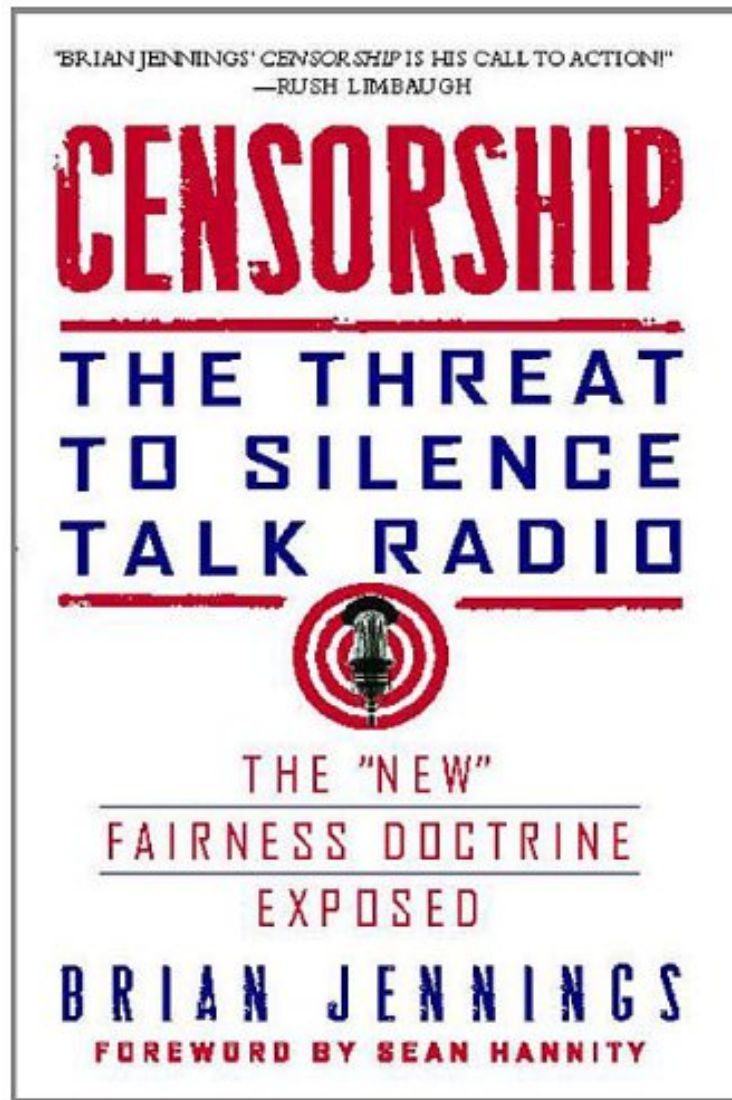


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Censorship: The Threat to Silence Talk Radio

Brian Jennings

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Brian Jennings : Censorship: The Threat to Silence Talk Radio before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Censorship: The Threat to Silence Talk Radio:

3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. eye opening!!!By Robert Cutenin the blink of an eye our first amendment principles could be changed.knowledgeis the key to keeping our fundamental rights from being trampled or taken away.A must read and great for conservative libraries.4 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Well documented and very readable analysis of the threat to free speechBy CustomerCensorship: The Threat to Silence Talk RadioFor those who continue to be alarmed at the rapid erosion of our individual liberties and the threat to free speech

from the left (and also for those who don't think there is a problem) I highly recommend this book. Brian Jennings is a former radio program director who knows his subject well, and has many documented instances of what we should all fear in the coming years as our individual liberties are reduced. Whether or not you agree with conservative talk radio, this book outlines how any dominant political movement can stop those who disagree from promoting their views. Civil libertarians in particular will find much to agree with in Brian's book. I have met Brian, live in the same community with him, and he is someone who has an important message to give to the American people. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Very Important Ideas, Bad Presentation By tv3I listen to quite a bit of talk radio. In fact, that's about the only radio I ever listen to. During the day I listen to a local station and try to catch Glenn Beck's show while driving at night and on the weekends I listen to NPR and PRI. Politically speaking, I'm a Libertarian. Therefore, I was already aware of the issue raised in Brian Jennings's book **CENSORSHIP: THE THREAT TO SILENCE TALK RADIO**. The book explains what the Fairness Doctrine was and then illustrates the ways that the progressive majority in the federal government might try to bring back the fairness doctrine under different names, e.g. localism diversity, and through more subversive means. For those who are unfamiliar, the Fairness Doctrine was an unconstitutional law put into place by the FCC under the presidential administration of FDR. The basic idea of the doctrine was that there should be equal time for all viewpoints. The idea was promoted as a way to ensure equity in the media and in an age in which there were only a handful of radio stations, three television networks, and the idea of the Internet was still a figment of the imagination it seemed like a good idea. In actuality, the doctrine was used by FDR to silence his critics. FDR was notorious for doing everything in his power and sometimes even outside of his power to eliminate the voices of those who opposed him (perhaps something he learned from his good friend Joseph Stalin). The Fairness Doctrine was one such example. Just on principle, the idea is unconstitutional, but even more disturbing is how the doctrine was brought about not by Congress itself, but by the FCC. Anyway, the only reason that radio still exists today is because of the elimination of the Fairness Doctrine in 1987 by President Reagan and Congress. Over twenty-years later, there is now a movement, largely led by progressive Democrats, to re-introduce the Fairness Doctrine or at least stifle voices of opposition but through using different terms and new names that equate to the same thing. In all fairness, this is something that any American who supports the Constitution should be against. Free speech is free speech and even if you disagree with what someone says, no one has a right to take away that person's right to say it. I'm not sure why progressives seem so adamant upon "changing" radio. Statistically, conservative talk radio only makes up a fraction of radio listeners. Yet, if you listen to the rhetoric in Congress it would seem that conservative radio talk show hosts hold much more power than they really have. Anyway, **CENSORSHIP** is a book that I would like to recommend to people to read because of the very important issues it addresses. However, as a piece of writing, **CENSORSHIP** is not written very well. The chapters of the book read better as individual essays instead of a united whole. When read together in a short time it feels like the author keeps repeating himself over, and over, and over, and over, and over. I understand the reasoning for this and such a technique can make for a great speech or presentation but it makes for incredibly boring reading. Overall, **CENSORSHIP: THE THREAT TO SILENCE TALK RADIO** is a book I recommend looking through, but unless you're a major fan of Brian Jennings, it's probably not a book you'll want to buy.

