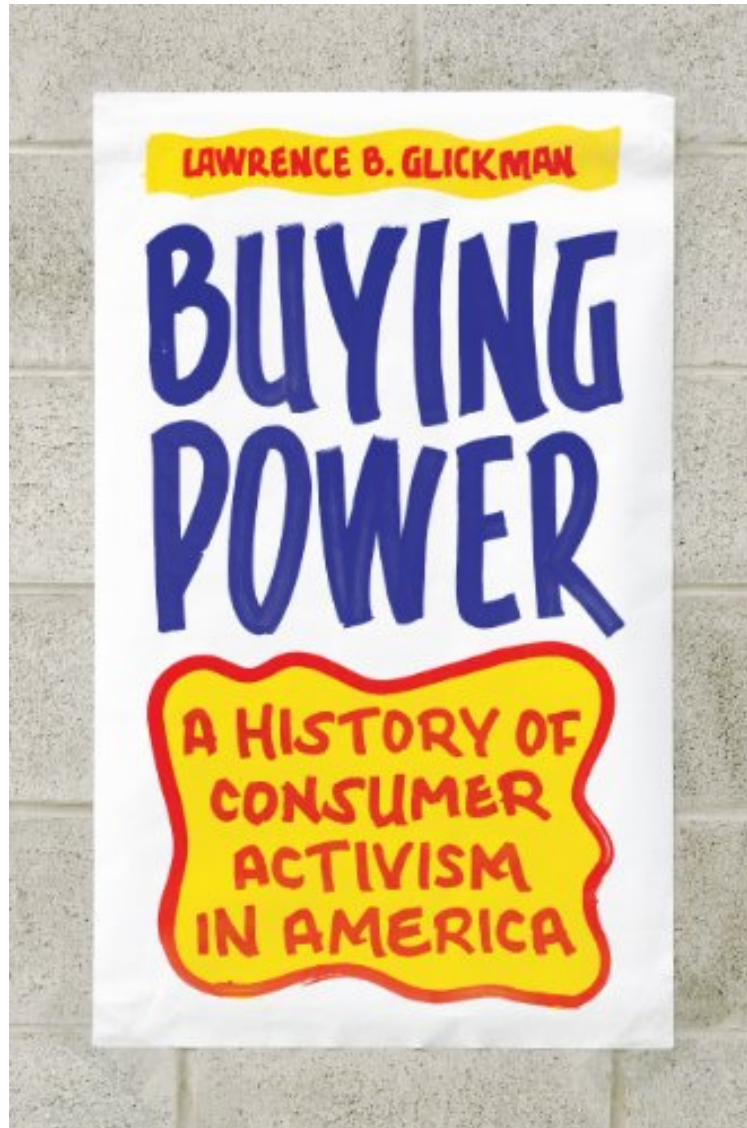


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Buying Power: A History of Consumer Activism in America

Lawrence B. Glickman

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Lawrence B. Glickman : Buying Power: A History of Consumer Activism in America before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Buying Power: A History of Consumer Activism in America:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy giorgioIlluminating study of consumer activism and what it has and can accomplish. Glickman is a thoughtful historian.1 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Lawrence Glickman is difficult to understand and goes on terribly long rantsBy CustomerI had to buy this book for an online history class or else I would never have purchased it. It was an extremely difficult read. Lawrence Glickman is difficult to understand and goes on terribly long rants. If you are buying this for leasure for whatever reason, be

prepared to have an open dictionary on hand to look up 12 pretentious words per paragraph. 1 of 6 people found the following review helpful. I dread reading this! By K. Beal This was purchased for a history class. While the information is helpful and interesting, Glickman's vocabulary is distracting. He seems to enjoy using words that are rather rare and elaborate, instead of more common vocabulary. This requires the reader to stop and find the definition before continuing the reading. Please note, my professor even warned us about Glickman's vocabulary when the class began, and it's become a sort of game in the class to find the most ridiculous word used in a chapter. Also, Glickman tends to take several pages to come to a point and becomes redundant. Did I really need to read twenty pages about free stores in the 1820s? No. I got the message after about five. Reading the book is a chore.

A definitive history of consumer activism, *Buying Power* traces the lineage of this political tradition back to our nation's founding, revealing that Americans used purchasing power to support causes and punish enemies long before the word boycott even entered our lexicon. Taking the Boston Tea Party as his starting point, Lawrence Glickman argues that the rejection of British imports by revolutionary patriots inaugurated a continuous series of consumer boycotts, campaigns for safe and ethical consumption, and efforts to make goods more broadly accessible. He explores abolitionist-led efforts to eschew slave-made goods, African American consumer campaigns against Jim Crow, a 1930s refusal of silk from fascist Japan, and emerging contemporary movements like slow food. Uncovering previously unknown episodes and analyzing famous events from a fresh perspective, Glickman illuminates moments when consumer activism intersected with political and civil rights movements. He also sheds new light on activists' relationship with the consumer movement, which gave rise to lobbies like the National Consumers League and Consumers Union as well as ill-fated legislation to create a federal Consumer Protection Agency.

"In this major, learned, and ambitious book, Lawrence Glickman weaves together social, cultural, and intellectual history to show how consumer activism has, since the mid-eighteenth century, waxed and waned but never disappeared. Glickman has an incomparable grasp of the entire sweep of the history of consumer society, and *Buying Power* is the most influential, wide-ranging, nuanced, provocative, original, and commanding book on the subject in recent memory. It will shape discussions of American political and social history for years to come."