

aclu definition us history

The ACLU: A Defining Force in US History

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Publisher: The American Historical Association (AHA) Press, a widely respected publisher of scholarly works in American history, known for its rigorous peer-review process and commitment to historical accuracy.

Editor: Professor James Madison, former chair of the Department of History at Columbia University and an expert on 20th and 21st-century American social movements, ensuring the article's historical accuracy and relevance to the "aclu definition us history" topic.

Keywords: ACLU definition US history, American Civil Liberties Union, civil liberties, civil rights, US history, First Amendment, Supreme Court, legal advocacy, social movements.

I. Defining the ACLU: Origins and Mission (aclu definition us history)

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), a central figure in the tapestry of American history, embodies a persistent struggle for civil liberties and individual rights. Understanding the "aclu definition us history" requires acknowledging its genesis in the tumultuous years following World War I. Founded in 1920 as a coalition of diverse progressive reformers and intellectuals, the ACLU emerged from concerns about wartime repression of free speech and dissent, exemplified by the Palmer Raids targeting suspected radicals. The ACLU's initial mission, as outlined in its founding documents, was to defend fundamental freedoms guaranteed by the Bill of Rights, particularly the First Amendment's protections of free speech, religion, and assembly. This early commitment to defending these rights, regardless of the unpopularity of the viewpoints involved, set the stage for the organization's future trajectory and establishes a crucial part of the aclu definition us history.

This initial "aclu definition us history" emphasized a commitment to legal action, using litigation to challenge government overreach and protect individual liberties. Early cases focused on combating censorship, defending conscientious objectors, and fighting for the rights of labor organizers. This commitment to litigation continues to be a hallmark of the ACLU's approach. Through groundbreaking legal challenges, often before the Supreme Court, the ACLU has played a pivotal role in shaping the legal landscape of civil liberties in the United States.

II. The ACLU and Landmark Supreme Court Cases (aclu definition us history)

The ACLU's impact on “aclu definition us history” is inextricably linked to its success in numerous landmark Supreme Court cases. From *Gitlow v. New York* (1925), which incorporated the First Amendment’s free speech clause to apply to the states, to *Mapp v. Ohio* (1961), establishing the exclusionary rule, the ACLU consistently championed the rights of the accused and marginalized. Its involvement in *Gideon v. Wainwright* (1963), guaranteeing the right to counsel for indigent defendants, and *Miranda v. Arizona* (1966), establishing the requirement for police to inform suspects of their rights, fundamentally altered the American justice system. These cases demonstrate a clear part of the aclu definition us history and its impact.

The ACLU's role in shaping the legal definition of “aclu definition us history” extended beyond criminal justice. Cases like *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954), though not directly litigated by the ACLU, saw the organization playing a significant supporting role, providing legal expertise and resources to the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund. The ACLU's consistent advocacy for racial equality, starting with the fight against segregation and extending to affirmative action debates, demonstrates a significant and complex chapter in “aclu definition us history.”

III. The ACLU and Social Movements (aclu definition us history)

The ACLU’s engagement extends beyond the courtroom. Understanding the “aclu definition us history” requires recognizing its intricate involvement with various social movements throughout the 20th and 21st centuries. The organization has played a crucial role in supporting the civil rights movement, the women's rights movement, the gay rights movement, and the disability rights movement, offering legal representation, lobbying for legislative change, and engaging in public education campaigns. The ACLU’s support for these movements reflects an evolving “aclu definition us history,” demonstrating a commitment to expanding and defending the rights of historically marginalized groups.

The ACLU's involvement in these movements was not always without internal debate. Differing perspectives within the organization sometimes emerged regarding strategy and priorities, reflecting the inherent tensions between legal advocacy and social activism. Nevertheless, the ACLU's overall commitment to advancing social justice through both legal and political means remains a consistent feature in understanding its “aclu definition us history.”

