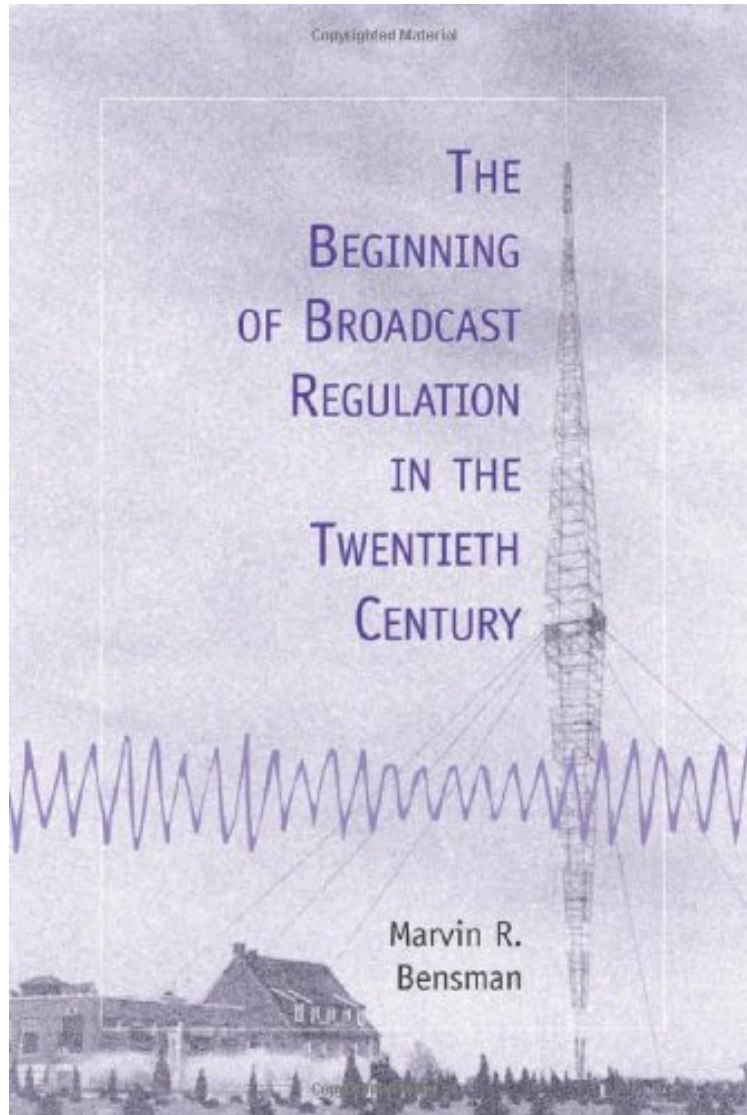


(Download pdf) The Beginning of Broadcast Regulation in the Twentieth Century

The Beginning of Broadcast Regulation in the Twentieth Century

Marvin R Bensman

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0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good BookBy Stanley B. AdamsQuick read by a former head of University of Memphis. His life combined law and broadcasting. Good read. Dr. Bensman is an expert in the field of broadcast law history

The Radio Act of August 13, 1912, provided for the licensing of radio operators and transmitting stations for nearly 15 years until Congress passed the Radio Act of 1927. From 1921 to 1927, there were continual revisions and developments and these still serve as the basis for current broadcast regulation. This book chronicles that crucial six-year period using primary documents. The administrative structure of the Department of Commerce and the personnel involved in the regulation of broadcasting are detailed. The book is arranged chronologically in three sections: Broadcast Regulation and Policy from 1921 to 1925; Congestion and the Beginning of Regulatory Breakdown in 1924 and 1925; and Regulatory Breakdown and the Passage of the Act of 1927. There is also discussion of the Department of Commerce divisions and their involvement until they were absorbed by the Federal Communication Commission. A bibliography and an index conclude the work.

From Library Journal
The current controversy over the recent Federal Communications Commission decision on January 20, 2000, to license new low-power FM radio stations provides a contemporary backdrop for this history of the beginning of broadcast regulation. Bensman (Univ. of Memphis) has studied broadcast regulation during his 30-year career and has published several books on the topic, most recently *Broadcast/Cable Regulation*. His current book focuses on the early years of radio regulation, concentrating on the six years preceding the passage of the Radio Act of 1927, when Secretary of Commerce Herbert Hoover and his staff actively promoted legislation to give the government the power to license and regulate broadcasting. Drawing on a range of primary-source materials, including letters, speeches, telegrams, and government documents, Bensman argues that officials at the Commerce Department orchestrated the move toward regulation. This book will be a useful addition to academic journalism collections.
DJudy Solberg, George Washington Univ. Lib., Washington, DC Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. "a very good job...clear, concise, extensively documented and well written"--North American Shortwave Association "a useful addition to academic journalism collections"--Library Journal; "valuable reference...useful"--ISIS; "the most important study of this formative period of policy development"--Communication Booknotes Quarterly; "a very good job...clear, concise, extensively documented and well written"--North American Shortwave Association; "focuses on the years 1921 to 1927 which culminated in the Radio Act of 1927...full of interesting stories and anecdotes that illustrate and give insight into what was happening in radio during those early broadcast years"--North American Radio Archives; "the administration structure of the Department of Commerce and the personnel involved in the regulation of broadcasting are detailed"--Critical Studies in Media Communication; "important in the study of the early years of the medium"--Classic Images; "highly useful"--Journal of Radio Studies.
About the Author
Professor Emeritus, Marvin R. Bensman taught 35 years at the University of Memphis such subjects as entertainment law, electronic media law and broadcast history. He is the founder and director of the Bensman radio program archive housed at the university and has served two terms on the board of the national Broadcast Education Association. He lives in Weston, Florida when not doing post-retirement teaching in fall semesters at the University of Memphis.