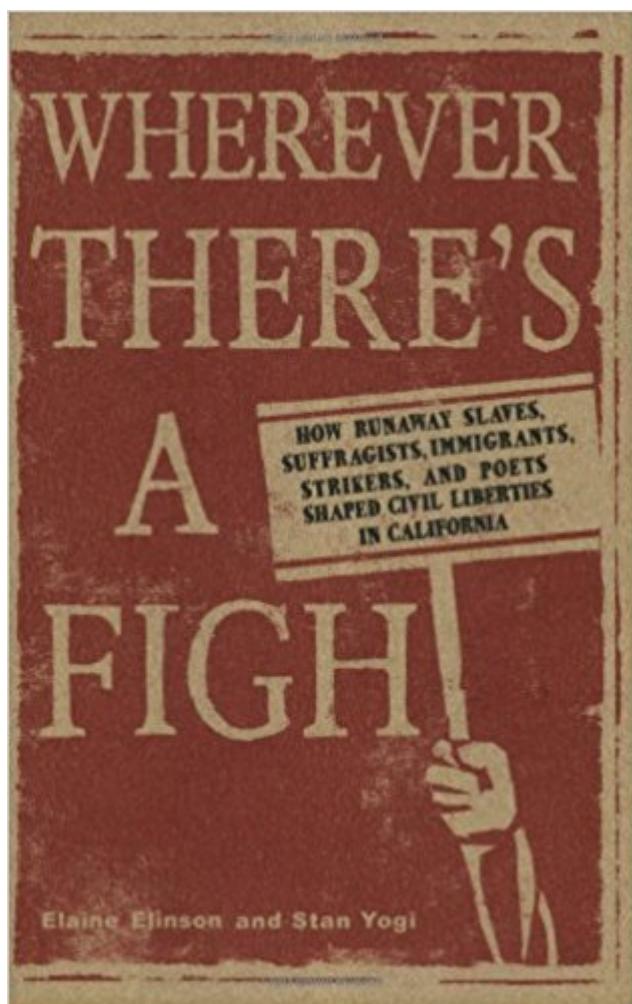


The book was found

Wherever There's A Fight: How Runaway Slaves, Suffragists, Immigrants, Strikers, And Poets Shaped Civil Liberties In California



Synopsis

The first-ever account of the struggle to develop and protect rights in the Golden State Wherever There's a Fight captures the sweeping story of how freedom and equality have grown in California, from the gold rush right up to the precarious post-9/11 era. The book tells the stories of the brave individuals who have stood up for their rights in the face of social hostility, physical violence, economic hardship, and political stonewalling. It connects the experiences of early Chinese immigrants subjected to discriminatory laws to those of professionals who challenged McCarthyism and those of people who have fought to gain equal rights in California schools: people of color, people with disabilities, and people standing up for their religious freedom. The authors bring a special focus to the World War II internment of Japanese Americans, focusing on the infamous Korematsu case, which was foreshadowed by a century of civil liberties violations and reverberates in more recent times--regrettably, even today in the Patriot Act. And they follow the ongoing struggles for workers' rights and same-sex marriage. State and federal constitutions spell out many liberties and rights, but it is the people who challenge prejudice and discrimination that transform those lofty ideals into practical realities. Wherever There's a Fight paints vivid portraits of these people and brings to light their often hidden stories. Winner of the Gold Medal in the 2010 California Book Awards A Foreword Book of the Year

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Customer Reviews

Starred Review. As Californians battle over Prop. 8's hotly contested ban on same-sex marriage,

ACLU veterans Elinson (coauthor of *The Development Debacle*) and Yogi (co-editor of *Highway 99*) offer crucial perspective on the history of minority rights in a state long considered a political trendsetter. Beginning in the mid-19th century "amid the expulsion of Chinese communities from hundreds of California towns and state-sponsored genocidal campaigns against indigenous tribes" the authors describe, in hefty but clear and cogent detail, the shifting patterns of fear, xenophobia, white supremacy and economic competition and exploitation that have repeatedly motivated majorities of Californians to undermine the civil liberties of minorities. But the silver lining to this shameful history is boldly painted: from the free speech fights on behalf of workers by the IWW or on behalf of artists by poet and publisher Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Californians have relentlessly asserted their constitutional rights in cases and campaigns that have often strengthened the rights of all Americans. Readers will find this an essential reference in navigating the slogan-riddled civil rights issues of the day. (Oct.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

This is an inspiring and comprehensive history of civil rights in California. I found it running like a screenplay in my imagination, with each group mentioned in the subtitle taking the stage in turn. It is wonderful to have so many groups' struggles explained in beautifully simple terms by these two gifted authors. And speaking of gifts, this wonderful book is a marvelous tribute to the thousands of Californians who endured lives of poverty and oppression with no one to speak for them. It is also a boon to every Californian, to have all these stories brought together in one volume. Every state should have a history like this!

Today's political language and the issues that require our votes and attention are hard to understand if we do not know the background against which they developed. Lucky for us Californians, California traceable social history as it pertains to all its residents today only reaches back to the middle of nineteenth century. "Wherever There's A Fight" pointedly traces this history in a way that each chapter stands on its own and you can go to the subject you are interested in (or need to vote on) and get a perspective. Chances are when you read one chapter you would want to read the whole book. It is a meticulously researched, beautifully written and elegantly edited work. Anyone interested in California, social history, civil rights or history in general would find this book a treat. Highly recommended!

If you want to know what really happened in California in the arena of civil rights from statehood to

the present, this is the book for you. The authors have provided a wealth of information combined with human interest stories to bring the information alive in this engrossing book. Be surprised to discover how recently our civil rights have needed legal intervention to be maintained. Be surprised to read stories of abuse of basic rights in this state we consider so free, liberal and advanced. The authors have done excellent research and have provided a scholarly text. However, they have maintained ordinary interest and relevance by giving personal stories - sometimes heart warming, sometimes distressing, but always fascinating. You won't be able to put it down!

I love this book. It is filled with sample after sample of moments in California history where the "little beaten down guy" turns things around by fighting back, often, through the courts. This book has been a great follow-up to my Women's History class. All semester my teacher mentioned that California has NOT always been the first state to make changes for the world to follow. We were behind the rest of the country when it came to civil and human rights. Wherever There's a Fight is proof her words are true. I am not finished reading. I am slowly getting through this book. It can be depressing and shocking - a lot to absorb in a sitting. I am sure I will use it as a reference in my future studies at school.

It is a GREAT and important book. An amazing amount of information relating movement forward through an obscene obstacle course of injustice. Even though relating such troubled times, it is in essence a very hopeful book.

Great condition. Awesome book.

Yup!

The book came in 3 days after I ordered it and the book itself is Great, doesn't even look used and great price for it :)

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