generally go hand-in-hand. Since the Reagan era there has been an increasingly anti-liberal agenda in the U.S. This book has a broad spectrum of issues - such as adolescence and the conflicts this creates in young girl-woman. The wide and ever-increasing range of fertility prospects is also explored (it also prompted me to re-read Aldous Huxley's 'Brave New World').

3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. The Boundaries of Her Body
By A Customer
I decided to read Boundaries of Her Own Body because as a woman of the twenty-first century I felt like it was my obligation to know the history of my own sex. Womens rights are sometimes completely ignored by society and by the world. Reading about my gender and how we liberated from nothing is nothing but remarkable. The author, Debran demonstates remarkable and thought provoking issues such as women and the constitution and women's rights after the Civil Rights Acts of 1964. I was very intrigued by the topic of the of women's history since I viewed the liberal movie Iron Jawwed Angels. I was excited to read Boundaries of Her Own Body because of the numerous topics and how diverse the topics were. They were not all about a certain race, there were topics that impacted Cauasians, blacks and every race in-between. My favorite topic was chapter five which was titled "The Birth Control Debates Begins". I foind this to be the most interesting because in politics and in our society, women's rights to choose are always under fire from politicians and by the media. I think the most interesting subchapter was "How 'Choice' Became Law: 'Jane Roe' Takes on Texas". In this subchapter, it has remarkable and in-depth information about the landmark case in 1973. Also, another interesting topic that the book goes into depth about is the constitutional law cases such as Roe vs. Wade and Doe vs. Bolton, just to name a few. So if you are into law or anything that changed society into the way we know it today, these chapters and book are benifical to you. As a high school student, I review some chapters still to get some backing on my political papers that I have to write for my classes so it can help you tremendously for your papers and your intelligence. I would highly recommend this book to a person who wants to know an indepth look in womens history. The fight that women have made to the point where we are now is remarkable. Since I have read this book I take a

new appreciation about who I am as a woman. The battle for women's rights is an emotional roller coaster and this book is sure to bring you on the ups and downs of womens history.