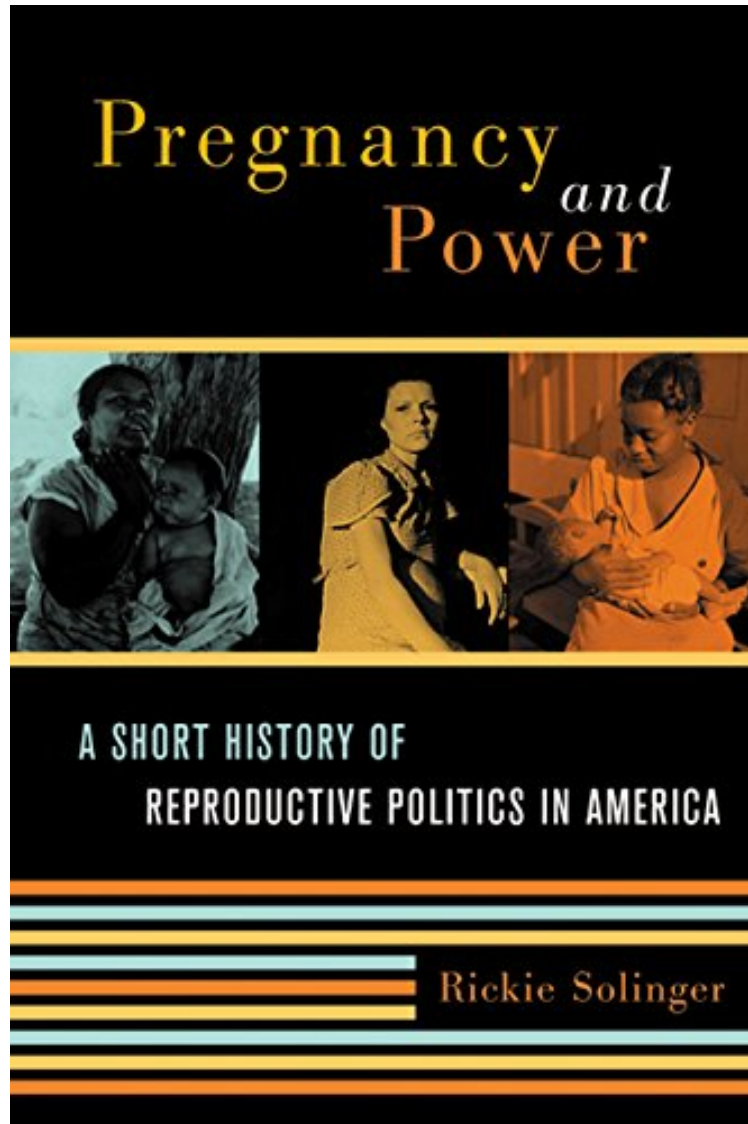


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Pregnancy and Power: A Short History of Reproductive Politics in America

Rickie Solinger

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Rickie Solinger : Pregnancy and Power: A Short History of Reproductive Politics in America before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Pregnancy and Power: A Short History of Reproductive Politics in America:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Lemur Excellent book. Written accessibly about a multiracial history of reproductive politics in the US. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Then it turned

poor women into 'head of the family' without sufficient funds. By Steven Langston: This book is less informative than Dr. Solinger's other works. Dr. Solinger doesn't understand that the Social Security Act was a tool in breaking down the family. It drove the fathers out of the home. Then it turned poor women into 'head of the family' without sufficient funds.' And this made these same women targets of public abuse. 8 of 10 people found the following review helpful. An important, well-written book. By Joseph M. Soli: Pregnancy and Power is an eye-opening exploration of reproductive politics and should be read by anyone who cares about the social injustices women are subjected to in this regard.

A sweeping chronicle of women's battles for reproductive freedom throughout American history, *Pregnancy and Power* explores the many forces—social, racial, economic, and political—that have shaped women's reproductive lives in the United States. Leading historian Rickie Solinger argues that a woman's control over her body involves much more than the right to choose an abortion. Reproductive politics were at play when slaveholders devised breeding schemes, when the U.S. government took Indian children from their families in the nineteenth century, and when doctors pressed Latina women to be sterilized in the 1970s. Tracing the diverse plot lines of women's reproductive lives throughout American history, Solinger redefines the idea of reproductive freedom, putting race and class at the center of the effort to control sex and pregnancy in America over time. Solinger asks which women have how many children under what circumstances, and shows how reproductive experiences have been encouraged or coerced, rewarded or punished, honored or exploited over the last 250 years. Viewed in this way, the debate over reproductive rights raises questions about access to sex education and prenatal care, about housing laws, about access to citizenship, and about which women lose children to adoption and foster care. *Pregnancy and Power* shows that a complete understanding of reproductive politics must take into account the many players shaping public policy: lawmakers, educators, employers, clergy, physicians as well as the consequences for women who obey and resist these policies. Tracing the diverse plotlines of women's reproductive lives throughout American history, Solinger redefines the idea of reproductive freedom, putting race and class at the center of the struggle to control sex and pregnancy in America.

From *Publishers Weekly*: This succinct, highly readable political and cultural history of a wide range of reproductive issues is a near-perfect primer on the topic. Independent historian Solinger (*Wake Up Little Susie: Single Pregnancy and Race Before Roe v. Wade*) writes from a broad, multi-issue, feminist perspective, placing the struggle for reproductive freedom at the center of a variety of political battles. This approach yields unique new insights. Detailing anti-miscegenation laws and common assumptions about family life and reproduction in Chinese-American communities, Solinger shows how immigration laws favoring Chinese merchant-class women over poor women "shaped the demographics of Chinatowns around the country." Similarly, she discusses how the relationship between civil rights and reproductive rights in the 1960s gave different cultural meanings to the "fertile body of women of color" in the eyes of the white establishment and within the African-American community. Solinger succeeds in moving the discussion of the social and legal politics of reproduction out of a confining category of "women's issues" and into the broader sphere of U.S. history and national politics, and her study will be helpful to anyone interested in how current debates about abortion, the morning-after pill and sex education were historically formed. (Nov.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. The book is well documented and well written... I expect this book to find a place in many classrooms. -*The Journal of American History* "Solinger is impressively optimistic about America's potential not only to evolve into 'a country of reproductive justice,' but also to overcome centuries of the sex, race, and class prejudice that have literally built our society." -*Bitch* "This succinct, highly readable political and cultural history of a wide range of reproductive issues is a near-perfect primer on the topic." -*Publishers Weekly* Readers will find within this book a deeply researched and fine analysis of reproductive politics spanning 250 years. It definitely should be of interest to legal scholars and law students and also to political and social historians. -*The American Journal of Legal History* "A concise historical overview. . . . Based primarily on a vast array of well-documented secondary sources, this book is a well-written and useful overview of the politics behind pregnancy in the U.S. . . . Highly recommended." -*Choice* About the Author: Rickie Solinger is an independent historian who lives in the Hudson Valley. Her books include *Wake Up Little Susie: Single Pregnancy and Race Before Roe v. Wade*, *The Abortionist: A Woman Against the Law*, and *Beggars and Choosers: How the Politics of Choice Shapes Adoption, Abortion, and Welfare in the United States*.