Freedom of speech. It is our most cherished privilege as Americans, guaranteed by the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution since 1791. But our current presidential administration threatens to sharply curtail or silence altogether the freedom of expression that distinguishes America from the average dictatorship. What is under direct attack? Conservative talk radio. During the Reagan administration, conservative talk radio burgeoned when the FCC voted to stop enforcing the Fairness Doctrine, which required all licensed broadcasters to present "balanced" viewpoints on controversial issues. The format was a smash hit, attracting an estimated 50 million listeners weekly. Popular, profitable, outspoken, powerful, influential it's what the American people wanted, and its success was the Democrats' worst nightmare. Now, the principles underlying the Fairness Doctrine threaten to be reinstated. Under cover of being "fair," they will be used as a means of censorship, allowing government to influence who owns our airwaves and thus controls the content, a mandate with far-reaching implications for all media indeed, for freedom of speech for all Americans.

From Booklist Conservative talk-show programmer Jennings laments efforts by Democratic politicians to revive the Fairness Doctrine. The doctrine, enacted in 1979 and repealed by the Reagan administration in 1987, requires airing opposing viewpoints on television and radio. The huge popularity of conservative talk-radio programs and the consolidation of ownership of broadcasters has raised concerns about the need for more balanced voices. But Jennings argues that regular media, including NPR, and the Internet offer multiple channels for liberal views. He talked to conservative talk-show hosts Rush Limbaugh, Sean Hannity, Michael Savage, Laura Ingraham, and others (as well as liberals Alan Colmes and Ed Schultz) for perspectives on the Fairness Doctrine. After 40 years in radio, he offers historical perspective on the growth of conservative talk radio. It grew out of the pent-up frustration of conservative listeners and has maintained popularity because the shows have developed talent and listener loyalty over the years. In

the name of free speech, Jennings invites liberals to do the same rather than make back-door efforts to re-regulate the airwaves. --Vanessa Bush "Brian Jennings eloquently explains how whatever you consume, in whatever medium, is none of Big Brother's business. Although the government may stay away from this book, you should not." -- Alan Colmes"Brian Jennings' book correctly chronicles how my father, President Reagan, felt about the Fairness Doctrine. The book is a testament to free speech and if the President were here today, he would read and endorse this book." -- Michael Reagan"Brian Jennings' long and fruitful career in radio gives him an excellent vantage point on what can really happen to free speech on the radio if we're not careful. "Censorship" is his call to action!" -- Rush Limbaugh"A must read for everyone who values the First Amendment." -- Mark R. Levin, nationally syndicated radio host and "New York Times" bestselling author of "Liberty and Tyranny""Brian Jennings knows what the badly named Fairness Doctrine would do to stop the flow of information and the free exchange of opinions talk radio offers as the most successful and prolific format on radio in America. "Censorship" exposes the real danger that our representative form of government faces if selfish members of that same government succeed in effectively outlawing talk radio as we know it today." -- Lars Larson, "The Lars Larson Show", KXL Radio, Portland, Oregon"Brian Jennings' excellent book shines a contemporary light via his frontline experience in talk radio on yet the latest assault on our society's most valuable treasure -- freedom of speech." -- Michael Harrison, publisher, "Talkers" magazine "Brian Jennings' long and fruitful career in radio gives him an excellent vantage point on what can really happen to free speech on the radio if we're not careful. Censorship is his call to action!"-- Rush Limbaugh"A must read for everyone who values the First Amendment."-- Mark R. Levin, nationally syndicated radio host and New York Times bestselling author of Liberty and Tyranny"Brian Jennings' book correctly chronicles how my father, President Reagan, felt about the Fairness Doctrine. The book is a testament to free speech and if the President were here today, he would read and endorse this book."-- Michael Reagan"Brian Jennings eloquently explains how whatever you consume, in whatever medium, is none of Big Brother's business. Although the government may stay away from this book, you should not."-- Alan Colmes"Brian Jennings knows what the badly named Fairness Doctrine would do to stop the flow of information and the free exchange of opinions talk radio offers as the most successful and prolific format on radio in America. Censorship exposes the real danger that our representative form of government faces if selfish members of that same government succeed in effectively outlawing talk radio as we know it today."-- Lars Larson, The Lars Larson Show, KXL Radio, Portland, Oregon"Brian Jennings' excellent book shines a contemporary light via his frontline experience in talk radio on yet the latest assault on our society's most valuable treasure -- freedom of speech."-- Michael Harrison, publisher, Talkers magazine