

Can we move beyond the abortion wars? New book proposes fresh thinking about a stale debate

Fordham bioethicist claims the 'Costanza Effect' is responsible for artificially polarizing our abortion conversations. The best secular and religious arguments--along with trending public opinion--suggest that a way forward is possible.

Beyond the Abortion Wars: A Way Forward for a New Generation

Who is Charles C. Camosy?

Charles C. Camosy is associate professor of theological and social ethics at Fordham University. He is also the author of *Peter Singer and Christian Ethics* and *For Love of Animals: Christian Ethics, Consistent Action*, which was featured on The Dish and in The New York Times.

Why you're booking him

- Rare, politically-unaffiliated voice of reason in polarizing, passionate debate
- Doesn't just summarize positions and problems, but presents a solution and proposes legislation
- Reframes the decades-old pro-choice v. pro-life narrative
- A renowned scholar capable of communicating sophisticated and technical arguments/positions in ways that are accessible to the layman
- Speaks across secular and religious boundaries
- Excellent in debating controversial issues and in point/counterpoint situations. Has debated atheist intellectual Peter Singer on multiple occasions

Expertise / Talking Points

- Bioethics and medical ethics
- Catholic theology, Christian ethics
- Abortion and reproductive justice
- Affordable Care Act and the pro-life/pro-choice movements
- The intersection of ethics and public policy
- Classical and modern feminist movements



CHARLES C. CAMOSY

BEYOND THE ABORTION WARS

a way forward for a new generation

foreword by MELINDA HENNEBERGER

BOOK DETAILS

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What is the book about?

The abortion debate in the United States is very confused. Ratings-driven media coverage highlights extreme views and creates the illusion that we're stuck in a hopeless stalemate. Camosy argues that our polarized public discourse hides the fact that most *Americans actually agree on the basic issues at stake in abortion morality and law*. First unpacking the real complexity of the abortion issue, he shows that placing oneself on either side of the typical polarizations — pro-life vs. pro-choice, liberal vs. conservative, Democrat vs. Republican — only serves to further confuse the debate and limits our ability to have fruitful dialogue. Finally, Camosy proposes a new public policy that is consistent with the beliefs of the broad majority of Americans and supported by the best ideas and arguments about abortion from both secular and religious sources.

How is it any different than other books on the issue?

- Acknowledges where those on both sides are correct
- A pro-life book, but one that refuses to dismiss pro-choice reasoning, opting instead to integrate the concerns of pro-choice advocates
- Proposes a new public policy -- the Mother and Prenatal Child Protection Act (MPCPA) -- that is consistent with the beliefs of the broad majority of Americans and supported by the best ideas and arguments about abortion from *both secular and religious sources*
- Doesn't just rehash/summarize/demonize
- Not written along party lines, but instead focuses on the bizarre ways in which both major political parties actually betray their most fundamental values on the abortion issue
- Tackles RU-486 - the abortion pill
- Thoroughly researched and well-argued, but also highly-accessible, practical
- More than just another theoretical analysis

Conversation starters:

- Has abortion served the interests of men and male-established social structures more than it has of women?
- Has someone FINALLY presented a way forward, through this divisive and ugly debate?
- Is there a solution that gives full weight to both sides' concerns?
- Is there such thing as a 'pro-life feminist'? Yes – and there are many, many more of them than you think
- Why is the 'pro-life' movement in the wrong hands with the GOP?
- What is the 'Costanza Effect'?
- Millennials, trending towards an overwhelming acceptance of same sex marriage, are moving the opposite direction on abortion. Why?



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What people are saying about it

The “Beyond the Abortion Wars” will challenge the intellectually honest on both sides of the abortion debate as well as those in the middle. With extensive research, nuanced reasoning, and humane insights, Camosy undertakes the necessary but seemingly impossible task of dismantling the current stalemate on the issue -- and then forges a way forward. This book is a game-changer.”

— **Karen Swallow Prior** - author of *Fierce Convictions: The Extraordinary Life of Hannah More* — Poet, Reformer, Abolitionist

“Many of us who support the right to abortion have challenged pro-lifers to put their money where their mouth is -- on equal pay, pregnancy discrimination, parental leave, health care, and child care. Camosy here does all that and more.”

— **William Saletan**, author of *Bearing Right; How Conservatives Won the Abortion War*. — National Correspondent at Slate.com

“For too long, our arguments and policies relating to abortion have been driven and distorted by the interests of parties and partisans. In this admirably charitable book, Camosy invites us to view the issue less in individualistic or libertarian ways and more in terms of solidarity, flourishing, and community. With both humility and urgency, he proposes a way forward that aims not merely for electoral advantage but instead highlights the dignity and worth of the marginalized and the vulnerable at all stages of life.”

— **Richard W. Garnett** — University of Notre Dame Law School

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