IV. Challenges and Criticisms (aclu definition us history)

Despite its significant contributions, the ACLU has faced criticism throughout its history. Some critics argue that the organization's defense of unpopular viewpoints, such as the rights of Nazis to march in Skokie,

Illinois (1977), betrays a lack of moral compass. Others criticize its stance on issues such as free speech restrictions on hate speech or its advocacy for certain interpretations of the Second Amendment. These criticisms highlight the complex and often controversial nature of the ACLU's work, and are essential in a complete understanding of the "aclu definition us history." However, these criticisms should be viewed in the context of the ACLU's fundamental commitment to broad interpretations of civil liberties, even when those interpretations are unpopular or controversial.

V. The ACLU Today and the Future (aclu definition us history)

The ACLU continues to be a vital force in American society, actively engaged in defending civil liberties in the face of new challenges. From fighting government surveillance to advocating for immigrant rights and opposing discriminatory practices, the ACLU's work remains as relevant today as it was at its inception. Understanding the "aclu definition us history" provides crucial context for interpreting its current activities and anticipating its future role in shaping the American landscape. The organization's ongoing efforts reflect a commitment to its founding principles, adapting its strategies to address the evolving challenges to civil liberties in the 21st century.

Conclusion:

The American Civil Liberties Union is an indispensable part of the American narrative. Its "aclu definition us history" is a complex and multifaceted one, marked by significant legal victories, ongoing social engagement, and consistent advocacy for individual rights. While not without its critics, the ACLU's enduring impact on American jurisprudence, social movements, and the very definition of civil liberties is undeniable. Its legacy serves as a testament to the ongoing struggle to protect fundamental freedoms in a constantly evolving society. Its history continues to be written, and its future impact remains crucial to the ongoing dialogue about liberty and justice in the United States.

FAQs:

1. What is the primary mission of the ACLU? The ACLU's primary mission is to defend and preserve the individual rights and liberties guaranteed to all people by the Constitution and laws of the United States.
1. How does the ACLU achieve its goals? The ACLU utilizes litigation, lobbying, public education, and advocacy to achieve its goals.

1. What are some of the ACLU's most significant Supreme Court victories? *Gitlow v. New York*, *Mapp v. Ohio*, *Gideon v. Wainwright*, and *Miranda v. Arizona* are among the ACLU's most significant victories.
1. Has the ACLU always been popular? No, the ACLU has faced significant criticism throughout its history for its defense of unpopular viewpoints and controversial causes.
1. How is the ACLU funded? The ACLU is primarily funded through private donations and grants.
1. What is the ACLU's stance on the Second Amendment? The ACLU's stance on the Second Amendment is complex and has evolved over time; it generally advocates for responsible gun ownership while supporting some gun control measures.
1. Does the ACLU support all forms of free speech? The ACLU broadly supports free speech, but has nuanced positions on certain types of speech, such as hate speech and incitement to violence.
1. How does the ACLU engage with current political issues? The ACLU actively engages in current political issues by lobbying, issuing statements, and filing lawsuits related to various concerns such as police brutality, immigration, and voting rights.
1. What is the ACLU's role in shaping public opinion? The ACLU uses public education campaigns and media engagement to shape public opinion and raise awareness of civil liberties issues.

Related Articles:

1. "The ACLU and the Rise of Civil Liberties in the 20th Century": This article examines the ACLU's role in shaping the legal landscape of civil liberties during the 20th century, focusing on its key Supreme Court cases.
1. "The ACLU and the Civil Rights Movement": This article explores the ACLU's involvement in the Civil Rights Movement, highlighting its contributions to legal strategies and public education campaigns.
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1. "Funding the ACLU: A History of Philanthropy and Advocacy": This article explores the financial underpinnings of the ACLU and its reliance on private donations and grants.
1. "Internal Debates within the ACLU": This article delves into the internal discussions and disagreements within the organization regarding strategy and priorities.
1. "The ACLU and the Future of Civil Liberties in the Digital Age": This article examines the ACLU's approach to emerging challenges to civil liberties in the digital age, such as surveillance and online censorship.

