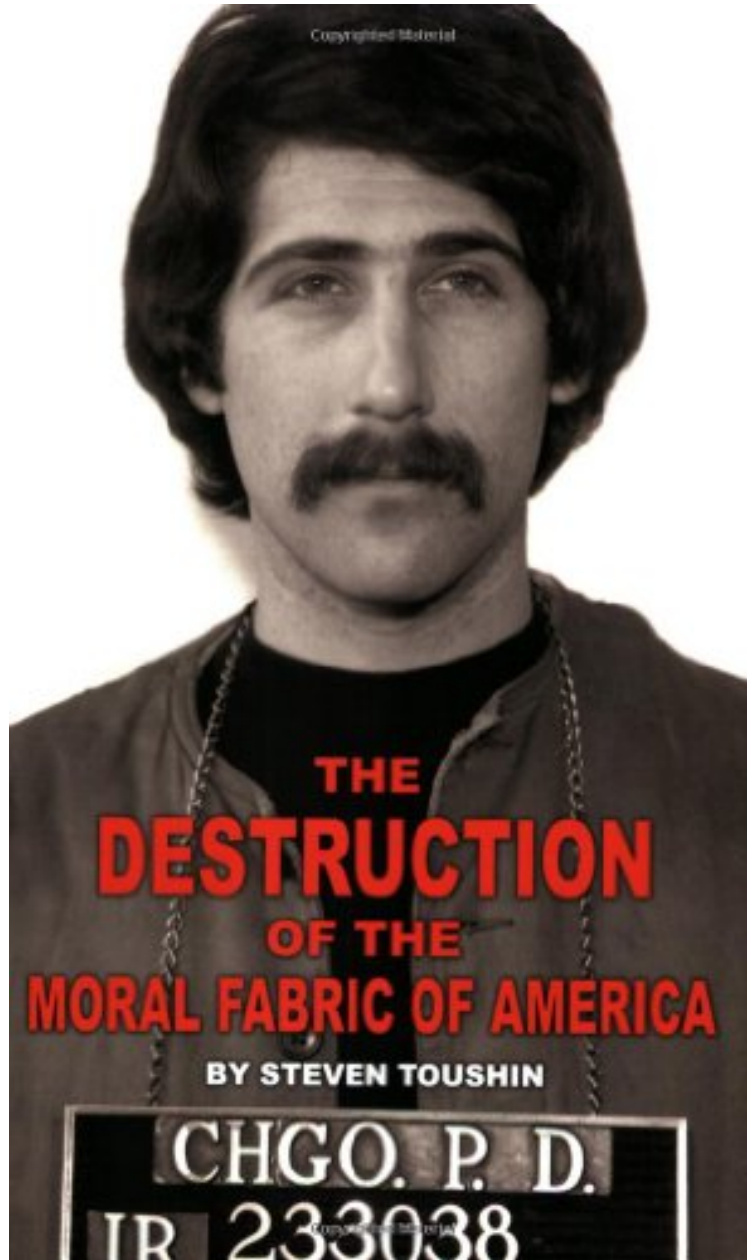


(Download pdf ebook) The Destruction of the Moral Fabric of America

The Destruction of the Moral Fabric of America

Steven Toushin

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Steven Toushin : The Destruction of the Moral Fabric of America before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Destruction of the Moral Fabric of America:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. A Man With Moral FabricBy YTSteven Toushin has written a very important book, a must-readfor anyone interested in Freedom of Speech issues, sexualityand alternate sexualities,

