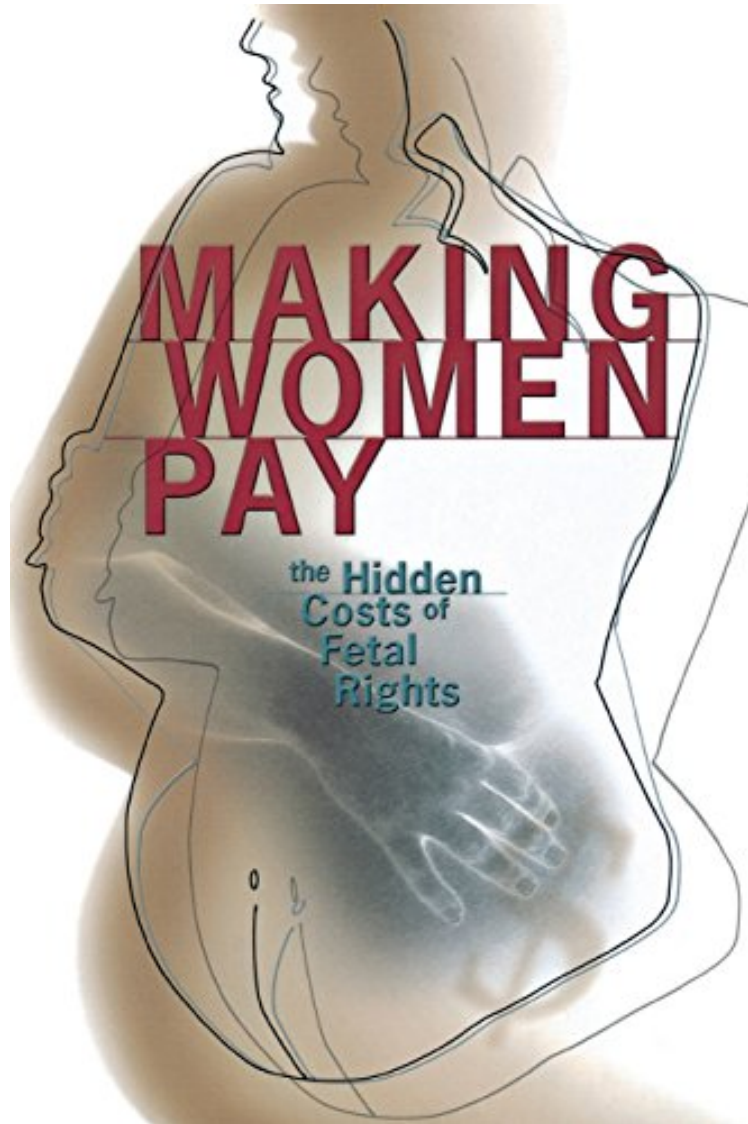


(Download pdf) Making Women Pay: The Hidden Costs of Fetal Rights

Making Women Pay: The Hidden Costs of Fetal Rights

Rachel Roth

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#2699490 in Books Rachel Roth 2003-07-10Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.94 x .20 x 5.69l, .80 #File Name: 080148880X264 pagesMaking Women Pay The Hidden Costs of Fetal Rights | File size: 34.Mb

Rachel Roth : Making Women Pay: The Hidden Costs of Fetal Rights before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Making Women Pay: The Hidden Costs of Fetal Rights:

8 of 10 people found the following review helpful. making women pay...an eye opener.By Angela R SnyderRachel Roth sheds intellectual and logical light on some highly emotional issues. Her book covers topics such as women's employment, citizenship, and individual rights. This book does not ponder the moral question of abortion, but rather it points out the price women must pay and the burdon they bear during pregnancy. Women no loger have control over their bodies and in some cases are forced into unwanted medical procedures. This book should be read by all because

it well documented and shows how society puts more importance on the fetus and less on the woman. However, I sometimes found this book to get a little repetitive in the message it was conveying.