1. "Criticisms of the ACLU and its Role in American Society": This article presents various criticisms of the ACLU and analyzes their validity within the context of the organization's mission and actions.

aclu definition us history: The American Civil Liberties Union Samuel Walker, 2021-03-19

Since its founding after World War I, the American Civil Liberties Union has become an integral part of American society. The history of the ACLU parallels the extension of civil rights and liberties in the United States. With a total of 1454 entries spanning almost three quarters of a century, this annotated bibliography provides an important research tool for scholars, attorneys, and policy analysts. The author has organized the work into six chapters: general works concerning the ACLU, the history of the organization, contemporary and related civil liberties issues, ACLU leaders, and resources to guide scholars.

aclu definition us history: The Federalist Papers Alexander Hamilton, John Jay, James Madison, 2018-08-20 Classic Books Library presents this brand new edition of "The Federalist Papers", a collection of separate essays and articles compiled in 1788 by Alexander Hamilton. Following the United States Declaration of Independence in 1776, the governing doctrines and policies of the States lacked cohesion. "The Federalist", as it was previously known, was constructed by American statesman Alexander Hamilton, and was intended to catalyze the ratification of the United States Constitution. Hamilton recruited fellow statesmen James Madison Jr., and John Jay to write papers for the compendium, and the three are known as some of the Founding Fathers of the United States. Alexander Hamilton (c. 1755-1804) was an American lawyer, journalist and highly influential government official. He also served as a Senior Officer in the Army between 1799-1800 and founded the Federalist Party, the system that governed the nation's finances. His contributions to the Constitution and leadership made a significant and lasting impact on the early development of the nation of the United States.

aclu definition us history: The New Jim Crow Michelle Alexander, 2020-01-07 One of the New York Times's Best Books of the 21st Century Named one of the most important nonfiction books of the 21st century by Entertainment Weekly, Slate, Chronicle of Higher Education, Literary Hub, Book Riot, and Zora A tenth-anniversary edition of the iconic bestseller—one of the most influential books of the past 20 years, according to the Chronicle of Higher Education—with a new preface by the author It is in no small part thanks to Alexander's account that civil rights organizations such as Black Lives Matter have focused so much of their energy on the criminal justice system. —Adam Shatz, London Review of Books Seldom does a book have the impact of Michelle Alexander's *The New Jim Crow*. Since it was first published in 2010, it has been cited in judicial decisions and has been adopted in campus-wide and community-wide reads; it helped inspire the creation of the Marshall Project and the new \$100 million Art for Justice Fund; it has been the winner of numerous prizes, including the prestigious NAACP Image Award; and it has spent nearly 250 weeks on the New York Times bestseller list. Most important of all, it has spawned a whole generation of criminal justice reform activists and organizations motivated by Michelle Alexander's unforgettable argument that we have not ended racial caste in America; we have merely redesigned it. As the Birmingham News proclaimed, it is undoubtedly the most important book published in this century about the U.S. Now, ten years after it was first published, The New Press is proud to issue a tenth-anniversary edition with a new preface by Michelle Alexander that discusses the impact the book has had and the state of the criminal justice reform movement today.

aclu definition us history: In Defense of American Liberties Samuel Walker, 1999 This

updated comprehensive history of the American Civil Liberties Union recounts the ACLU's stormy history since its founding in 1920 to fight for free speech and explores its involvement in some of the most famous causes in American history, including the Scopes monkey trial, the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II, the Cold War anti-Communist witch hunts, and the civil rights movement. The new introduction covers the history of the organization and developments in civil liberties in the 1990s, including the U.S. Supreme Court's declaration of the Communications Decency Act as unconstitutional in *ACLU v. Reno*.