particularly BDSM, and the legal issues surrounding obscenity and pornography. His first-hand account of his arrest and trial for the distribution of pornography is a fascinating and educational view of the excesses of government's attempts to control morality. Tushin's book may in fact be unique, in that it is a defendant's document of his obscenity trial, and includes transcripts of the actual trial. It also includes transcripts of the development of the legal defense, interviews with possible witnesses that run the gamut from participants in the films seized, to mental health experts and sociologists. Prosecuted under an insidious plan developed by the Meese Commission on Pornography, Tushin defended himself against the full brunt of the Federal Government. Most of the other businesses charged in this particular sweep of adult film companies closed, paid fines, and kept a low profile. To his lasting credit, Tushin fought to save his businesses, his personal freedom, and First Amendment rights. The government's plan was brilliant, although its legality was questioned by many, including the FBI. Smaller cities in conservative states were chosen as a venue where it was felt there would be a greater probability of conviction for obscenity. Postmasters in the chosen cities ordered and bought catalogs from adult businesses, then frequently purchased additional "specialty" catalogs. They then ordered films depicting acts that were determined most likely to offend a jury. It was actually stated the outcome of the trial was not crucial to the prosecution's plan. The real intent was to charge the defendants in as many states as possible at the same time and to make legal defense impossible financially. The adult companies would be bankrupted or closed even if it was later determined by the court the material they sold was legal and protected. 'Moral Fabric' reads like a good thriller. The reader is led through the defense team's discovery process and then the trial, not knowing in advance what the outcome will be. As the defense lawyers educate themselves on the BDSM lifestyle and its wide variety of sexual practices, this reader was also informed. There are brow raisers and chuckles. The book's true value is as a social document late 20th Century sexual practices, ideas on morality and individual rights, and legal precedent. It is fascinating now and surely will also be equally so in 50 years. We live in a society where every art form, every kind of media, every kind of entertainment and even our advertising is directly influenced by pornography. Our ideas about sex and sexuality are in constant transition. If the financial numbers for the pornography business are correct, the creation, sales and consumption are a huge business that rivals or surpasses Hollywood. Someone is enjoying a lot of erotica. The success of "moralists" to shame some into submission and denial leaves a conflicted populace that want to continue consuming porn with pleasure, but must also punish...someone. It is telling that "someone" is not the creator, the participants, or the consumer, but it is the distributor. Steven Tushin is to be commended for his insistence on personal sexual freedom, free speech, and his willingness to share his own life experience. There are many memorable ideas and quotations. To paraphrase and quote a few favorites: "The right to view legal adult material in one's own home is meaningless if there is no way to purchase or otherwise obtain it." - Judge "It is not popular speech that needs protection, but unpopular speech." "The Gothic idea that we were to look backwards instead of forwards for the improvement of the human mind, and to recur to the annals of our ancestors for what is most perfect in government, in religion and in learning, is worthy of those bigots in religion and government by whom it has been recommended, and whose purpose it would answer. But it is not an idea this country will endure." - Thomas Jefferson 1807 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Destruction of the Moral Fabric Review By Kimberli Olsen Wow! The Destruction of the Moral Fabric of America has me speechless. Where to begin talking about this volume? You could say it's about the history of gay porn, or BDSM, or it is a memoir of Steven Tushin's colorful and intensely lived life, or an expose by someone dedicated to their principles no matter what morality police do. All are correct. It is about all these things, needless to say it is not a light read but it is an important one. Steven is well-armed with historical facts, trial transcripts, and interviews. The reader is led circuitously through his first-hand experience with governmental repression and intimidation, his arrests, trials, jail time, his ruminations on pornography, BDSM, and the government. He covers a lot of territory. It is sobering! One cannot walk away from this book without feeling a little queasy about our government and its insistence on overseeing American's sexuality and desires. Steven likes to let the actual correspondences, court documents, and interviews speak for themselves; not that he doesn't express his opinions, there is plenty of that, but he backs up those opinions with cold hard facts. Be warned, nobody is off the hook in this book. Steven takes a cold hard look at the BDSM culture and lays out what he sees as the pitfalls and what his suggestions are for remedying these problems. Including what a certified Master/Mistress may look like and what the criteria for such a certification would entail. Tushin has waited over 30 years to spill the beans so there's quite a mess of beans on the floor! What are we going to do with the mess? My suggestion, keep this book as a reference point for the long fight ahead...it is far from being over. Those that forget history are doomed to repeat it is the phrase that comes to mind. If we are to fight for our rights, to live our lives as we see fit then we have to build upon the blood, sweat, and tears of those who sacrificed and fought so hard because they had no other choice if they were going to lead life on their own terms. Sleep with one eye open America. As the government likes to keep parroting "freedom isn't free". Damn straight, we've got an internal war going on folks, right here in our bedrooms. Be prepared to fight! Don't worry, there have been warriors that have gone before us. We are not alone...read and prepare yourselves. 3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Legal and Historical Value By TammyJo Eckhart By and large, Steven Tushin's latest book is about legal problems revolving around four SM films made in the 1980s which accumulated in a trail in 1989. There are a lot of primary documents included in the book that should be of great value to anyone interested in the legal

system and how it is used to try and regulate adult sexuality. It may also be interesting to anyone wanting to know more about SM's history and legal standing. It is a massive book and not for a casual reader however. I have some problems with how sections are arranged but the overall excellent value for anyone doing research into these subjects outweighs those concerns.

Destructions author Steven Toushin shares his first-hand experiences with obscenity-law; corruption and immorality within the federal government; and the conservative religious agenda that threatens our constitutional guarantees of religious freedom and freedom of speech. Destruction is for anyone who values liberty, who loves America, who doesn't want to be bullied by right-wing political and religious extremists. It is for people who are interested in individual sexual freedom, law, politics, morality, and a better America for all people. Destruction of the Moral Fabric of America revolves around the first S/M-obscenity trial following the 1985 Meese Commission on Pornography which ignited a decade of persecution of the adult industry. The trial includes a debate of the issues among recognized members of the BDSM community Tony DeBlase, Guy Baldwin, Goeff Mains, Gayle Rubin, John Robery, Jim Ward, GMSMA, sociologists, anthropologists, mental health experts, and legal experts. Along with Steven's personal

Mandatory reading, a-powerhouse that will help us win our sexual freedoms, and preserve the-democratic freedoms our nation was founded on. -- Jack Rinella "Leatherviews"-Gay Chicago Oct. 26, 2006Mandatory reading, a-powerhouse that will help us win our sexual freedoms, and preserve the-democratic freedoms our nation was founded on. --Jack Rinella "Leatherviews"-Gay Chicago Oct. 26, 2006From the Inside FlapDedication This book is dedicated to Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson. Besides being one of the most prominent founders of this country, Hamilton provided America's first political sexual scandal (See Appendix 1: Alexander Hamilton). He also created America's financial structure and was a staunch proponent for keeping religion out of government. Thomas Jefferson, the second Vice President and third President of the United States, was the architect of the Declaration of Independence and a powerful advocate for liberty. Adding to Jefferson's fame was the rumor of an affair he had with his slave, Sally Hemmings, which became a proven fact decades later. This book is also dedicated to the freedom of all thoughts, ideas, expressions, arts, spiritualities, religions, sciences, and sexualities; to the separation of church and state, and to the freedom to be or not to be, for that is not a question, but a statement I am making. And of course, how can anything that feels so good be bad for you? How can that wonderful thing called "sex" that leaves you feeling good, if not fabulous, that puts a smile on your face, a twinkle in your eye, that which is all natural and heaven-sent, be anything but godly? So, last but not least, this book is dedicated to that last frontier of sexuality and consensual pleasure: BDSM. Steven Toushin