
Marguerite Rosenthal
Salem State University

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/jssw
Part of the Social Work Commons

Recommended Citation
Available at: https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/jssw/vol39/iss3/15
for example, that a physical attack on a woman is analogous to a cross-burning or the painting of a swastika or sends the same message of hostility and exclusion to members of the larger group, as is the case when an individual in one of the other categories is victimized.

In a number of places, the book recounts several highly-publicized mass killings or serial murders of women that have occurred in recent years. While these stories were compelling examples of violence against women, they sometimes seemed to weaken rather than strengthen the argument that gender bias laws are needed because violence against women is an everyday occurrence.

Overall, *Gendered Hate* is a very interesting book. It makes a valuable contribution to the complex and controversial subject of gender bias crime law. The book would be useful to students in courses focusing on gender issues, to scholars doing research on bias crime laws and to anyone interested in gaining a better understanding of the response of the legal system to the problem of violence against women.

_Twila L. Perry, Rutgers University School of Law–Newark_


Readers of this journal are doubtless familiar with the data that demonstrate growing income and wealth inequality in the United States. They are likely also familiar with the enormous increase in the numbers of Americans—the majority African-American and Latino—who have been incarcerated or placed under legal supervision since the 1980s. Less familiar, perhaps, is the chasm that divides the ways in which the wealthy and politically powerful and the rest of us are treated in the legal system.

Glenn Greenwald, described on the dust jacket as a “former” constitutional and civil rights lawyer, is a regular contributor to *Salon*, where he writes about foreign policy, militarism, and, especially, abuses of power, secrecy, and duplicity on the part
of political elites. These themes are ever-present in *With Liberty and Justice for Some*, a book that can be characterized as a contemporary muckraking tome (though it’s relatively brief at 271 pages) that documents much that has gone awry in our body politic over the last 40 or so years.

Starting from a discussion of first principles as understood by the nation’s founders and enshrined in the Constitution, Greenwald states that “liberty was not only consistent with, but premised on, the inevitability of outcome inequality” in income and power; however, “Law was understood to be the sine qua non ensuring fairness” where inequality would not be accepted (p. 3). This idea is enshrined in the often-stated claim that the United States is a “nation of laws, not of men” (sic.).

Greenwald dates the beginning of the country’s downward plunge to what amounts to lawlessness on the part of political elites to Gerald Ford’s pardon of Richard Nixon, a pardon that he suspects was pre-arranged when Nixon picked Ford to succeed him. He proceeds to remind the reader of a succession of events involving Presidents and their advisors where most of the patently guilty were either pardoned or never properly investigated or charged: the Iran-Contra affair in the Reagan administration, the secret deal-making by George H.W. Bush with Saddam Hussein in the latter’s war on Iran, and the host of illegal activities from the “outing” of Valerie Plame to the politically motivated firing of associate attorneys general by Alberto Gonzales, to the authorization and use of rendition and torture by George Bush and his administration. Greenwald is clearly incensed by the claims of executive immunity made by recent presidents, and he spares no criticism of Barack Obama who, in 2008, ran as a Constitutional lawyer who criticized many of his predecessors’ extra-legal actions, but as President has continued some of them and, in any case, has repeatedly stated that he is not interested in looking back (that is, prosecuting Bush and those in his administration who are likely guilty of war crimes) but rather in “moving forward.” The author cites (p. 48) a revealing study about “moral pliability,” finding that “those in positions of power not only violate rules much more readily [than the powerless] but feel far less contrition about their violations because their power leads to a consuming, blinding sense of entitlement.”
In addition to reviewing the disturbing events related to war and foreign policy, Greenwald investigates the ways in which the telecommunications industry has been manipulated to invade, unlawfully, telephone and internet communications; the roles that lobbying and financial contributions have played in influencing the behavior of members of Congress from both political parties; the passivity—even the collusion—of the press in investigating official wrong-doing; and, more familiarly, the 2008 financial disaster that has harshly affected so many middle and working class families who have lost jobs and homes, but which has barely affected those who were responsible for it.

In a last chapter (5), “American Justice’s Second Tier,” Greenwald details how—in contrast to how the rich and powerful have evaded justice—those at the bottom of our society have been treated increasingly harshly, in many cases imprisoned for long terms for relatively low-level crimes. And he reports that the defense bar is so under-financed and inadequate that the poor are unable to get justice.

*With Liberty and Justice for Some* is, on the one hand, an easy read; that is, its style is journalistic yet filled with details. Its impact is disturbing and, while not at all a sociological text, its information provides a basis for understanding why so many in our society feel alienated from politics and civic engagement more generally.

*Marguerite Rosenthal, Prof. Emerita, School of Social Work, Salem State University*


With increasingly volatile food prices and ever-rising rates of hunger, there is growing international consensus that our food system is in crisis—and that to address the crisis, we must invest in agriculture. The best way forward, however, is subject to intense debate between radically divergent viewpoints. In *Accounting for Hunger: The Right to Food in the Era of Globalisation*, Olivier De Schutter, Caitlin Cordes, and the other contributors take on some of the most contentious issues in