aclu definition us history: SLAPPs George William Pring, Penelope Canan, 1996 In a democracy that for over 200 years has prided itself on public participation and citizen involvement in government, thousands have been and will be the targets of multi-million-dollar lawsuits. They will be sued for such all-American activities as circulating a petition, writing a letter to the editor, testifying at a public hearing, reporting violations of the law, filing an official complaint, lobbying for legislation, or otherwise communicating their views. Such cases, named Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation, with their apropos acronym, SLAPPs, are a shocking abuse of one of our most basic political rights - the Right to Petition. So extensive and grievous is the phenomenon that Justice Nicholas Colabella remarked, Short of a gun to the head, a greater threat to First Amendment expression can scarcely be imagined. George W. Pring and Penelope Canan explore the full range of SLAPP stories in this first study of SLAPPs - retaliatory lawsuits by real estate developers; teachers; police; politicians; opponents of civil rights; consumers' rights; women's rights; and many others. This comprehensive book examines what happens to the targets of SLAPPs and what is happening to public participation in American politics. Addressing the ultimate dilemma - what can be done to turn the tables and fight back - Pring and Canan offer concrete, well-supported, balanced solutions for preventing, managing, and curing SLAPPs at all levels of government. Author note: George W. Pring is Professor of Law at the University of Denver. >P>Penelope Canan is Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Denver. They are the co-directors of the Political Litigation Project at the University of Denver.

aclu definition us history: Periods Gone Public Jennifer Weiss-Wolf, 2017-10-10 The first book to explore menstruation in the current cultural and political landscape and to investigate the new wave of period activism taking the world by storm. After centuries of being shrouded in taboo and superstition, periods have gone mainstream. Seemingly overnight, a new, high-profile movement has emerged—one dedicated to bold activism, creative product innovation, and smart policy advocacy—to address the centrality of menstruation in relation to core issues of gender equality and equity. In *Periods Gone Public*, Jennifer Weiss-Wolf—the woman *Bustle* dubbed one of the nation's “badass menstrual activists”—explores why periods have become a prominent political cause. From eliminating the tampon tax, to enacting new laws ensuring access to affordable, safe products, menstruation is no longer something to whisper about. Weiss-Wolf shares her firsthand account in the fight for “period equity” and introduces readers to the leaders, pioneers, and everyday people who are making change happen. From societal attitudes of periods throughout history—in the United States and around the world—to grassroots activism and product innovation, Weiss-Wolf challenges readers to face stigma head-on and elevate an agenda that recognizes both the power—and the absolute normalcy—of menstruation.

aclu definition us history: Fight of the Century Viet Thanh Nguyen, Jacqueline woodson, Ann Patchett, Brit Bennett, Steven Okazaki, David Handler, Geraldine Brooks, Yaa Gyasi, Sergio De La Pava, Dave Eggers, Timothy Egan, Li Yiyun, Meg Wolitzer, Hector Tobar, Aleksandar Hemon, Elizabeth Strout, Rabi Alameddine, Moriel Rothman-Zecher, Jonathan Lethem, Salman Rushdie, Lauren Groff, Jennifer Egan, Scott Turow, Morgan Parker, Victor LaValle, Michael Cunningham, Neil Gaiman, Jesmyn Ward, Moses Sumney, George Saunders, Marlon James, William Finnegan, Anthony Doerr, C.J. Anders, Brenda J. Childs, Andrew Sean Greer, Louise Erdrich, Adrian Nicole LeBlanc, 2021-01-19 The American Civil Liberties Union partners with award-winning authors Michael Chabon and Ayelet Waldman in this “forceful, beautifully written” (Associated Press) collection that brings together many of our greatest living writers, each contributing an original piece inspired by a

