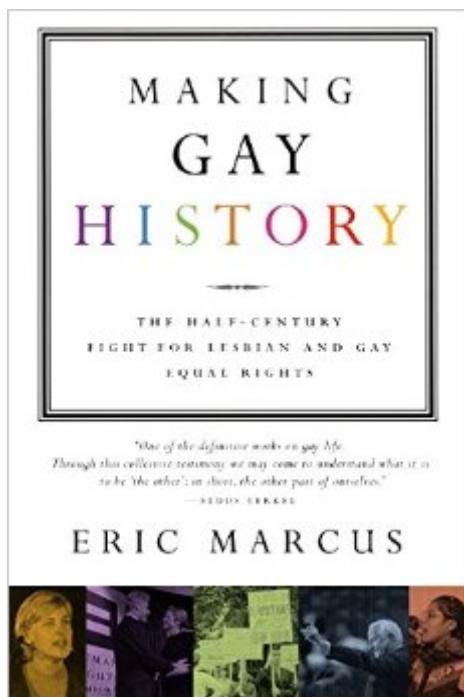


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Making Gay History: The Half-Century Fight For Lesbian And Gay Equal Rights



Synopsis

From the Boy Scouts and the U.S. military to marriage and adoption, the gay civil rights movement has exploded on the national stage. Eric Marcus takes us back in time to the earliest days of that struggle in a newly revised and thoroughly updated edition of *Making History*, originally published in 1992. Using the heart-felt stories of more than 60 people, he carries us through the compelling five-decade battle that has changed the fabric of American society. The rich tapestry that emerges from *Making Gay History* includes the inspiring voices of teenagers and grandparents, journalists and housewives, from the little known Dr. Evelyn Hooker and Morty Manford to former Vice President Al Gore, Ellen DeGeneres, and Abigail Van Buren. Together, these many stories bear witness to a time of astonishing change as gay and lesbian people have struggled against prejudice and fought for equal rights under the law.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars Â See all reviews Â (16 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

What is different about Mr. Marcus' book that separates it from the vast numbers of other LGBT collectables? For one thing, Mr. Marcus allows the characters in his work to speak for themselves. The author does remarkably little editing and most of that is setting the scene for each contributor. In all, over sixty individuals speak of their contributions to LGBT history. As Mr. Marcus puts it, "I'm offering just a taste as told through the stories and recollections of more than sixty people -- from high-profile leaders to the little-known and largely forgotten men and women who contributed in ways big and small." This was enough to let me know that much of the material would be unfamiliar terrain, rather than previously read historical scenes told in a different way. But would it hold my

interest? Mr. Marcus dispelled such concern in his introduction where he wrote, "Here and there I lowered my bucket into the rich, swirling waters of the gay rights movement. And what I found was astounding, heartbreaking, thrilling and ultimately inspiring." For the most part, his analysis of his work proved correct. "Making History" is a fascinating book that I found difficult to put down. He begins with ". . . [T]he years immediately following World War II [which] proved to be an especially fertile time for those gay men and women who dared to imagine that something could be done to improve the challenging conditions under which many of them lived." His first story is the contribution of Dr. Evelyn Hooker. A young gay man slowly worked his way into a close friendship with his teacher, Ms. Hooker. In time he was able to talk the psychologist into researching and writing what became a landmark study of gay men.

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