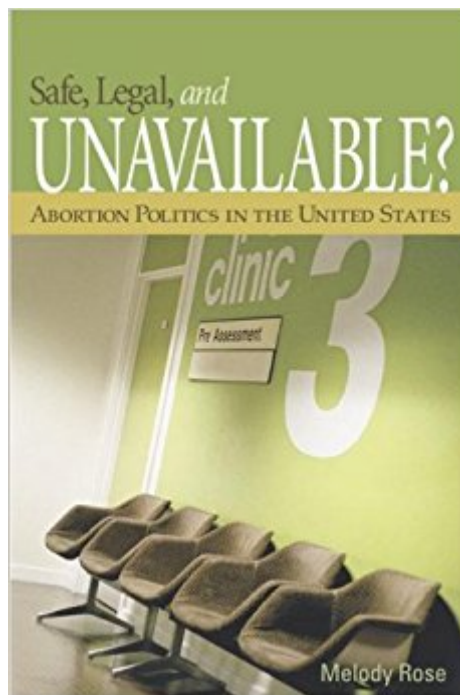




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Safe, Legal, And Unavailable? Abortion Politics In The United States



Synopsis

The Supreme Court's 1973 decision in *Roe v. Wade* legalized abortion. Yet while the medical procedure is legal - and safe - many women across the country do not have the ability to exercise this reproductive right. Melody Rose examines abortion as a social regulatory policy, thoughtfully and thoroughly chronicling the erosion of abortion rights and availability since *Roe*. Paying respect to all views of this controversial topic in her engaging new book, Rose explores the success of the right-to-life movement in accumulating local and national policies that restrict access to abortion while enhancing fetal protections. In addition to a basic and brief primer on the practice and history of abortion, Rose considers the roles played by the courts, political parties, and interest groups in constructing barriers to abortion. With an examination of public opinion poll data and a look at both state and national statutory prohibitions on abortion, Rose also shows how powerful language wars have resulted in material policy alterations. Chapter-opening vignettes and vivid storytelling make this brief and topical supplement a good read that is sure to get your students thinking critically about this highly charged topic. As well, the author has augmented chapters with further reading suggestions and provocative discussion questions that invite insightful discussion and analysis.

Book Information

Paperback: 195 pages

Publisher: CQ Press; 1 edition (August 15, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1933116897

ISBN-13: 978-1933116891

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.5 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.3 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #324,819 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #63 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Women's Studies > Abortion & Birth Control](#) #348 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Specific Topics > Political Freedom](#) #1183 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Public Affairs & Policy > Social Services & Welfare](#)

Customer Reviews

Melody Rose is associate professor of political science at the Hatfield School of Government at Portland State University where she teaches courses in American government and politics and is

the Program Director of NEW Leadership(tm) Oregon, an affiliate of the NEW Leadership(tm) Development Network, which partners with Rutgers University to offer political and leadership training programs to college women in Oregon. She has authored a number of articles and book chapters on national and Oregon social policy and is writing two books: *She Flies with Her Own Wings*, an analysis of the oral histories of Oregon's first elected political women; and an encyclopedia of primary source documents on abortion history. Rose has served on the Board of Directors for the Classroom Law Project, a non-profit organization that seeks to train K-12 teachers in civic education curricula and strategies, and is a regular political analyst on local, state, and national media on matters of elections, voting, and women's political action. Rose lives in Portland with her husband and their four children.

I thought this was a pretty solid analysis of abortion related legislation through the late 90s until 2007, when it was published. The author is clearly pro-choice and has her biases, but she very effectively discusses the issues surrounding abortion legislation, the evolution of public policy, and the positions of the Republican and Democratic parties. She makes an excellent case for her belief that it is becoming harder and harder for women to access abortion services. She discusses the trend towards a more conservative abortion policy. I found the book to be very factual. Her writing style is easy to understand. At times, the book was a little bit dry, but it provided a good analysis of trends in abortion legislation

I found this factual book very helpful in my research on the history of reproductive rights. I cite her in a subsequent essay to be published in a forthcoming anthology. I wouldn't do this if I didn't think she were sound. Though it's a bit out of date now, it's still excellent for the events leading up to today's war on women's reproductive freedom.

This author wrote this book to further her cause of making abortion MORE available. On this same topic she said: "The images and language most often wielded by pro-life advocates are vivid and emotional. Recent developments in imaging technique certainly have facilitated a reliance on powerful pictures that humanize the fetus in a way not possible two decades ago. Because fetuses now can be seen in intricate "humanized" detail, opponents of abortion have striking images to use in support of abortion restrictions, despite what these restrictions might mean to women's health and freedom. To make it simple, she is against mothers seeing their unborn children in a more human form since seeing them as such causes

them to want to keep their children and not abort them. An author who is trying to cause a diversion from a mother's love doesn't seem to be motivated by love for the idea of family. All politics aside, this perspective is inhuman.

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