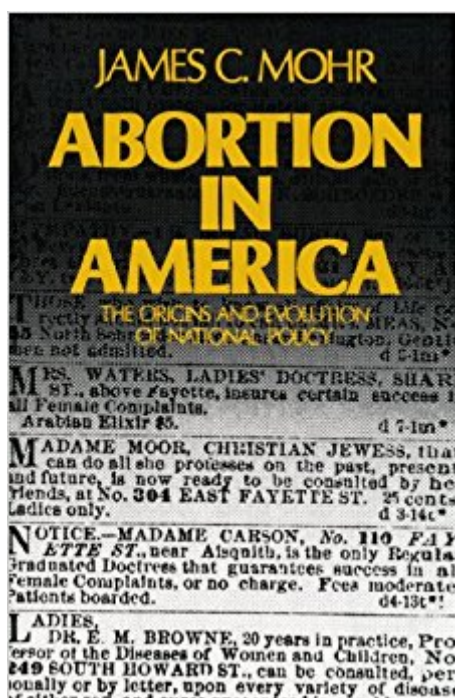


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# Abortion In America: The Origins And Evolution Of National Policy (Galaxy Books)



## Synopsis

'The history of how abortion came to be banned and how women lost--for the century between approximately 1870 and 1970--rights previously thought to be natural and inherent over their own bodies is a fascinating and infuriating one.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"A fascinating book which sets to rest a number of preconceptions on the subject. Easy to read and yet hard-hitting."--Marlette Rebhorn, Ustin Community College  
"Should be an eye-opener to those who think that religious objections were at the root of anti-abortion legislation and equally to those who think that abortion has been a matter of life and death."--Carl N. Degler, Stanford University  
"A superb example of the way history can inform a current contentious controversy."--Journal of American History  
"Mohr makes it abundantly clear that Supreme Court decisions of the 1970s were not a modern weakening of moral standards but a return to what Americans believed and practiced a hundred years ago."--The Christian Century  
"An altogether lucid review of American abortion policy in the 19th century."--Christopher Lehmann-Haupt, The New York Times

'The history of how abortion came to be banned and how women lost--for the century between approximately 1870 and 1970--rights previously thought to be natural and inherent over their own bodies is a fascinating and infuriating one.

I bought this book as a gift to a friend doing research into abortion in our culture. I had purchased a copy years ago as background for a presentation I was doing at my Alma Mater. the book is simply straightforward and frankly historical. It does not toot a horn nor is it ideological. I HIGHLY recommend this book for any person wanting to learn more about how abortion has traditionally been viewed and how terminations were procured and how the public saw abortion as an issue --- whatever your beliefs or ideology. FACTS never hurt anybody, and whatever the case you feel inspired to make this book will keep you firmly grounded and will clarify your position for yourself and for others.

Well documented review

It was useful during my college investigation.

How did legal access to abortion become THE domestic political/cultural issue that decides elections in the USA? James C. Mohr's book, *Abortion in America*, traces the societal and political forces that over the course of the 19th century shifted the practice of abortion from broadly legal under the Common Law and widely accepted and practiced (if not openly spoken of), to broadly illegal in most US states and less socially accepted (but no less widely practiced than it ever was). This is a sensitive, "non-partisan" historical treatment of a topic that it can be difficult to discuss in modern America.

Mohr's groundbreaking work is a history of abortion in the United States from the colonial days until the present (as of the late 1970s). What is fascinating about this book is how the medical establishment railed against the increased use of abortion in the 1800s but became among its foremost advocates a century later. Mohr also shows the reader how legalizing abortion in recent years was not a result of lax morals but rather was a return to the past. This is a brief book, but it is one of the very finest books on this controversial issue.

James Mohr's "*Abortion in America*" is a breath of fresh air in the abortion debate. Scholarly, unbiased, and betraying no hint whatsoever of any kind of agenda -- pro or con -- regarding abortion policy, the book is nevertheless revelatory concerning the development of abortion law in this country. From the colonial and early republican period, when abortion was perfectly legal (partly

because doctors, hampered by inadequate medical knowledge, -- the difference between a pregnancy and some kind of uterine "stoppage" was unclear -- frequently administered medications that caused abortions) to the 1890s, when virtually every state had a system of laws prohibiting abortions, the story is capably told. And the truth ought to startle anyone who thinks religious activism was in any way responsible for the late 19th-century wave of anti-abortion legislation. I'll leave it to prospective readers to discover who or what was actually responsible, and how self-interest (as opposed to an interest in the unborn) played a crucial role. An eye-opener, and an important read for people for either side of the debate.

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