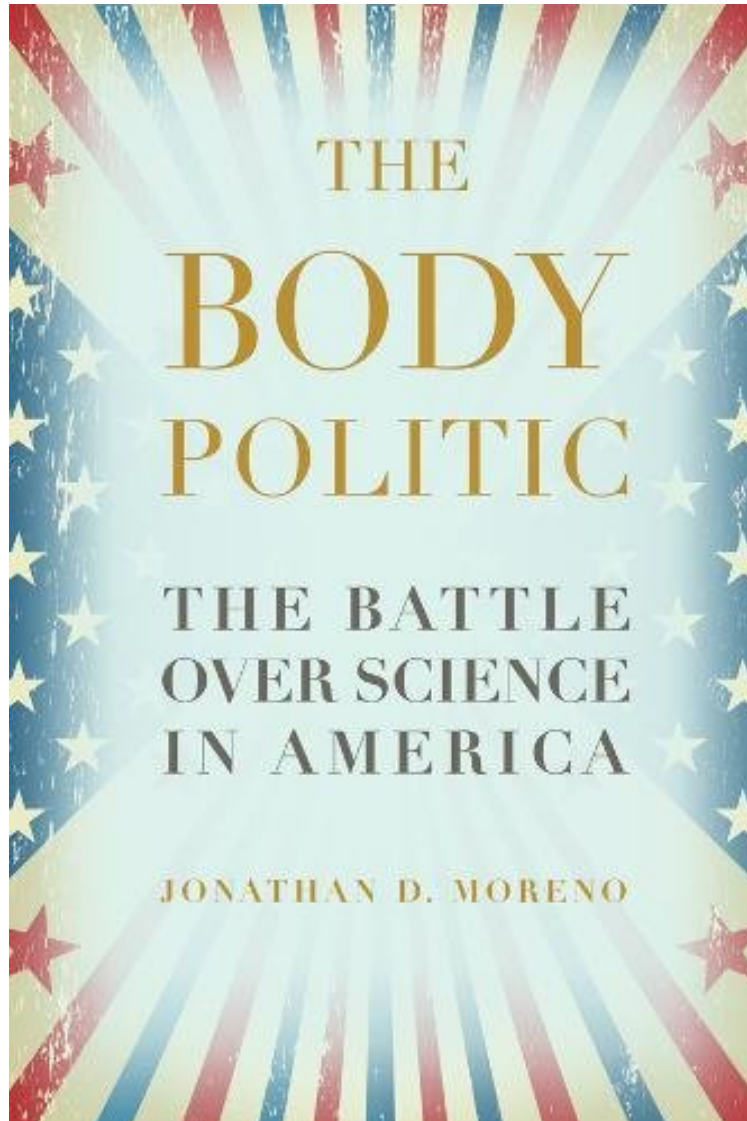


(Free download) The Body Politic: The Battle Over Science in America

## The Body Politic: The Battle Over Science in America

*Jonathan D. Moreno*

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**Jonathan D. Moreno : The Body Politic: The Battle Over Science in America** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Body Politic: The Battle Over Science in America:

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Enter the Debate as an Informed Participant By wwallach By far the best book available on the policy conflicts over biotechnological research, therapies, and possibilities. Moreno's writing is clear, coherent, and comprehensive. This should be required reading for anyone who wishes to enter the debate over which biotechnologies should be embraced, which regulated, and which rejected. The Body Politics does

