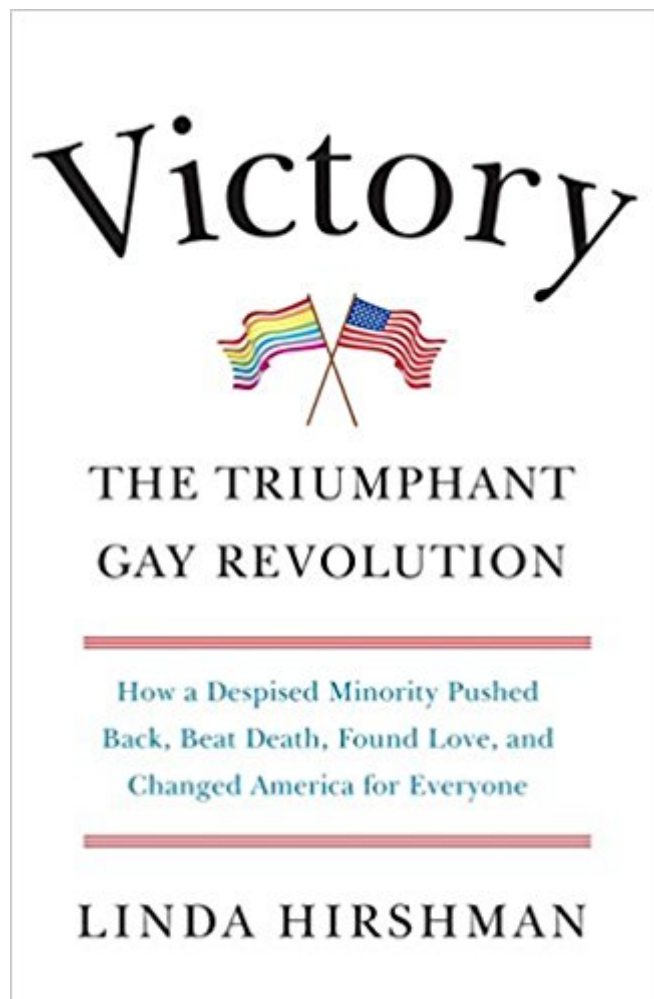




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Victory: The Triumphant Gay Revolution



Synopsis

Supreme Court lawyer and political pundit Linda Hirshman details the stunning story of how a resourceful and dedicated minority transformed the notion of American marriage equality and forged a campaign for cultural change that will serve as a model for all future political movements. In the vein of Taylor Branch's classic *Parting of the Waters*, Hirshman's groundbreaking *Victory: The Triumphant Gay Revolution* is the powerful story of a massive shift in American culture. Hirshman offers an insider's view of the crucial struggle that is leading to change, incorporating her unique experiences and insights and drawing upon new interviews with movement titans such as Frank Kameny and Phyllis Lyon, with next-generation activists such as Evan Wolfson of *Freedom to Marry*, and with allies including the likes of New York Senator Kirsten Gillibrand to create a comprehensive, inspiring history of change in our time.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"An astonishing work that seamlessly weaves together multiple stories into one authoritative volume. Highly recommended for political scientists, civil rights activists, and students of LGBT history." (Library Journal (starred review)) "Hirshman has produced a remarkable history of the gay-rights movement in America by chronicling many of the people and events that shaped it. She has a smart and engaging style, which is serious but not ponderous. . . . with new clarity and simple, fresh insight." (NewYorker.com) "Linda Hirshman has written an important and necessary book that should be read in every school and every home in the country." (Amanda Foreman, author of *A World on Fire*) "I picked this book up one