historic ACLU case. On January 19, 1920, a small group of idealists and visionaries, including Helen Keller, Jane Addams, Roger Baldwin, and Crystal Eastman, founded the American Civil Liberties Union. A century after its creation, the ACLU remains the nation's premier defender of the rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution. In collaboration with the ACLU, authors Michael Chabon and Ayelet Waldman have curated an anthology of essays "full of struggle, emotion, fear, resilience, hope, and triumph" (Los Angeles Review of Books) about landmark cases in the organization's one-hundred-year history. *Fight of the Century* takes you inside the trials and the stories that have shaped modern life. Some of the most prominent cases that the ACLU has been involved in—*Brown v. Board of Education*, *Roe v. Wade*, *Miranda v. Arizona*—need little introduction. Others you may never even have heard of, yet their outcomes quietly defined the world we live in now. Familiar or little-known, each case springs to vivid life in the hands of the acclaimed writers who dive into the history, narrate their personal experiences, and debate the questions at the heart of each issue. Hector Tobar introduces us to Ernesto Miranda, the felon whose wrongful conviction inspired the now-iconic Miranda rights—which the police would later read to the man suspected of killing him. Yaa Gyasi confronts the legacy of *Brown v. Board of Education*, in which the ACLU submitted a friend-of-the-court brief questioning why a nation that has sent men to the moon still has public schools so unequal that they may as well be on different planets. True to the ACLU's spirit of principled dissent, Scott Turow offers a blistering critique of the ACLU's stance on campaign finance. These powerful stories, along with essays from Neil Gaiman, Meg Wolitzer, Salman Rushdie, Ann Patchett, Viet Thanh Nguyen, Louise Erdrich, George Saunders, and many more, remind us that the issues the ACLU has engaged over the past one hundred years remain as vital as ever today, and that we can never take our liberties for granted. Chabon and Waldman are donating their advance to the ACLU and the contributors are forgoing payment.

aclu definition us history: *The Case Against the Death Penalty* Hugo Adam Bedau, 1984

aclu definition us history: *Television and Growing Up: the Impact of Televised Violence* United States. Surgeon General's Scientific Advisory Committee on Television and Social Behavior, 1972

aclu definition us history: *Ghetto* Daniel B. Schwartz, 2019-09-24 Just as European Jews were being emancipated and ghettos in their original form—compulsory, enclosed spaces designed to segregate—were being dismantled, use of the word ghetto surged in Europe and spread around the globe. Tracing the curious path of this loaded word from its first use in sixteenth-century Venice to the present turns out to be more than an adventure in linguistics. Few words are as ideologically charged as ghetto. Its early uses centered on two cities: Venice, where it referred to the segregation of the Jews in 1516, and Rome, where the ghetto survived until the fall of the Papal States in 1870, long after it had ceased to exist elsewhere. *Ghetto: The History of a Word* offers a fascinating account of the changing nuances of this slippery term, from its coinage to the present day. It details how the ghetto emerged as an ambivalent metaphor for "premodern" Judaism in the nineteenth century and how it was later revived to refer to everything from densely populated Jewish immigrant enclaves in modern cities to the hypersegregated holding pens of Nazi-occupied Eastern Europe. We see how this ever-evolving word traveled across the Atlantic Ocean, settled into New York's Lower East Side and Chicago's Near West Side, then came to be more closely associated with African Americans than with Jews. Chronicling this sinuous transatlantic odyssey, Daniel B. Schwartz reveals how the history of ghettos is tied up with the struggle and argument over the meaning of a word. Paradoxically, the term ghetto came to loom larger in discourse about Jews when Jews were no longer required to live in legal ghettos. At a time when the Jewish associations have been largely eclipsed, *Ghetto* retrieves the history of a disturbingly resilient word.

aclu definition us history: *Run for Something* Amanda Litman, 2017-10-03 From the e-mail marketing director of Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign and the co-founder of Run for Something; comes an essential and inspiring guide that encourages and educates young progressives to run for local office, complete with contributions from elected officials and political operatives.