an excellent job covering the science, philosophical context, and historical development of contemporary debate on biotechnologies. More importantly, Jonathan Moreno makes the subject matter accessible to anyone interested in becoming informed enough to intelligently participate in what will no doubt be future debates over the desirability of adopting innovative possibilities afforded by research in biotechnology. 4 of 10 people found the following review helpful. great book By reviewer Great book to gain an understanding of the evolution of bioethics (from philosophical ideas to political movements) as well as currently topics. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Solid Introduction By Roger D. Launius There are powerful debates in the land, debates over science and policy, over philosophy and knowledge, over the nature of the future and the politics of the past and present. Eugenics, abortion, stem-cell research, cloning, genetically altered crops, global warming, and a host of other subjects in the scientific realm dominate our politics. What are the realities of this debate? What are the stakes of this debate? What are going to be the likely results of this debate? No one knows the answers to these questions, as author Jonathan Moreno makes clear in this basic text on the subject. Science has dominated much of human existence since the scientific revolution of the seventeenth century; the twentieth century was essentially the century of physics, in which technologies changed every aspect of life from the atomic bomb to the use of airplanes. The twenty-first century may well be the century of biology. Moreno seems to think so and emphasizes those themes in this book. Along with this emergence of biology as the scientific theme with the most interest in the modern era, there is also an emergence of a biopolitical process that influences every aspect of biological science. Moreno draws the stark lines between left and right in this debate. He contrasts greens with conservatives, transhumanists with bioconservatives, technoproggressives with modern-day Luddites. He also draws the themes as not so much over the actuality of the biological issues as about the potentials for abuse. Are genetically modified foods really dangerous? There is no evidence to believe such, but there is a strong opposition that exists regardless. Is stem cell research truly about destroying lives? Of course not, but there is a sense in certain quarters that a fetus is a full-fledged life that must be protected. These contentious issues have a long history and Moreno seeks to illuminate them. How significant is the intersection between science and democracy in American life? This is a useful orientation to the subject of biopolitics but is a long way from a detailed study of the subject.

A Kirkus Reviews Best Book of the Year and Scientific American Book Club selection Moreno pulls apart the debates on eugenics, abortion, end-of-life decisions, embryonic stem-cell research, reproductive cloning, chimeras and synthetic biology, among others, carefully reassembling what's at stake for each side. In graceful, sparkling prose, he illuminates intricate threads of history and complex philosophical arguments. . . . Highly recommended for anyone interested in the [se] vital issues. rdquo; Kirkus Reviews (starred review)

A Kirkus s Best Book of the Year and Scientific American Book Club selection rdquo; An impassioned defense of scientific study . . . an essential dose of logic. rdquo; Salon rdquo; Regardless of who ends up occupying the White House in January 2013, one hopes that a few hours will have been set aside on the campaign trail to engage with this important book. rdquo; Times Higher Education rdquo; An excellent guide . . . In his highly readable and provocative book, Moreno makes clear that progress, including biotechnological progress, is still America's most important product. rdquo; Reason magazine rdquo; A timely take on the debate raging over biotechnology breakthroughs . . . Moreno shows how developments in biotechnology have affected people across the ideological spectrum. . . . conservatives concerned about abortion, neoconservatives worried about threats to human dignity and liberals fretting that new biotechnologies will exacerbate existing economic inequality. rdquo; Nature rdquo; The most penetrating characterization and analysis of the shrill political battles fought over the use of our new biotechnologies (and the battles to come). rdquo; American Journal of Bioethics (AJOB) rdquo; Human cloning. Synthetic biology. Mood (and mind) altering drugs. Personalized medicine . . . The human future may be very different from the human past as these changes are negotiated and assimilated. And so may human politics. To help us prepare for this radical future is Jonathan Moreno, author of the new book *The Body Politic: The Battle Over Science in America*, which underscores the strange bedfellow allegiances that may occur in what has been called our 'biological century.' rdquo; Point of Inquiry rdquo; Scholarly, sophisticated and compelling . . . If only more of our contemporary political battles were as careful, as cogent and as well grounded as *The Body Politic*, I'd be more confident that the unprecedented decisions being forced upon society by revolutionary advances in biology would most wisely and effectively be made. rdquo; Washington Independent of Books rdquo; Erudite and sophisticated . . . provide[s] a historical and philosophical framework to enrich present bioethical debates. rdquo; Real Change rdquo; An important analysis of the societal currents swirling around volatile scientific issues . . . Moreno delivers a powerful defense of science [and] respects his readers' intelligence in this nuanced and thoughtful book. rdquo; Publishers Weekly rdquo; Moreno shows how biological discoveries aggravate cultural tensions, challenge our political system and values, and stimulate debate about the place of science and scientists in America. . . . Sophisticated, useful, and well-written. rdquo; Library Journal rdquo; A concise but nuanced account of Enlightenment and post-Enlightenment debates about the role of science in American life. rdquo; CHOICE rdquo; Historians will agree that