night and never got to sleep. Victory is an epic account of our movement's progress; a beautifully written and fast moving narrative that is poignant, humorous, and inspiring. (Cleve Jones, Founder of The NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt) "As popular history, Victory excels. Hirshman is a nimble storyteller with an agile curatorial eye for what matters. . . . Exemplary. . . . I find Victory to be an astute jolt, as remarkable for its emotional punch as for its historical insight. (Rich Benjamin, New York Times Book Review) "Sharp and cogent throughout. . . . Victory is ultimately a deeply moving narrative of a not-quite-finished freedom struggle. (Boston Globe) "Given that the gay rights saga is very much in process, the ending of Hirshman's book is a cliffhanger, but she does a masterful job of making her readers, whether they're familiar with the material or not, want to know what happens next. (Los Angeles Times) "Exhilarating. . . . As an overview of recent American LGBT history, Victory has plenty to recommend it. . . . A good starting point for learning about recent gay history. (San Francisco Chronicle) "Victory is one of the most important (and readable) gay-history texts around. (Philadelphia City Paper) "An inclusive, fascinating history of the gay rights movement that provides fertile grounds for passionate debate. (Shelf Awareness) "Victory tells the fascinating inside story of how gay activists changed America for the better, not just for themselves but for everyone. There's inspiration here for everyone who wants a fairer, more equal society-- and plenty of hope as well. (Katha Pollitt, Nation columnist) "Hirshman . . . offers perceptive comparisons between the gay-rights movement and other, concurrent movements for equality. (Kirkus Reviews) "This exuberant history of arguably the final and most difficult civil rights struggle relates, in surprisingly upbeat fashion, the fight to slowly bend the arc of history toward justice for gay men and women. . . . Undeniably inspiring. (Publishers Weekly) "Before he died, gay rights hero Arthur Evans told Linda Hirshman to tell our story. And she does so brilliantly--with insight, passion and the keen eye of a fierce social scientist. And what a story it is! Arthur Evans would be proud. (Eric Marcus, author of Making Gay History and What If Someone I Know Is Gay?) "Linda Hirshman's Victory is the chronicle that the brilliant, unrelenting gay movement deserves. Deeply informed with human detail, political theory, and legal analysis alike, it moves fluidly out of the closet to the precincts . . . A genuine, sparkling tour de force. (Todd Gitlin, author of Occupy Nation) "A compulsively readable mix of philosophy, social history and journalism, Hirshman's [book] provides an invaluable understanding of the people across the years who have worked so passionately to increase liberty and justice in our union. (Rebecca Traister, author of Big Girls Don't

Cry) —“Hirshman has done a great service in putting the question of morality in this movement on the table. Though important chapters are yet to be written, this book will help the world to see that gay is good-and getting better.” (Slate) —“Victory —’s tone is thoughtful and modest, exploring large themes through individuals —’s stories. . . . The book gives a moving picture of a history many won —’t know.” (American Prospect) —“Her analysis of what makes social movements succeed is always thoughtful and sometimes profound. . . . The result is always entertaining and frequently exhilarating.” (BusinessWeek) —“Hirshman provides an excellent and very readable history that is buttressed by an impressive amount of research and personal interviews. (Edge) —“Linda Hirshman delivers a vivid history of a movement that was invented, out of nothing, circa 1950. . . . One advantage of Hirshman —’s book-breezily written, but kinetic in its storytelling-is that it honors the activism of the pre-Stonewall era.” (The New Yorker)

A Supreme Court lawyer and political pundit details the enthralling and groundbreaking story of the gay rights movement, revealing how a dedicated and resourceful minority changed America forever. When the modern struggle for gay rights erupted —’s most notably at a bar called Stonewall in Greenwich Village —’s in the summer of 1969, most religious traditions condemned homosexuality; psychiatric experts labeled people who were attracted to others of the same sex "crazy

Linda Hirshman has done a great deed in pulling together all this legal history of the LGBT movement into one volume. I enjoyed the book from that point of view, and will find it very useful as part of my research for the book I myself am writing, called STONEWALL STRONG, the first nationwide examination by a health/medical journalist of gay men’s resilience. VICTORY convinced me that the law--anti-gay law in particular--both codifies and perpetuates the fear and prejudice of heterosexuals against gay men, lesbians, trans people, and really anyone who varies in some frowned-upon way from the alleged heterosexual "norm." By changing laws--no more sodomy laws to prohibit same-sex intimacy; no more legal grounds for not recognizing same-sex marriages--LGBT people push America to live up to the Constitution’s promise of "equal justice under law." VICTORY details how, exactly, these changes came about. It’s definitely an essential book for anyone interested in LGBT history--and really American history of the latter 20th and early 21st centuries.

