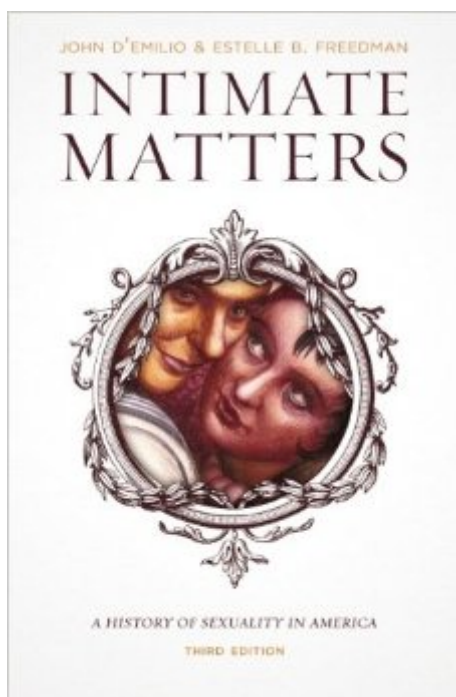


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# Intimate Matters: A History Of Sexuality In America, Third Edition



## Synopsis

As the first full-length study of the history of sexuality in America, *Intimate Matters* offered trenchant insights into the sexual behavior of Americans from colonial times to the present. Now, twenty-five years after its first publication, this groundbreaking classic is back in a crucial and updated third edition. With new and extended chapters, *Dâ™Emilio* and Freedman give us an even deeper understanding of how sexuality has dramatically influenced politics and culture throughout our history and into the present. Hailed by critics for its comprehensive approach and noted by the US Supreme Court in the landmark *Laurence v. Texas* ruling, this expanded new edition of *Intimate Matters* details the changes in sexuality and the ongoing growth of individual freedoms in the United States through meticulous research and lucid prose. Praise for earlier editions

• The book John *Dâ™Emilio* co-wrote with Estelle B. Freedman, *Intimate Matters*, was cited by Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy when, writing for a majority of court on July 26, he and his colleagues struck down a Texas law criminalizing sodomy. The decision was widely hailed as a victory for gay rights and it derived in part, according to Kennedy's written comments, from the information he gleaned from this book.

• Julia Keller, *Chicago Tribune* "Fascinating. . . . *Dâ™Emilio* and Freedman marshal their material to chart a gradual but decisive shift in the way Americans have understood sex and its meaning in their lives."

• Barbara Ehrenreich, *New York Times Book Review* "With comprehensiveness and care . . . *Dâ™Emilio* and Freedman have surveyed the sexual patterns for an entire nation across four centuries."

• Martin Bauml Duberman, *Nation*

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

this is a text book so people's whiny reviews that "it reads like a text book" are ridiculous, it is a text book, you're either able to handle intellectual reading or you're not. it's not a "sex" book. It's a history of sexuality within north american history.. from colonial on through the 1970's 80's. The book discusses the shifting values and mores and how sexuality was considered a societal issue .. for Puritans sexuality was about procreation and all within the realms of marriage .. neighbors and people spied on one another, tattled on each other and then saw punishment done for breaking laws. This was a way to keep the community tightly knit and on track.. sexuality changed as prostitution and our country changed due to wars or events.. this book talks about the history of sex it's not about positions or titillating stories..

It a very interesting look into what different roles sex plays throughout early American History. The reasons why people got married and how those reasons changed through centuries. The books discusses real facts mixed with amusing real stories from real people who lived during that period. The book starts in the 17th Century and ends in the 20th Century.

This book is far from a complete history. It focuses on white middle-class sexuality, which excludes people of other ethnicities. By excluding so many people the authors created a very biased, one-dimension view of American sexuality. This book is littered with biased commentary, and it can be very dry and boring in many sections. However, one of the better things about this books is the material is grouped together in reasonable time frames, so studying from it can be useful. However, the unfortunate touting of Margaret Sanger as some sort of saint is extremely offensive and off-putting. As a woman of color I find it extremely questionable when the authors completely disregard how Sanger was a flaming bigot. Overall the book does a horrific injustice to how race, class, and gender all interact together. The book does an ok job on dealing with class and gender for middle-class white people. Again, ethnic minorities were ignored and relegated to minor foot-notes, if at all. I would not recommend this book in a Sociology class, as it can create very ugly, tense divides in a class.

A classic for the study of the history of sex and sexuality. Elegantly written and thoroughly researched, this is a nice overview of how sexuality has changed throughout U.S. history.

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