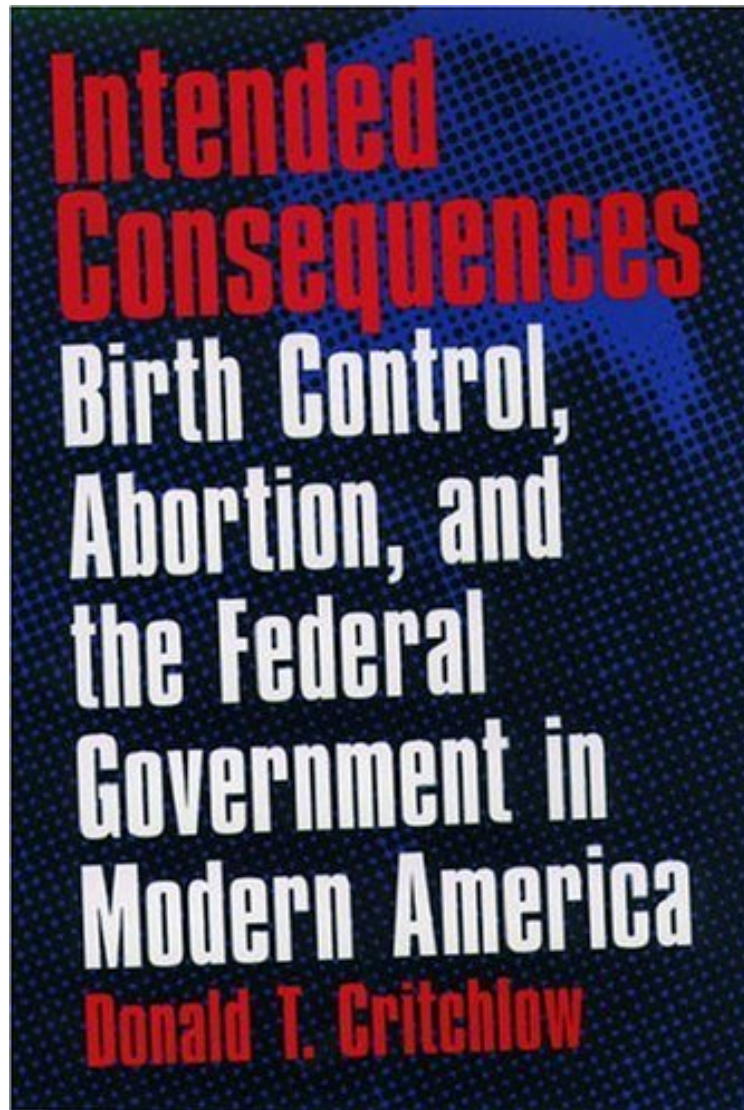


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## Intended Consequences: Birth Control, Abortion, and the Federal Government in Modern America

*Donald T. Critchlow*

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**Donald T. Critchlow : Intended Consequences: Birth Control, Abortion, and the Federal Government in Modern America** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Intended Consequences: Birth Control, Abortion, and the Federal Government in Modern America:

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wants a history of how the modern world is shaped, too often it is found in boring academic books or in lurid conspiracy theory language. This book gives a thoughtful discussion of the whos, whys, and hows of the social policies that aided the idea of population control, with its intended consequences of increasing wealth and security, and its unintended consequences of undermining family life. For information, I rate it a five. It is a clear and well written discussion of this often controversial topic. Unlike the more politicized books of this nature, it is not an exciting read. However it is clearly written so the average reader would find it helpful.

After World War II, U.S. policy experts--convinced that unchecked population growth threatened global disaster--successfully lobbied bipartisan policy-makers in Washington to initiate federally-funded family planning. In *Intended Consequences*, Donald T. Critchlow deftly chronicles how the government's involvement in contraception and abortion evolved into one of the most bitter, partisan controversies in American political history. The growth of the feminist movement in the late 1960s fundamentally altered the debate over the federal family planning movement, shifting its focus from population control directed by established interests in the philanthropic community to highly polarized pro-abortion and anti-abortion groups mobilized at the grass-roots level. And when the Supreme Court granted women the Constitutional right to legal abortion in 1973, what began as a bi-partisan, quiet revolution during the administrations of Kennedy and Johnson exploded into a contentious argument over sexuality, welfare, the role of women, and the breakdown of traditional family values. *Intended Consequences* encompasses over four decades of political history, examining everything from the aftermath of the Republican "moral revolution" during the Reagan and Bush years to the current culture wars concerning unwed motherhood, homosexuality, and the further protection of women's abortion rights. Critchlow's carefully balanced appraisal of federal birth control and abortion policy reveals that despite the controversy, the family planning movement has indeed accomplished much in the way of its intended goal--the reduction of population growth in many parts of the world. Written with authority, fresh insight, and impeccable research, *Intended Consequences* skillfully unfolds the history of how the federal government found its way into the private bedrooms of the American family.

.com In *Intended Consequences*, Donald Critchlow outlines how postwar federal family-planning policy came to be a political hot potato costing over \$700 million a year. The 65 pages of footnotes to the book reveal the welter of data--much of it previously unexamined or recently released--he draws on to create this meticulously detailed monograph. The study operates at many levels and focuses primarily, though not exclusively, on the United States. Critchlow examines how "birth control" became "family planning" and discusses the fight over whether to include abortion under that rubric. He traces the ways in which federal family-planning policy has been influenced both by individuals like John D. Rockefeller III and by mass mobilization of public interests such as the pro- and anti-abortion lobbies. And he sets all this in the context of changing social, political, and cultural norms and mores on sex, family, women's rights, and the role of government. Recommended reading for interested scholars and policymakers. --Julia Riches "One can only admire the sheer volume of erudition and the sophisticated view of the policy process contained in this book; it exemplifies the new field of policy history at its very best."--Edward Berkowitz, *American Historical Review* "A clear, well-written and extensively footnoted contribution to the history of family-planning policy that promises to become the standard work on the subject."--*National Catholics Bioethics Quarterly* About the Author The author and editor of nine books, including *The Politics of Abortion and Birth Control in Historical Perspective* (1996) and most recently, *With Us Always: Private Charity and Public Welfare* (1998), Donald T. Critchlow is founding editor of *The Journal of Policy History*, has been a fellow at the Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington, D.C., and has taught at Hong Kong University and Warsaw University.