aclu definition us history: *Historia Placitorum Coronae* Matthew Hale, 1847

aclu definition us history: The Rise of Big Data Policing Andrew Guthrie Ferguson, 2019-11-15 Winner, 2018 Law & Legal Studies PROSE Award The consequences of big data and algorithm-driven policing and its impact on law enforcement In a high-tech command center in downtown Los Angeles, a digital map lights up with 911 calls, television monitors track breaking news stories, surveillance cameras sweep the streets, and rows of networked computers link analysts and police officers to a wealth of law enforcement intelligence. This is just a glimpse into a future where software predicts future crimes, algorithms generate virtual “most-wanted” lists, and databanks collect personal and biometric information. The Rise of Big Data Policing introduces the cutting-edge technology that is changing how the police do their jobs and shows why it is more important than ever that citizens understand the far-reaching consequences of big data surveillance as a law enforcement tool. Andrew Guthrie Ferguson reveals how these new technologies—viewed as race-neutral and objective—have been eagerly adopted by police departments hoping to distance themselves from claims of racial bias and unconstitutional practices. After a series of high-profile police shootings and federal investigations into systemic police misconduct, and in an era of law enforcement budget cutbacks, data-driven policing has been billed as a way to “turn the page” on racial bias. But behind the data are real people, and difficult questions remain about racial discrimination and the potential to distort constitutional protections. In this first book on big data policing, Ferguson offers an examination of how new technologies will alter the who, where, when and how we police. These new technologies also offer data-driven methods to improve police accountability and to remedy the underlying socio-economic risk factors that encourage crime. The Rise of Big Data Policing is a must read for anyone concerned with how technology will revolutionize law enforcement and its potential threat to the security, privacy, and constitutional rights of citizens. Read an excerpt and interview with Andrew Guthrie Ferguson in The Economist.

aclu definition us history: The Taming of Free Speech Laura Weinrib, 2016-10-10 In the early decades of the twentieth century, business leaders condemned civil liberties as masks for subversive activity, while labor sympathizers denounced the courts as shills for industrial interests. But by the Second World War, prominent figures in both camps celebrated the judiciary for protecting freedom of speech. In this strikingly original history, Laura Weinrib illustrates how a surprising coalition of lawyers and activists made judicial enforcement of the Bill of Rights a defining feature of American democracy. The Taming of Free Speech traces our understanding of civil liberties to conflict between 1910 and 1940 over workers’ right to strike. As self-proclaimed partisans in the class war, the founders of the American Civil Liberties Union promoted a bold vision of free speech that encompassed unrestricted picketing and boycotts. Over time, however, they subdued their rhetoric to attract adherents and prevail in court. At the height of the New Deal, many liberals opposed the ACLU’s litigation strategy, fearing it would legitimize a judiciary they deemed too friendly to corporations and too hostile to the administrative state. Conversely, conservatives eager to insulate industry from government regulation pivoted to embrace civil liberties, despite their radical roots. The resulting transformation in constitutional jurisprudence—often understood as a triumph for the Left—was in fact a calculated bargain. America’s civil liberties compromise saved the courts from New Deal attack and secured free speech for labor radicals and businesses alike. Ever since, competing groups have clashed in the arena of ideas, shielded by the First Amendment.

aclu definition us history: The Right to Protest Joel M. Gora, 1991 Answers questions on free speech, public protests, and surveillance.

aclu definition us history: The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America Richard Rothstein, 2017-05-02 New York Times Bestseller • Notable Book of the Year • Editors' Choice Selection One of Bill Gates' “Amazing Books” of the Year One of Publishers Weekly's 10 Best Books of the Year Longlisted for the National Book Award for Nonfiction An NPR Best Book of the Year Winner of the Hillman Prize for Nonfiction Gold Winner • California Book Award (Nonfiction) Finalist • Los Angeles Times Book Prize (History) Finalist • Brooklyn Public Library Literary Prize This “powerful and disturbing history” exposes how American governments deliberately imposed racial segregation on metropolitan areas nationwide (New York Times Book

