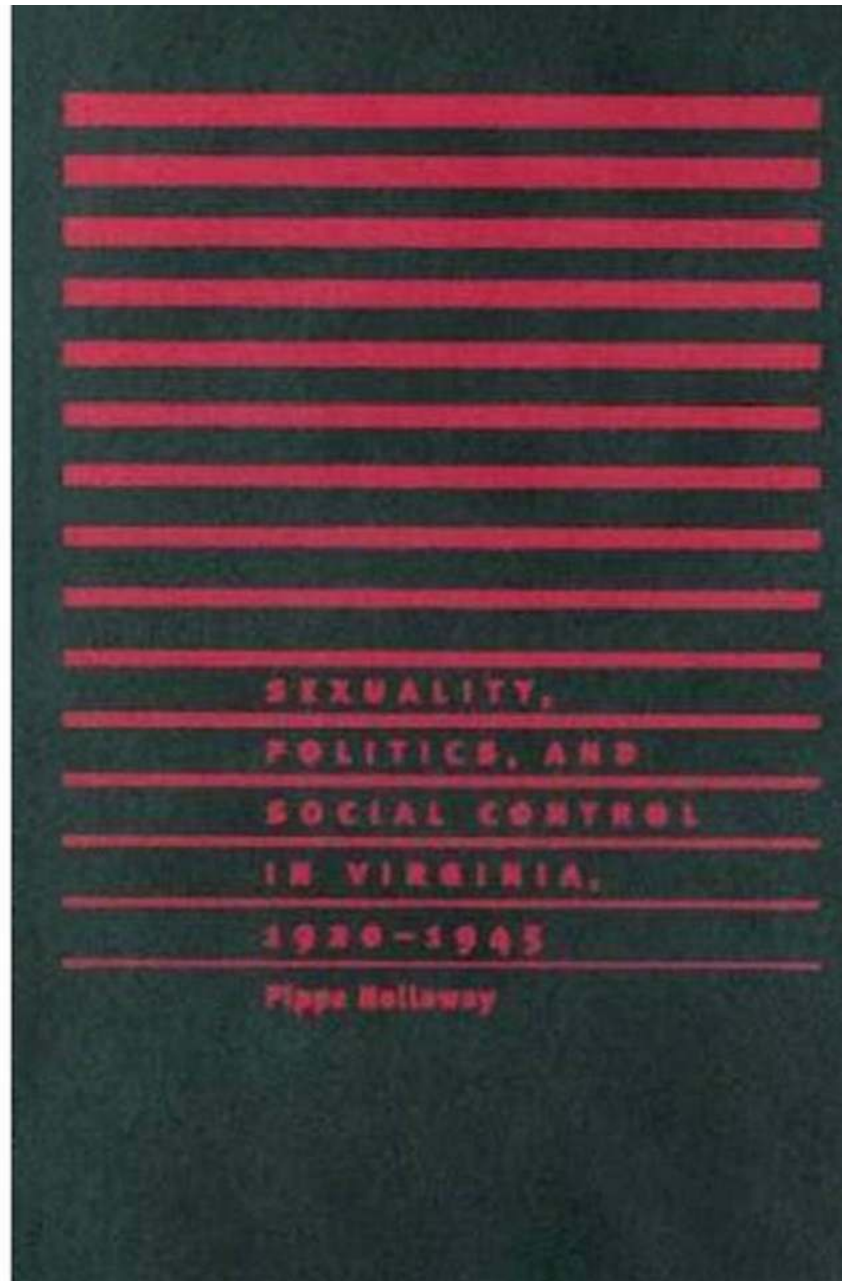


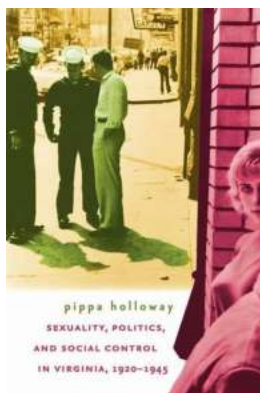
# Sexuality Politics And Social Control In Virginia 1920-1945



Virginia, known for its rich history and conservative values, experienced significant transformations in terms of sexuality politics and social control during the years 1920-1945. This period marked a turning point in the state's approach to issues related to sexual identity, reproductive rights, and gender roles.

## Rise of Purity Movements

One of the notable aspects of this era was the rise of purity movements that sought to enforce strict moral codes onto society. Influenced by the Progressive Era, these movements aimed to maintain a perceived social order and control over individuals' sexual behavior.



