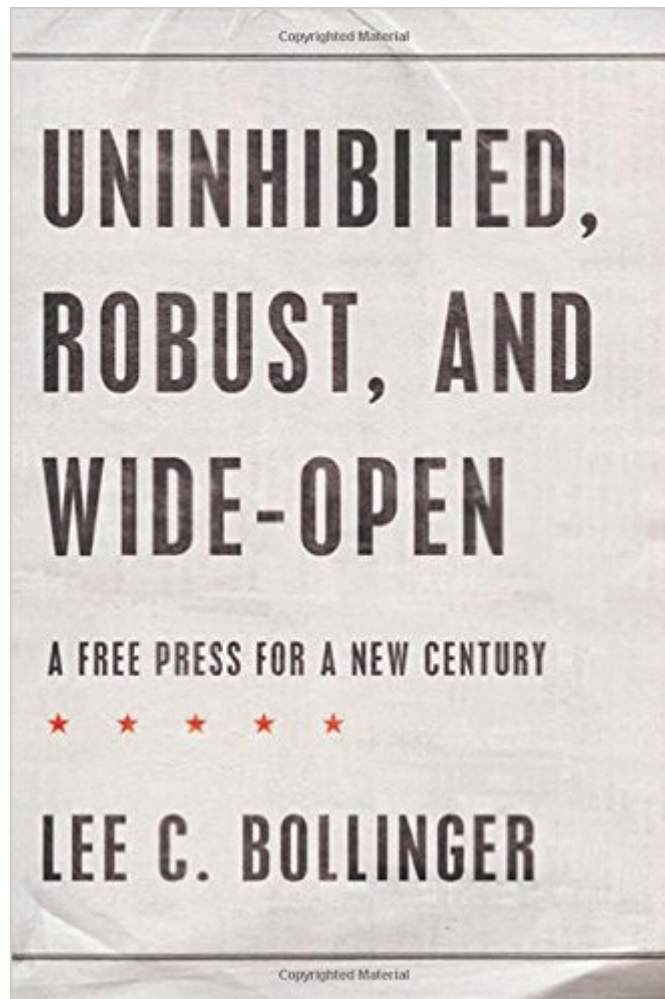


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Uninhibited, Robust, And Wide-Open: A Free Press For A New Century (INALIENABLE RIGHTS)



Synopsis

Lee Bollinger is one of our foremost experts on the First Amendment--both an erudite scholar and elegant advocate. In this sweeping account, he explores the troubled history of a free press in America and looks toward the challenges ahead. The first amendment guaranteed freedom of the press in seemingly clear terms. However, over the course of American history, Bollinger notes, the idea of press freedom has evolved, in response to social, political, technological, and legal changes. It was not until the twentieth century that freedom of the press came to be understood as guaranteeing an "uninhibited, robust and wide-open" public discourse. But even during the twentieth century, government continually tried to erect barriers: the sedition laws of World War One, the use of libel law, the Pentagon Papers case, and efforts to limit press access to information. Bollinger utilizes this history to explore the meaning of freedom of the press in our globalized, internet-dominated era. As he shows, we have now entered uncharted territory. What does press freedom mean when our news outlets can instantaneously disseminate information throughout the world? When foreign media have immediate access to the American market? Bollinger stresses that even though the law will surely evolve in the coming years, we must maintain our commitment to a press that is "uninhibited, robust, and wide-open," not only in America but everywhere. Given the new ability of foreign media to reach the United States via the Internet and vice versa, it is in America's national interest for press freedoms to expand overseas. While protecting the freedom of the press at home remains a crucial task, the next challenge is to help create a global public forum suitable for an increasingly interconnected world. Part of Oxford's landmark Inalienable Rights series, this book will set the agenda for how we think about the press in the twenty-first century.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Uninhibited, Robust, and Wide-Open" is not meant to be used as a study aid of First Amendment law, but as a road map for a broader discussion about free press in the U.S. It's a timely discussion that forces readers to look at where freedom of the press stands on a more global stage in the age of internet-ready technology. Bollinger divides his discussion into four readable chapters. The first two chapters are focused on exploring the past of how the U.S. Supreme Court has handled issues concerning freedom of the press. Chapter 1 leads readers through a series of important United States Supreme Court cases. Chapter 2 builds upon this foundation by going deeper into the court decisions that assisted in shaping the present status relating to freedom of the press. Reviewing the court cases shows where the Justices have disagreed and provide detail discussion behind their opinions. In chapter 3, Bollinger looks at where free press currently stands. This chapter helps the reader to gain a clearer picture of what should happen to deal with new challenges that may be presented as the times continue to change. Then in chapter 4, Bollinger takes readers into what he sees as the future of freedom of the press. Bollinger hopes that the world will take note of the happenings and doings of the U.S. free press from the 20th century. Bollinger argues that, as society continues the critical charge of protecting freedom of the press within the U.S., it should take steps toward formulating a global free press platform. Overall, a well-researched, well-organized, and expertly presented easy read!

Scholarly but easy to read, this book is a must read for everyone who cares about First Amendment rights. Bollinger's impeccably researched, work reviews the history of America's free press movement. Goes beyond print media to TV and the Internet. Got it from my local library and decided I must own this amazing little book.

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