ldquo;progressrdquo; is as American as apple pie. What constitutes progress, of course, is always a point of contention. In *The Body Politic*, Jonathan D. Moreno examines the attitudes Americans hold about modern sciencersquo;s treatment of the human body. . . . Throughout the discussion, itrsquo;s clear he has his thumb on the cultural and historical contexts in which these issues have arisen [and] Moreno explains that people on both sides of the aisle are expressing concern for unrestricted use of bioscience for different reasons . . . an excellent addition to any syllabus.rdquo; ForeWord sldquo;A solid addition to any politics collections.rdquo; Midwest Book (reviewerrrsquo;s choice)ldquo;Moreno shrewdly tracks the history of science in American politics from Thomas Jefferson to todayrsquo;s science culture wars. He explains how science and discovery have been central to our vision for the country, but often fueled a significant counter reaction. A must read for anyone who wants to understand science policy today.rdquo; John Podesta, former White House Chief of Staffldquo;Since the beginning of our quest to win the Indianapolis 500 our family has believed in the power of technology. The only limits to that technology have been human ones. The *Body Politic* reminds us that in biology as well as engineering, America will always need that pioneer spirit.rdquo; Al Unser, Sr., Al Unser, Jr., Bobby Unser, Sr., Indianapolis 500 Championsldquo;The *Body Politic* is required reading for anyone who wants to understand the history of American political thought about science, the dynamics of current controversies such as the stem cell debate, and the battle between those who see science as the route to a better future and those who see within the science the potential for a loss of our sense of human distinctiveness and dignity.rdquo; Paul Root Wolpe, Ph.D., Director, Center for Ethics, Emory University Chief of Bioethics for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)ldquo;This groundbreaking must-read book situates the biological revolution in its historical, philosophical and cultural context and, with almost breathtaking elegance, shows how society may come to define itself by the body politic.rdquo; Nita A. Farahany, Associate Professor of Law Associate Professor of Philosophy, Vanderbilt University; Member, Presidential Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issuesldquo;The *Body Politic* is a penetrating and uncommonly fair-minded analysis of how science is construed, nourished, and antagonized across the rainbow of American thought and belief. Highly recommended for all those who would base their political opinions on facts, rather than on other peoplersquo;s opinions.rdquo; Timothy Ferris, journalist, PBS filmmaker and author of *The Science of Liberty: Democracy, Reason, and the Laws of Nature*ldquo;Provides a fascinating, timely exploration of one our erarsquo;s most momentous issues, the applicationsand misapplicationsof biomedical research.rdquo; John Horgan, author of *Rational Mysticism* and Director, Center for Science Writings, Stevens Institute of Technologyldquo;Moreno clarifies major points of science-society tension over the last half century and brings a sharp eye to the societal context confronting future advances and their applications.rdquo; Alan I. Leshner, Ph.D., American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) CEO and Science Executive Publisherldquo;The *Body Politic* reminds us that science occurs within a complex context that exerts powerful forces upon scientists, public officials, advocacy groups, and patients. Moreno has written the kind of book that needed to be written, combining detailed research, enlightened analysis, and an important message, all wrapped in accessible text.rdquo; Eric M. Meslin, Ph.D., Director, Indiana University Center for Bioethicsldquo;A new wave of issues is coming at usgenetic testing, brain scans, synthetic biology, consumer eugenicsand radically challenging our notions of left and right. Jonathan D. Moreno has written a clear-eyed map of the emerging biopoliticsgreens, transhumanists, bioconservatives, technoprogressivesand a thoughtful defense of inquiry, innovation, and the liberating power of science.rdquo; William Saletan, author of *Bearing Right: How Conservatives Won the Abortion War* and *Slate National Correspondent*ldquo;A beautiful book.rdquo; Jay Schulkin, Ph.D., Research Professor, Department of Neuroscience, Georgetown University