



Queer America: A GLBT History of the 20th Century

By Vicki L. Eaklor

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Perhaps no topic today is politically more divisive than homosexuality, particularly when it is coupled with the deeply rooted concept of civil rights. This work focuses on 20th/21st-century U. S. history as it pertains to GLBT history. Major issues and events such as the Stonewall riot, Don't Ask, Don't Tell in the military, same-sex marriage, gay rights, gay pride, organizations and alliances, AIDS, and legal battles and court cases are discussed. Also included are sidebars highlighting major debates, legal landmarks and key individuals. A timeline and further reading sections concluding each chapter as well as a full bibliography and black and white images enhance the text.

In these opening years of the 21st century in the United States, perhaps no topic is more divisive than homosexuality, particularly when it is coupled with the deeply rooted concept of civil rights. The same-sex marriage debate, for example, is but part of a larger discussion over issues crucial to American life, such as the role of law in the lives of individuals, relationships among law, economics, and morality, and the values thought to distinguish and define us. GLBT history is not just the struggle for rights, it is people simply living their lives the best they knew how regardless of the terms they or others use for them. This work focuses on U. S. history and, within that, the 20th century, particularly because the vast majority of work in GLBT history has been during this place and time. Major issues and events such as the Stonewall riot, Don't Ask, Don't Tell in the military, same-sex marriage, gay rights, gay pride, organizations and alliances, AIDS, and legal battles and court cases are discussed.

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Queer America: A GLBT History of the 20th Century By Vicki L. Eaklor Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1265767 in eBooks
- Published on: 2008-03-30
- Released on: 2008-03-30
- Format: Kindle eBook

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 10 Up—Arranged chronologically except for a laborious beginning chapter explaining what gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender history is, this scholarly and sometimes dense overview meticulously places the record of GLBT America in the context of U.S. history as a whole. For example, in a chapter on the 1960s, the author discusses Vietnam; the Great Society; and the civil rights, feminist, and peace movements before discussing the gay community during that era. Each chapter includes a sidebar with a pertinent debate topic, such as "How Important Was the Stonewall Riot?" In addition, the book has a time line of key events from 1890 to 2005 and an extensive bibliography, which add to the usefulness of this source for reports or for serious older teens who simply want to learn more about GLBT history in the U.S. *Queer America* will complement well Alsen's *Gay America* (Abrams, 2008), which is for younger students.—*Betty S. Evans, Missouri State University, Springfield*

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Review

"A great deal has been written about twentieth-century U.S. history as well as about the history of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered (GLBT) people, but this excellent volume is unique in combining the two as a survey of GLBT twentieth-century American history. An outstanding reference that belongs in every academic and public collection, *Queer America* is written for the general reader with a view to documenting how fully in the last century GLBT history is U.S. history....*Queer America* is eminently successful in accomplishing its goal of being a one-stop handbook to U.S. GLBT history of the twentieth century." - **ARBA**

"Within the context of historical events, the author discusses the growth of gay issues throughout the 20th century. An extensive time line opens the book and includes landmarks in civil rights and women's rights, as well as gay rights, which are explored in subsequent chapters. The writing is scholarly with few illustrations, but each chapter includes a boxed insert that further explores key debatable questions, such as the importance of the Stonewall Riot and whether homosexuals should serve in the military." - **Curriculum Connections**

"*Queer America* works well as both a broad-based history and a gateway to the key literature of the field. Eaklor . . . organizes *Queer America* as a chronology of GLBT life during specific eras. These engaging chapters weave together primary writings and interviews with political events and social history. . . . *Queer America* is recommended for academic libraries and public libraries with well-developed GLBT reference holdings. . . ." - **Reference & User Services Quarterly**

About the Author

Vicki L. Eaklor is Professor of History at Alfred University. She has edited, authored, and contributed to numerous works including *Bringing Lesbian and Gay Rights Into the Mainstream: Twenty Years of Progress, Where Have We Been, Where Are We Going, and Who Gets to Say?* in *Modern American Queer History*, and *Striking Chords and Touching Nerves: Myth and Gender in Gone With the Wind*, in *Images: A Journal of Film and Popular Culture*, www.imagesjournal.com.

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Donna Valdez:

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