This book is great for anyone - gay or straight - who wants to learn about the history of the glbt movement in America. The book is written in a journalistic style with a bit of humor thrown in here and there, which makes it very enjoyable and readable in the midst of facts, dates, etc. The author tells a story rather than just berate the reader with yards and yards of historical data, which is really nice. She interviews prominent individuals from the history of the movement and tells their personal stories as well, which adds a really nice touch. Overall, I've learned a lot from this book and have recommended it to others. The only reason I give it 4 stars instead of 5 is because it's repetitious in places, mainly because I suspect the sections were written separately from one another and then compiled later into the book. Other than that, it's a good book and worth reading esp. since the glbt movement is in the headlines every week now.

Linda Hirshman's recent book, "Victory", is a comprehensive look at the evolution of the gay rights movement....a movement that began to coalesce just after the Second World War. It's a good and welcome presentation, but not without some flaws. The Mattachine Society and later, the Daughters of Bilitis, were founded around the time I was born...1953. The author spends time on two of the early activists, Harry Hay and Frank Kameny. From there, gay rights take a somewhat parallel course to civil rights for blacks, with far less success. And then, of course, Stonewall blows the whole thing up to a new level. What is fascinating to read is that during this period, one group is formed, another takes its place, former activists in one leave for another, or leave entirely. These early roots are a reflection on some of the best contributions that Hirshman makes in her book, as she weighs in on how gays have sought citizenship in what she refers to as "the liberal state". Much of the writing in the second half of the book dwells on legal matters...not always the most interesting read, but necessary to the narrative, nonetheless. While I agree with most of her assessments, Hirshman is quick to give her own opinions more often than not, and I found this to be somewhat disconcerting. And her choice of titles..."Victory"...is a strange one with many issues to be decided, not the least of them, marriage. This issue, alone, would provide a good sequel for Hirshman if and when the Supreme Court ever gets around to addressing marriage on a national basis. This is a good book and one worth the read. It's a better compilation of the history of gay rights than it is necessarily about analysis, but I recommend it.

This is an important and ambitious book. It surveys almost a century of gay oppression and activism. It is seminal, and surely other books will build on this and add to the story. It is a fast-paced account, rich in what it covers. However, I agree with most of the complaints. Many names are given, but few

personalities emerge. The author lapses, rather unconsciously into stereotyping, such as: "Muscular, independent, and proletarian, O'Brien was no one's notion of a homosexual." Or even, "...the Orthodox, Jewish, heterosexual female, improbably blond and blue-eyed Marilyn Haft..." The book is about the activists, not the many other gays and lesbians who, emboldened by the activists and by identity movements in general, quietly came out to family, friends, colleagues and employers, making the straight community aware that those they loved, worked with, and admired constituted the respectable and otherwise ordinary folks who were seeking equality. She does not give attention to those gays and lesbians who found partners and enjoyed monogamous relationships for decades; the focus is on the gay men who seek multiple partners, giving a lop-sided account.

A richly detailed political history of gay rights movement from roughly Stonewall to the present focusing mainly on the political and legal strategies of the its significant leaders. The author thankfully eschews the use of hegemonic theoretical paradigms that normally plague the discipline (I think the Q word is only mentioned once!) in favor of a traditional narrative historiography. Without indulging in abstract metaphysical theory (ala Queer Theory/lit crit) or speculative sociology (New Social Movement theory), the author analyzes the gay rights movement in the context of liberal democratic theory and its two antecedents - african americans and women.

Excellent, well-researched history of American gays and lesbians and their path to recognition. Hirshman is a very readable author who brings personal stories to enrich her writing. A terrific read!

Excellent chronological history and I experienced it from the 40's to the present. Well written and I have sure changed my mind about some presidencies and focus on the family. I am also changing political parties to democrat. Great book!

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