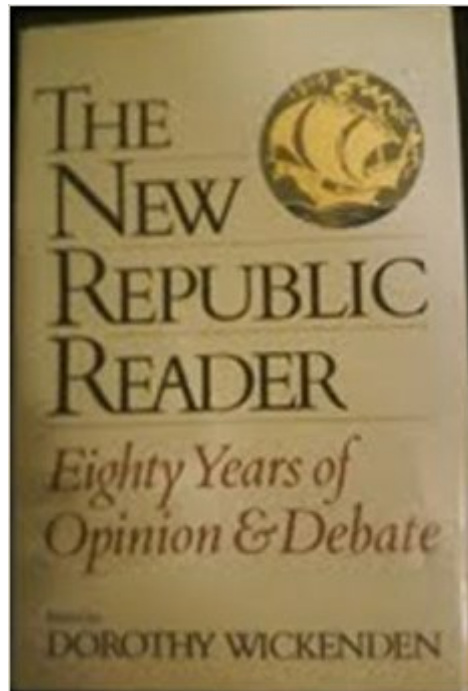




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The New Republic Reader: Eighty Years Of Opinion And Debate



Synopsis

Former New Republic managing editor Dorothy Wickenden presents a collection of the best pieces from one of America's most influential liberal periodicals. With contributions from many of the 20th century's most distinguished politicians and statemen, this anthology offers an entertaining, coherent history of how modern liberalism evolved.

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Customer Reviews

As this thick compendium attests, The New Republic has been one of the nation's most vital journals of current affairs since its founding in 1914. Among its early contributors were Rebecca West, Alfred Kazin, George Orwell, John Dewey and Edmund Wilson; in more recent years, Ronald Steel, Adam Michnik, Arthur M. Schlesinger and Irving Howe. Sections on world affairs, American issues, racial matters and debates among liberals embrace challenging, thoughtful, lively writing. Wickenden, the magazine's former managing editor, and now national affairs editor at Newsweek , contributes a frank introduction that traces TNR 's role in defining liberalism and acknowledges its neoliberal drift since Martin Peretz bought the magazine in 1974. While one might quibble with some of Wickenden's selections (the section on race lacks hard-edged voices, the magazine's cultural coverage gets short play), the volume remains consistently stimulating. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Along with the Nation, the New Republic is one of the two great weekly organs of opinion in the

United States. It was established in 1914 by Herbert Croly, Walter Lippman, and other notable proponents of pragmatic liberalism. In subsequent decades, the journal has published many great authors, such as Virginia Woolf, George Orwell, Edmund Wilson, Irving Howe, and Lewis Mumford. The editors of the New Republic have always had a tendency to sway with the prevailing ideological winds. In the 1930s, the journal championed large-scale economic planning; in the 1980s, it editorialized in favor of arming the Nicaraguan contras. Editor Wickenden has done an impressive job of pulling together a collection that brilliantly reflects the journal's history and its strengths and weaknesses. Recommended for larger libraries. Kent Worcester, Social Science Research Council, New York Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.

If you like good essay writing, this is the book for you. Many voices, many topics, many genres, covering many years. This is a book I keep on the shelf and grab when I'm itching for something to read and I don't know what I want. Kind of like opening the fridge door late at night. Good stuff in small doses and worth a spot in my library.

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