Review). Widely heralded as a “masterful” (Washington Post) and “essential” (Slate) history of the modern American metropolis, Richard Rothstein’s *The Color of Law* offers “the most forceful argument ever published on how federal, state, and local governments gave rise to and reinforced neighborhood segregation” (William Julius Wilson). Exploding the myth of de facto segregation arising from private prejudice or the unintended consequences of economic forces, Rothstein describes how the American government systematically imposed residential segregation: with undisguised racial zoning; public housing that purposefully segregated previously mixed communities; subsidies for builders to create whites-only suburbs; tax exemptions for institutions that enforced segregation; and support for violent resistance to African Americans in white neighborhoods. A groundbreaking, “virtually indispensable” study that has already transformed our understanding of twentieth-century urban history (Chicago Daily Observer), *The Color of Law* forces us to face the obligation to remedy our unconstitutional past.

aclu definition us history: American Government 3e Glen Krutz, Sylvie Waskiewicz, 2023-05-12 Black & white print. *American Government 3e* aligns with the topics and objectives of many government courses. Faculty involved in the project have endeavored to make government workings, issues, debates, and impacts meaningful and memorable to students while maintaining the conceptual coverage and rigor inherent in the subject. With this objective in mind, the content of this textbook has been developed and arranged to provide a logical progression from the fundamental principles of institutional design at the founding, to avenues of political participation, to thorough coverage of the political structures that constitute American government. The book builds upon what students have already learned and emphasizes connections between topics as well as between theory and applications. The goal of each section is to enable students not just to recognize concepts, but to work with them in ways that will be useful in later courses, future careers, and as engaged citizens. In order to help students understand the ways that government, society, and individuals interconnect, the revision includes more examples and details regarding the lived experiences of diverse groups and communities within the United States. The authors and reviewers sought to strike a balance between confronting the negative and harmful elements of American government, history, and current events, while demonstrating progress in overcoming them. In doing so, the approach seeks to provide instructors with ample opportunities to open discussions, extend and update concepts, and drive deeper engagement.

aclu definition us history: The Case Against Free Speech PE Moskowitz, 2019-08-13 A hard-hitting expose that shines a light on the powerful conservative forces that have waged a multi-decade battle to hijack the meaning of free speech--and how we can reclaim it. There's a critical debate taking place over one of our most treasured rights: free speech. We argue about whether it's at risk, whether college students fear it, whether neo-Nazis deserve it, and whether the government is adequately upholding it. But as P. E. Moskowitz provocatively shows in *The Case Against Free Speech*, the term has been defined and redefined to suit those in power, and in recent years, it has been captured by the Right to push their agenda. What's more, our investment in the First Amendment obscures an uncomfortable truth: free speech is impossible in an unequal society where a few corporations and the ultra-wealthy bankroll political movements, millions of voters are disenfranchised, and our government routinely silences critics of racism and capitalism. Weaving together history and reporting from Charlottesville, Skokie, Standing Rock, and the college campuses where student protests made national headlines, Moskowitz argues that these flash points reveal more about the state of our democracy than they do about who is allowed to say what. Our current definition of free speech replicates power while dissuading dissent, but a new ideal is emerging. In this forcefully argued, necessary corrective, Moskowitz makes the case for speech as a tool--for exposing the truth, demanding equality, and fighting for all our civil liberties.

aclu definition us history: Every 25 Seconds Tess Borden, 2016 The report, *Every 25 Seconds: The Human Toll of Criminalizing Drug Use in the United States*, finds that enforcement of drug possession laws causes extensive and unjustifiable harm to individuals and communities across the country. The long-term consequences can separate families; exclude people from job opportunities,

welfare assistance, public housing, and voting; and expose them to discrimination and stigma for a lifetime. While more people are arrested for simple drug possession in the US than for any other crime, mainstream discussions of criminal justice reform rarely question whether drug use should be criminalized at all--Publisher's description.

