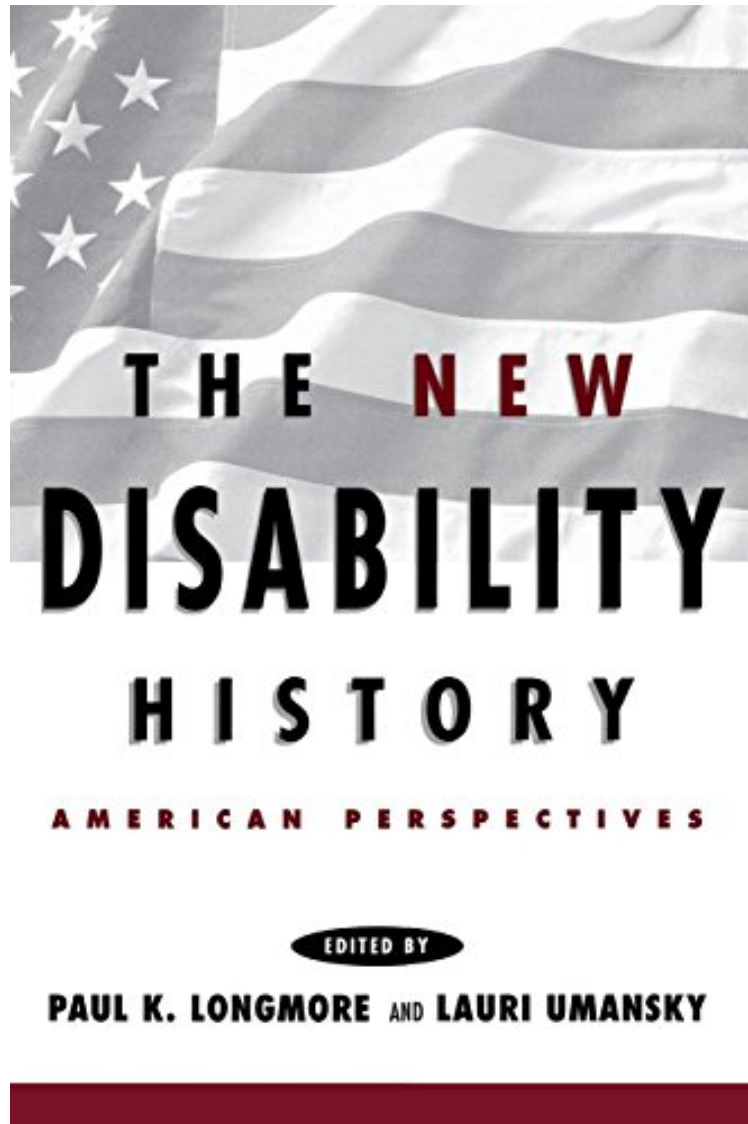


The New Disability History: American Perspectives (The History of Disability)

From New York University Press
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From New York University Press : The New Disability History: American Perspectives (The History of Disability) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The New Disability History: American Perspectives (The History of Disability):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating documentBy Jim ProvenzanoThis is proving to be an important research book for my work in fiction, with disabled characters ("Every Time I Think of You"). The timeline

and essays offer a much-overlooked history of a community millions strong. What's striking is how much of this important aspect of activism and civil disobedience is excluded from "mainstream" history books. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Offered a unique perspective on Disability issues By RN to BSN Student Authors covered both history and influences on the topic. The 14 chapters both challenge the reader and introduce the student to areas they may have thought they were knowledgeable but found views on people like Helen Keller to be very eye opening. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By NeuGreat Condition