Once backed primarily by anti-abortion activists, fetal rights claims are now promoted by a wide range of interest groups in American society. Government and corporate policies to define and enforce fetal rights have become commonplace. These developments affect all women pregnant or not because women are considered "potentially pregnant" for much of their lives. In her powerful and important book, Rachel Roth brings a new perspective to the debate over fetal rights. She clearly delineates the threat to women's equality posed by the new concept of "maternal-fetal conflict," an idea central to the fetal rights movement in which women and fetuses are seen as having interests that are diametrically opposed. Roth begins by placing fetal rights politics in historical and comparative context and by tracing the emergence of the notion of fetal rights. Against a backdrop of gripping stories about actual women, she reviews the difficulties fetal rights claims create for women in the areas of employment, health care, and drug and alcohol regulation. She looks at court cases and state legislation over a period of two decades beginning in 1973, the year of the *Roe v. Wade* decision legalizing abortion. Her exhaustive research shows how judicial decisions and public policies that grant fetuses rights tend to displace women as claimants, as recipients of needed services, and ultimately as citizens. When a corporation, medical authority, or the state asserts or accepts rights claims on behalf of a fetus, the usual justification involves improving the chance of a healthy birth. This strategy, Roth persuasively argues, is not necessary to achieve the goal of a healthy birth, is often counterproductive to it, and always undermines women's equal standing.

"Rachel Roth has written a compelling, important book about women, fetuses, and inequality, building on and contributing to a growing body of research on the social and political significance of fetal subjects. . . . Roth is the first to offer an in-depth, comprehensive overview of the contemporary terrain of fetal rights." Monica J. Casper, University of California, Santa Cruz. *Contemporary Sociology*, Vol. 30, No. 4 "Making Women Pay is an outstanding book. . . ."
"Kate Greene, Department of Political Science, University of Southern Mississippi. *The Law and Politics Book*. October, 2000. "Making Women Pay is a small but powerful book that forces the reader to make a significant paradigm shift. . . . An extremely well-researched and comprehensive examination of policy and law. . . . Rachel Roth has written a book that should be required reading for health professionals dealing with women and their fetuses, politicians and legislators who hold a woman's liberty in their hands, and bioethicists who are asked to consult on many of these complicated issues. . . . I would add, we can't afford not to read this book!" Ian R. Holzman, MD, Mount Sinai School of Medicine. *Journal of the American Medical Women's Association*. Fall, 2000 "Roth's scrupulously researched book. . . documents an assault on women's rights waged in the name of fetal rights. . . . Highly recommended at all levels." *Choice*. September, 2000. "Against a backdrop of gripping stories about actual women's legal experiences. . . this book reveals how judicial decisions and public policies that grant fetal rights tend to displace women's rights. . . Comprehensive." Janet Gellman, *Banana Slug Bulletin*, Spring 2001 "Rachel Roth is a fine scholar; I'm impressed by how smart she is and how well she has handled this complex terrain." Rickie Solinger, author of *Wake Up Little Susie: Single Pregnancy and Race Before Roe v. Wade* "Rachel Roth provides an exhaustive study of judicial and legislative actions regarding fetal rights between 1973 and 1992. Her analysis surpasses previous treatments of the topic by providing a more thorough account of state actions and by developing an innovative theoretical approach for assessing the costs of fetal rights concepts to women's employment, citizenship, and freedom. Roth's cogent analysis makes a significant contribution to our understanding of the political implications of this highly charged issue." Carole McCann, University of Maryland, Baltimore County *From the Inside Flap* "Rachel Roth is a fine scholar; I'm impressed by how smart she is and how well she has handled this complex terrain." --Rickie Solinger, author of *Wake Up Little Susie: Single Pregnancy and Race Before Roe v. Wade* "Rachel Roth provides an exhaustive study of judicial and legislative actions regarding fetal rights between 1973 and 1992. Her analysis surpasses previous treatments of the topic by providing a more thorough account of state actions and by developing an innovative theoretical approach for assessing the costs of fetal rights concepts to women's employment, citizenship, and freedom. Roth's cogent analysis makes a significant contribution to our understanding of the political implications of this highly charged issue." --Carole McCann, University of Maryland, Baltimore County *About the Author* Rachel Roth is Assistant Professor of Political Science and Women's Studies at Washington University in St. Louis.