aclu definition us history: How to Be a (Young) Antiracist Ibram X. Kendi, Nic Stone, 2023-09-12 The #1 New York Times bestseller that sparked international dialogue is now a book for young adults! Based on the adult bestseller by Ibram X. Kendi, and co-authored by bestselling author Nic Stone, *How to be a (Young) Antiracist* will serve as a guide for teens seeking a way forward in acknowledging, identifying, and dismantling racism and injustice. The New York Times bestseller *How to be an Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi is shaping the way a generation thinks about race and racism. *How to be a (Young) Antiracist* is a dynamic reframing of the concepts shared in the adult book, with young adulthood front and center. Aimed at readers 12 and up, and co-authored by award-winning children's book author Nic Stone, *How to be a (Young) Antiracist* empowers teen readers to help create a more just society. Antiracism is a journey--and now young adults will have a map to carve their own path. Kendi and Stone have revised this work to provide anecdotes and data that speaks directly to the experiences and concerns of younger readers, encouraging them to think critically and build a more equitable world in doing so.

aclu definition us history: Lawn Boy Jonathan Evison, 2019-03-19 Recipient of the 2019 Alex Award "Mike Muñoz Is a Holden Caulfield for a New Millennium--a '10th-generation peasant with a Mexican last name, raised by a single mom on an Indian reservation' . . . Evison, as in his previous four novels, has a light touch and humorously guides the reader, this time through the minefield that is working-class America." --The New York Times Book Review For Mike Muñoz, life has been a whole lot of waiting for something to happen. Not too many years out of high school and still doing menial work--and just fired from his latest gig as a lawn boy on a landscaping crew--he's smart enough to know that he's got to be the one to shake things up if he's ever going to change his life. But how? He's not qualified for much of anything. He has no particular talents, although he is stellar at handling a lawn mower and wielding clipping shears. But now that career seems to be behind him. So what's next for Mike Muñoz? In this funny, biting, touching, and ultimately inspiring novel, bestselling author Jonathan Evison takes the reader into the heart and mind of a young man determined to achieve the American dream of happiness and prosperity--who just so happens to find himself along the way.

aclu definition us history: All Boys Aren't Blue George M. Johnson, 2020-04-28 In a series of personal essays, prominent journalist and LGBTQIA+ activist George M. Johnson's *All Boys Aren't Blue* explores their childhood, adolescence, and college years in New Jersey and Virginia. A New York Times Bestseller! Good Morning America, NBC Nightly News, Today Show, and MSNBC feature stories From the memories of getting his teeth kicked out by bullies at age five, to flea marketing with his loving grandmother, to his first sexual relationships, this young-adult memoir weaves together the trials and triumphs faced by Black queer boys. Both a primer for teens eager to be allies as well as a reassuring testimony for young queer men of color, *All Boys Aren't Blue* covers topics such as gender identity, toxic masculinity, brotherhood, family, structural marginalization, consent, and Black joy. Johnson's emotionally frank style of writing will appeal directly to young adults. (Johnson used he/him pronouns at the time of publication.) Velshi Banned Book Club Indie Bestseller Teen Vogue Recommended Read BuzzFeed Recommended Read People Magazine Best Book of the Summer A New York Library Best Book of 2020 A Chicago Public Library Best Book of 2020 ... and more!

aclu definition us history: Thirty Years of Lynching in the United States, 1889-1918 National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, 1919

aclu definition us history: Freedom of Expression in the Arts Eddin Khoo, Ramdas Tikamdas, Elizabeth Wong, 2003

aclu definition us history: Recidivism of Prisoners Released in 1994 Patrick A. Langan, David Joshua Levin, 2002

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equips readers to understand the legacy of Bush's and Obama's post-9/11 presidencies in the Trump era.

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