Disability has always been a preoccupation of American society and culture. From antebellum debates about qualification for citizenship to current controversies over access and reasonable accommodations, disability has been present, in penumbra if not in print, on virtually every page of American history. Yet historians have only recently begun the deep excavation necessary to retrieve lives shrouded in religious, then medical, and always deep-seated cultural, misunderstanding. This volume opens up disability's hidden history. In these pages, a North Carolina Youth finds his identity as a deaf Southerner challenged in Civil War-era New York. Deaf community leaders ardently defend sign language in early 20th century America. The mythic Helen Keller and the long-forgotten American Blind People's higher Education and General Improvement Association each struggle to shape public and private roles for blind Americans. White and black disabled World War I and II veterans contest public policies and cultural values to claim their citizenship rights. Neurasthenic Alice James and injured turn-of-the-century railroadmen grapple with the interplay of disability and gender. Progressive-era rehabilitationists fashion programs to make crippled children economically productive and socially valid, and two Depression-era fathers murder their sons as public opinion blames the boys' mothers for having cherished the lads' lives. These and many other figures lead readers through hospital-schools, courtrooms, advocacy journals, and beyond to discover disability's past. Coupling empirical evidence with the interdisciplinary tools and insights of disability studies, the book explores the complex meanings of disability as identity and cultural signifier in American history.

From Publishers Weekly In *The New Disability History: American Perspectives*, editors Paul K. Longmore (The Invention of George Washington), professor of history and director of the Institute on Disability at San Francisco State University, and Lauri Umansky (Motherhood Reconceived), associate professor of history at Suffolk University, bring together the contributions of 14 academics from a variety of disciplines. With the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990, the editors write, awareness of the disabled reached an all-time, if controversial, high. As one of the contributors notes, however, the disabled have always been a part of America's history, even if they have been missing from the histories we've written. With this work, Longmore and Umansky offer historians, sociologists and other readers intrigued by this area of scholarship an opportunity to understand disabilities as broader and more complex than a single, generic and primarily medical category. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. From Booklist "Never assume" has become a mantra for historians over the past few decades. U.S. history was largely a tale of white male accomplishments until practitioners of African American history and ethnic-group history and women's history asked new questions and learned different answers. This collection's contributors draw attention (as the editors note) to "the frequency, the virtual commonplaceness, of disability as personal yet also public experience, social problem, and cultural metaphor" in the U.S. The first essay, for example, dissects the uses of "disability" in the struggles of African Americans, women, and immigrants for equality. In each case, the "unequal" group was assigned "disabling" traits thought to make its members unqualified for full citizenship. Each group won broader rights by demonstrating that its members did not in fact suffer from the alleged "disabilities," but no one ever questioned the notion that "disability" itself was a reasonable basis for exclusion or limitation. A fascinating overview that includes studies of sign language, veterans' pensions, Helen Keller, popular photography, and the twentieth-century history of government disability policy. Mary Carroll Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "With this work, Longmore and Umansky offer historians, sociologists and other readers intrigued by this area of scholarship an opportunity to understand disabilities as broader and more complex than a single, generic and primarily medical category." -Publishers Weekly "Historians of medicine and technology will find this book an interesting introduction to a highly politicized and novel area of scholarship. This work should inspire research projects into more diverse and less categorized areas of disability." -Technology Culture "The essays introduce into the historical record a diverse group of people whose views and experiences have been largely excluded, challenge conventional notions of bodily integrity, and represent an important new subfield in American history from which we can expect rich and exciting innovation." -The Historian "This splendid collection opens up a whole new field. Longmore and Umansky define it, explain why it is urgent for us to know about it, and provide fourteen fine examples of it, ranging all across American history, by as many authors. This is not your father's old-time medical history it's a broader, brilliant enterprise." -Walter Nugent, University of Notre Dame "A cause for celebration. The insights popping off of each page are rich, compelling, and memorable. Taken together, these essays hold as much promise for remaking general understanding of the American past as pathbreaking works in women's history and African-American history. By bringing to center stage the experiences of so many who have been previously ignored or

degraded, and by exploring how images of disability color American values and politics through time, this work invites students, scholars, and citizens to understand the world more deeply and more capaciously."-Martha Minow,Harvard University