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Shaping Abortion Discourse: Democracy And The Public Sphere In Germany And The United States (Communication, Society And Politics)



Synopsis

Using controversy over abortion as a lens through which to compare the political process and role of the media in these two very different democracies, this book examines the contest over meaning that is being waged by social movements, political parties, churches and other social actors.

Abortion is a critical battleground for debates over social values in both countries, but the constitutional premises on which arguments rest differ, as do the strategies that movements and parties adopt and the opportunities for influence that are open to them. By examining how these debates are conducted and by whom in light of the normative claims made by democratic theorists, the book also offers a means of judging how well either country lives up to the ideals of democratic debate in practice.

Book Information

File Size: 3548 KB

Print Length: 372 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Up to 4 simultaneous devices, per publisher limits

Publisher: Cambridge University Press (September 16, 2002)

Publication Date: September 16, 2002

Sold by:Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B001FB62RI

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Not Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #987,810 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #349

inÂ Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Women's Studies > Abortion & Birth Control #534

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