



Wherever There's a Fight: How Runaway Slaves, Suffragists, Immigrants, Strikers, and Poets Shaped Civil Liberties in California

By Elaine Elinson, Stan Yogi

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The first-ever account of the struggle to develop and protect rights in the Golden State

Wherever There's a Fight captures the sweeping story of how freedom and equality have grown in California, from the gold rush right up to the precarious post-9/11 era. The book tells the stories of the brave individuals who have stood up for their rights in the face of social hostility, physical violence, economic hardship, and political stonewalling.

It connects the experiences of early Chinese immigrants subjected to discriminatory laws to those of professionals who challenged McCarthyism and those of people who have fought to gain equal rights in California schools: people of color, people with disabilities, and people standing up for their religious freedom. The authors bring a special focus to the World War II internment of Japanese Americans, focusing on the infamous Korematsu case, which was foreshadowed by a century of civil liberties violations and reverberates in more recent times--regrettably, even today in the Patriot Act. And they follow the ongoing struggles for workers' rights and same-sex marriage.

State and federal constitutions spell out many liberties and rights, but it is the people who challenge prejudice and discrimination that transform those lofty ideals into practical realities. *Wherever There's a Fight* paints vivid portraits of these people and brings to light their often hidden stories.

Winner of the Gold Medal in the 2010 California Book Awards

A Foreword Book of the Year

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. As Californians battle over Prop. 8's hotly contested ban on same-sex marriage, ACLU veterans Elinson (coauthor of *The Development Debacle*) and Yogi (co-editor of *Highway 99*) offer crucial perspective on the history of minority rights in a state long considered a political trendsetter. Beginning in the mid-19th century—amid the expulsion of Chinese communities from hundreds of California towns and state-sponsored genocidal campaigns against indigenous tribes—the authors describe, in hefty but clear and cogent detail, the shifting patterns of fear, xenophobia, white supremacy and economic competition and exploitation that have repeatedly motivated majorities of Californians to undermine the civil liberties of minorities. But the silver lining to this shameful history is boldly painted: from the free speech fights on behalf of workers by the IWW or on behalf of artists by poet and publisher Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Californians have relentlessly asserted their constitutional rights in cases and campaigns that have often strengthened the rights of all Americans. Readers will find this an essential reference in navigating the slogan-riddled civil rights issues of the day. (Oct.)

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Maria Bruns:

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Walter Taylor:

Spent a free the perfect time to be fun activity to try and do! A lot of people spent their sparetime with their family, or their very own friends. Usually they performing activity like watching television, going to beach, or picnic within the park. They actually doing same task every week. Do you feel it? Do you want to something different to fill your own personal free time/ holiday? Could possibly be reading a book may be option to fill your no cost time/ holiday. The first thing you ask may be what kinds of guide that you should read. If you want to consider look for book, may be the reserve untitled Wherever There's a Fight: How Runaway Slaves, Suffragists, Immigrants, Strikers, and Poets Shaped Civil Liberties in California can be fine book to read. May be it is usually best activity to you.

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