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# LGBTQ Politics: A Critical Reader



## Synopsis

A definitive collection of original essays on queer politics— From Harvey Milk to ACT UP to Proposition 8, no political change in the last two decades has been as rapid as the advancement of civil rights for LGBTQ people. As we face a critical juncture in progressive activism, political science, which has been slower than most disciplines to study the complexity of queer politics, must grapple with the shifting landscape of LGBTQ rights and inclusion. LGBTQ Politics analyzes both the successes and obstacles to building the LGBTQ movement over the past twenty years, offering analyses that point to possibilities for the movement's future. Essays cover a range of topics, including activism, law, and coalition-building, and draw on subfields such as American politics, comparative politics, political theory, and international relations. LGBTQ Politics presents the full range of methodological, ideological, and substantive approaches to LGBTQ politics that exist in political science. Analyses focused on mainstream institutional and elite politics appear alongside contributions grounded in grassroots movements and critical theory. While some essays celebrate the movement's successes and prospects, others express concerns that its democratic basis has become undermined by a focus on funding power over people power, attempts to fragment the LGBTQ movement from racial, gender and class justice, and a persistent attachment to single-issue politics. A comprehensive, thought-provoking collection, *LGBTQ Politics: A Critical Reader* will give rise to continued critical discussion of the parameters of LGBTQ politics.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"LGBTQ Politics happily upends whatever it is we thought we meant by LGBTQ politics. In addition to the volume's superb makeovers of the now-usual suspects—marriage equality and public opinion on LGBTQ lives and rights—this reader makes a winning argument that so many not gay vectors of inequality and politicization are of critical import to queer communities and a queerer future. . . .comprehensive and commanding." • -Joseph J. Fischel, Author of *Sex and Harm in the Age of Consent* "For far too long, LGBTQ and sexuality politics have been sidelined, considered less important, less respectable, or less necessary research topics in political science. This expansive, impressive, and needed volume provides a forceful and dynamic response. By bringing together some of today's leading lights and newest scholars, this anthology illuminates just how central these questions are to our discipline, how they provide rich opportunities to hone our methodological concerns and substantive analysis, how they provide a means to integrate the many subfields of political science, how they can foster links between our discipline and the broader social sciences, and how political inquiry must connect to the ongoing challenges of contemporary intersectional activism, law, and policymaking." • -Stephen M. Engel, Author of *Fragmented Citizens: The Changing Landscape of Gay and Lesbian Lives* "This volume is both definitive and comprehensive in its treatment of LGBTQ politics. Collectively, the essays encompass a mature and vital area of scholarly inquiry that spans the range of methods, questions, geographic territory, and historical scope of analysis across political science. They illustrate both the independent importance of LGBTQ politics and the ways that understanding LGBTQ politics challenges and strengthens the discipline of political science. A sterling achievement." • -Julie Novkov, Author of *The Supreme Court and the Presidency: Struggles for Supremacy* "For decades, queer scholars assailed an exclusionary US political science. Now, following the groundbreaking intersectional work of feminist political analysis, these three remarkable scholars have crafted a critical reader to mark the arrival of LGBTQ politics at the center of the American discipline's concerns. Reaching across the LGBTQ political landscape and US structural inequalities, the editors and contributors engage with core concepts for American scholars, students, and activists, then extend the collection's analysis into the world." • -Michael Bosia, Co-editor of *Global Homophobia: States, Movements, and the Politics of Oppression*

Marla Brettschneider is Professor of Political Philosophy with a joint position in Women's Studies and Political Science at the University of New Hampshire. She is the author of numerous award-winning books and many articles on queer theory and diversity politics such as *The Family Flamboyant: Race Politics, Queer Families, Jewish Lives and Jewish Feminism* and

Intersectionality. Susan Burgess is Professor of Political Science at Ohio University. She is the author of Radical Politics in the United States (with Kate Leeman); The New York Times on Gay and Lesbian Issues; The Founding Fathers, Pop Culture, and Constitutional Law: Who's Your Daddy; and Contest for Constitutional Authority: The Abortion and War Powers Debates.

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