### Sexuality, Politics, and Social Control in Virginia,

**1920-1945** by Pippa Holloway (Kindle Edition)

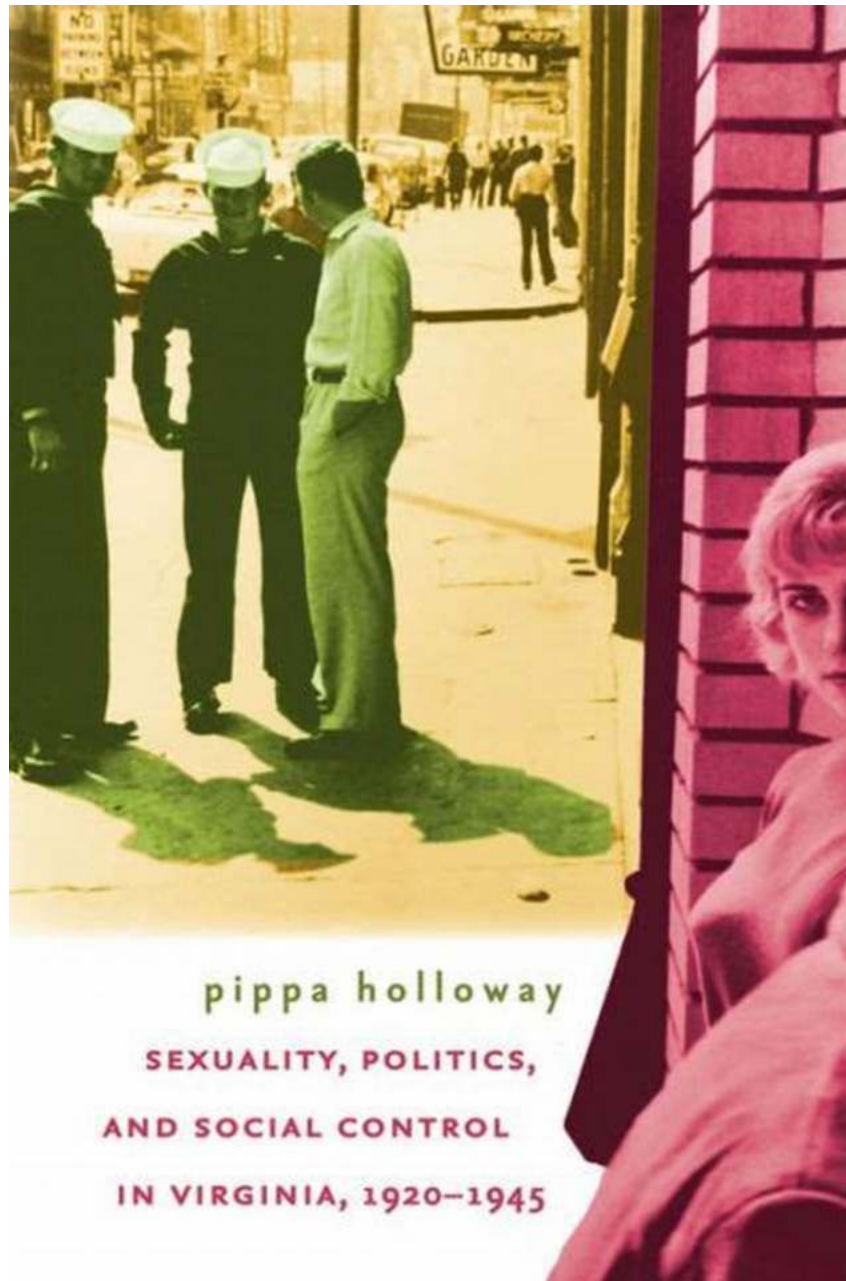
★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 1291 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 274 pages



## The Role of Eugenics

Eugenics played a significant role in the sexuality politics of Virginia during this period. Many believed in the ideology that sought to improve the genetic quality of the population by promoting the reproduction of "fit" individuals while discouraging those deemed "unfit." This gave rise to policies and measures that aimed to control reproductive rights and sexual behavior.



## **Racial Politics and Control**

Virginia's history is deeply intertwined with racial politics, and sexuality was no exception. Laws and regulations were put in place to control and restrict the sexual behavior of African Americans, further perpetuating racial inequalities and discrimination.

## **The Impact of the Great Migration**

The Great Migration, the large-scale movement of African Americans from the rural South to Northern cities, also had an impact on sexuality politics and social control in Virginia. The fear of losing control over the African American population fueled efforts to tighten social restrictions and maintain racial hierarchies.

## **The Changing Role of Women**

During this period, women's roles in society were undergoing significant changes. The suffrage movement had succeeded in securing women the right to vote, which sparked conversations and debates about women's rights in general, including their sexual autonomy.



