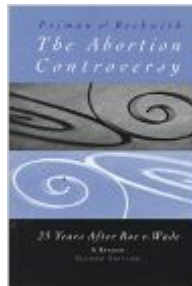




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Abortion Controversy: 25 Years After Roe Vs. Wade, A Reader



Synopsis

This is a title acquired from Jones & Bartlett. It includes important and influential academic articles from all perspectives within the abortion debate, abridged versions of the most important Supreme Court decisions, and critiques of Roe vs. Wade.

Book Information

Paperback: 469 pages

Publisher: Wadsworth Publishing; 2 edition (February 13, 1998)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0534557643

ISBN-13: 978-0534557645

Product Dimensions: 9.3 x 6.4 x 0.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.5 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

Best Sellers Rank: #719,225 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #151 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Women's Studies > Abortion & Birth Control](#) #1766 in [Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Women's Health > General](#) #1813 in [Books > Medical Books > Psychology > Social Psychology & Interactions](#)

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"The Abortion Controversy" (second edition) is a superb anthology in which all the major viewpoints on abortion are well represented. Highlights include Michael Tooley's latest formulation of his argument against foetal personhood, Judith Jarvis Thomson's classic "A Defense of Abortion", David Boonin-Vail's brilliant 1997 defense of what he calls the "Responsibility Objection" to Thomson's argument, and Keith Pavlischek's interesting 1998 critique of Thomson and Boonin-Vail. Pavlischek essentially admits that Boonin-Vail's arguments succeed, but points out (correctly, I think) that those arguments entail that if a woman becomes pregnant to a man who wishes to play no part in the child's life, then that man, the father, is not morally obliged to pay child-support to the mother. Pavlischek thinks that many pro-choicers would find this implication unacceptable. I would add that on the other hand, many pro-choicers would regard this implication as perfectly just, so that Boonin-Vail's defense of Thomson is (for them at least) *ultima facie* sound. These are just some of the interesting issues covered in the book; there are many more. Since no other anthology is as wide-ranging, up-to-date and authoritative as this one, "The Abortion Controversy" is essential reading for anyone who is interested in the philosophical debate over abortion.

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