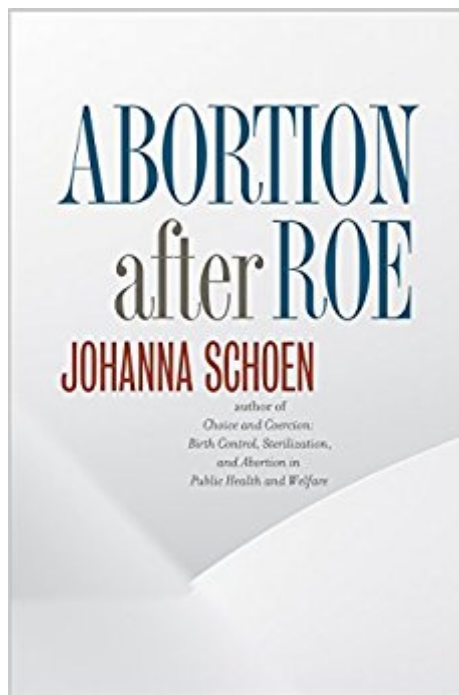




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Abortion After Roe: Abortion After Legalization (Studies In Social Medicine)



Synopsis

Abortion is--and always has been--an arena for contesting power relations between women and men. When in 1973 the Supreme Court made the procedure legal throughout the United States, it seemed that women were at last able to make decisions about their own bodies. In the four decades that followed, however, abortion became ever more politicized and stigmatized. *Abortion after Roe* chronicles and analyzes what the new legal status and changing political environment have meant for abortion providers and their patients. Johanna Schoen sheds light on the little-studied experience of performing and receiving abortion care from the 1970s--a period of optimism--to the rise of the antiabortion movement and the escalation of antiabortion tactics in the 1980s to the 1990s and beyond, when violent attacks on clinics and abortion providers led to a new articulation of abortion care as moral work. As Schoen demonstrates, more than four decades after the legalization of abortion, the abortion provider community has powerfully asserted that abortion care is a moral good.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Most books about abortion are not objective, this one is. It is a fairly comprehensive history as the title states "after Roe", with a few pages about what was happening before Roe. It is intelligent and well written. The author seems to have intended it as a pro-choice book but she writes objectively enough that pro-life people should find it fair. In fact, parts of it might even seem to be favorable to the pro-life cause. Dr. Schoen is an impressive scholar, there are 54 pages of notes, and a 14 page

excellent bibliography. Abortion is an extremely important issue in our society and we need books like this to help us deal with it. Few people on either side make very good arguments either way about what to do about abortion. This book provides us with a great deal of information and insight. In my opinion, there are three issues, moral, legal, practical. There have been about 50 million legal abortions in this country since 1973; there are now over 1 million per year, the rate has been falling. There are about 45 million abortions every year worldwide. Millions of women become pregnant who do not want to have a baby or can't afford to. The moral question -- is abortion the taking of a human life. Yes, it is preventing human life, that is what makes the issue difficult. The legal question is should it be illegal. Given how many women want to have abortions, making it illegal is simply not an option unless there are realistic alternatives. It doesn't make sense to make millions of women criminals because of their personal moral choices or to risk their health getting illegal abortions. The practical question is -- what is the alternative. Our best bet would be a massive program providing contraception and education and well organized adoption.

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