## **Birth Control and Reproductive Rights**

The and availability of birth control during the 1920s and 1930s challenged traditional norms and contributed to the ongoing discussions around reproductive rights. Women's organizations and activists played important roles in advocating for greater access to contraception and family planning.

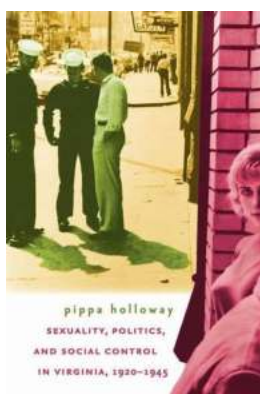
## Resistance and Social Progress

Despite the prevailing conservative views, there were pockets of resistance and social progress during this time. Civil rights activists, feminists, and other progressive groups fought against the oppressive policies and practices that sought to control and regulate sexuality.

## Integration and Desegregation

The fight for equality and desegregation in Virginia also had implications for sexuality politics. As racial barriers started to break down, it challenged the existing power structures and allowed for a more open dialogue about sexuality and social control.

The years 1920-1945 in Virginia were marked by complex dynamics in sexuality politics and social control. While conservative ideals and efforts to maintain traditional roles prevailed, there were also revolutions sparked by social changes, migration, and the desire for equal rights. The legacy of this period continues to shape conversations around sexuality and gender roles in Virginia and beyond.



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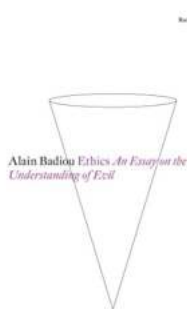
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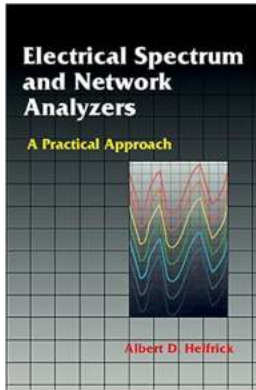
In the first half of the twentieth century, white elites who dominated Virginia politics sought to increase state control over African Americans and lower-class whites, whom they saw as oversexed and lacking sexual self-restraint. In order to reaffirm the existing political and social order, white politicians legalized eugenic sterilization, increased state efforts to control venereal disease and prostitution, cracked down on interracial marriage, and enacted statewide movie censorship. Providing a detailed picture of the interaction of sexuality, politics, and public policy, Pippa Holloway explores how these measures were passed and enforced.

The white elites who sought to expand government's role in regulating sexual behavior had, like most southerners, a tradition of favoring small government, so to justify these new policies, they couched their argument in economic terms: a modern, progressive government could provide optimum conditions for business growth by maintaining a stable social order and a healthy, docile workforce. Holloway's analysis demonstrates that the cultural context that characterized certain populations as sexually dangerous worked in tandem with the political context that denied them the right to vote. This perspective on sexual regulation and the state in Virginia offers further insight into why white elite rule mattered in the development of southern governments.



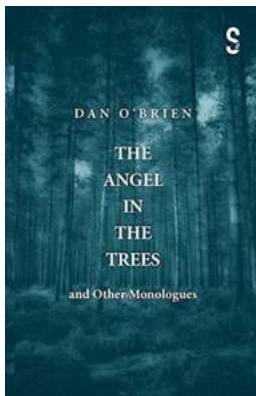
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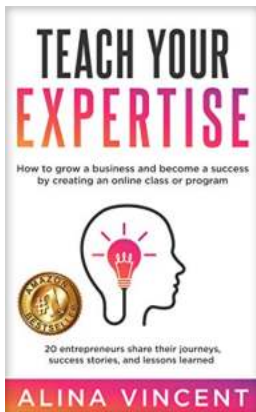
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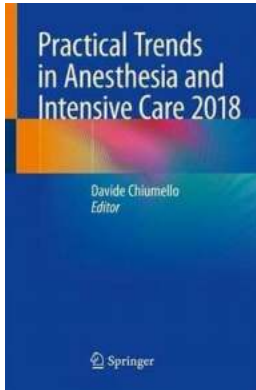
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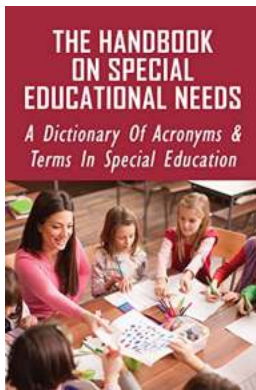
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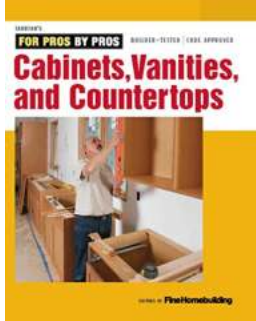
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