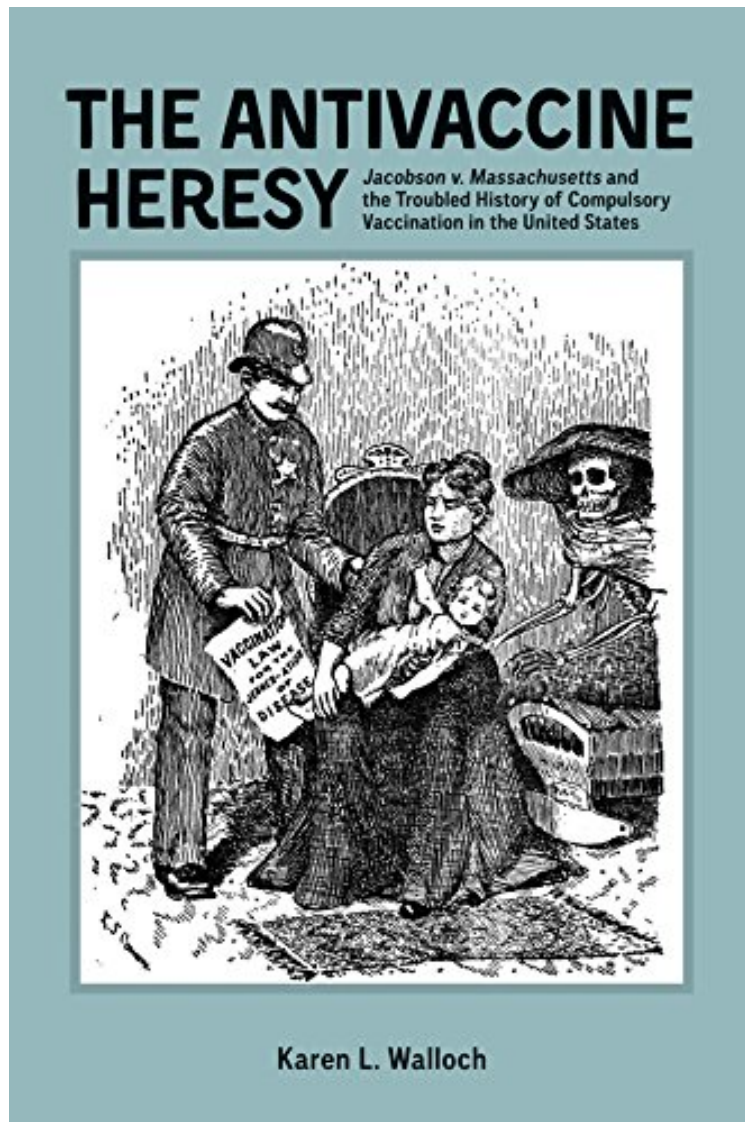


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## The Antivaccine Heresy (Rochester Studies in Medical History)

*Karen L. Walloch*

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**Karen L. Walloch : The Antivaccine Heresy (Rochester Studies in Medical History)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Antivaccine Heresy (Rochester Studies in Medical History):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Well documented interesting researchBy IlanaWDAAn extraordinary, well-documented work about the history of vaccinations and especially, anti-vaccination movements in America. It uses extensive medical as well as historical and social testimonies, revealing aspects still relevant nowadays, that are

far beyond the strict health/medical level, becoming part of the daily public discourse. A monographic-type research explaining an important episode of the history of mentalities and contemporary history. Disclaimer: Book offered by the publisher in exchange of an honest review  
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very well researched  
By Donna Maguire  
For me this book was a thorough piece of work using historical testimonials alongside the medical research to give the reader as much detail as possible.

We celebrate vaccination today as a great achievement, yet many nineteenth-century Americans regarded it uneasily, accepting it as a necessary evil forced upon them by their employers or the law. States had to make vaccination compulsory because of great popular distaste for it. Why? How did such a promising innovation come to induce such anxiety? This book explores the history of vaccine development, revealing that, at the end of the nineteenth century, many Americans had good reason to fear vaccination. A century of tinkering had created vaccines that did not live up to claims made for their safety and effectiveness. They induced pain, disability, and grim or even fatal infections. Parents hesitated to vaccinate their children, and health departments had to rely on coercion and sometimes even force to vaccinate a reluctant populace. Antivaccination societies formed to oppose compulsory laws, ultimately arriving at the United States Supreme Court when it upheld these laws in a landmark decision, *Jacobson v. Massachusetts* (1905). Antivaccinationists did not give up, however, creating a legacy of doubt about vaccination that still resounds on the American political landscape.

One of the best history books ever written about American vaccination politics and policies, *The Antivaccine Heresy* will have a significant audience among medical historians, scholars of public health, and citizens concerned about similar issues today. Walloch's research is stunningly thorough; her interpretations challenging, insightful, and compelling; and her stories are fascinating. This work is truly pioneering and may well change not only the way history books are written but also the way that vaccinologists write about the smallpox vaccine. -- Robert Johnston, editor of *The Politics of Healing*  
The book is a notable contribution to the history of public health in America and the history of science at large. Its most distinctive feature is Walloch's in-depth assessment of the antivaccinationists, who for so long had been noted only in passing by historians of medicine. PULSE  
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