



Pornography, Sex, and Feminism

By Alan Soble

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In this unabashed defense of pornography from a utilitarian-hedonist perspective, philosopher Alan Soble strongly rebuts both feminist and conservative critics. Soble demonstrates that neither conservative nor feminist critics of pornography show much acquaintance with the genre they criticize. This suggests that purely political motives underlie their critiques instead of reasoned, objective arguments based on thorough empirical research.

Soble also faults critics of pornography for their failure of empathy: they refuse to see pornographic images from the various perspectives of their viewers. In approaching these images literally, detractors promulgate the worst possible interpretation of pornography. Further, they do not do justice to the social and psychological research about pornography and its purported harms. Conservatives and feminists manufacture their case against pornography and its consumers based on oversimplified interpretations of the images and a poor understanding of scientific studies.

This sardonic and well-reasoned critique of feminist and conservative moral outrage over pornography is sure to be controversial.

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Editorial Review

Review

"If you're not familiar with the Feminist campaign against porn, then this is...a must read and purchase!" -- *Erotica-Readers.com*

From the Inside Flap

In this unabashed defense of pornography from a utilitarian-hedonist perspective, philosopher Alan Soble strongly rebuts both feminist and conservative criticism. Soble demonstrates that neither conservative nor feminist critics of pornography show much acquaintance with the genre they criticize, suggesting that purely political motives underlie their critiques instead of reasoned, objective arguments based on thorough empirical research.

Soble also faults critics of pornography for their failure of empathy: Taking a literal approach to pornographic images, they refuse to recognize that viewers see the images from different perspectives. By insisting that these images be taken literally, detractors promulgate the worst possible interpretation of pornography. Further, they do not do justice to the social and psychological research about pornography and its purported harms. Critics manufacture their case against pornography and its consumers based on oversimplified interpretations of the images and a poor understanding of the scientific studies.

This carefully researched and well-reasoned critique of feminist and conservative moral outrage over pornography provides food for thought for philosophers, jurists, scholars, and anyone interested in this controversial issue.

About the Author

Alan Soble (New Orleans, LA) is University Research Professor and Professor of Philosophy at the University of New Orleans and the author of many books including *Sexual Investigations* and *The Philosophy of Sex and Love: An Introduction*.

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