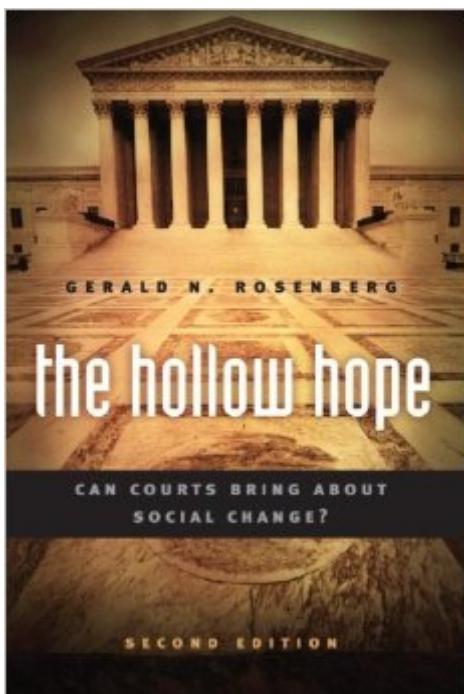


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The Hollow Hope: Can Courts Bring About Social Change? Second Edition (American Politics And Political Economy Series)



Synopsis

In follow-up studies, dozens of reviews, and even a book of essays evaluating his conclusions, Gerald Rosenberg's critics—not to mention his supporters—have spent nearly two decades debating the arguments he first put forward in *The Hollow Hope*. With this substantially expanded second edition of his landmark work, Rosenberg himself steps back into the fray, responding to criticism and adding chapters on the same-sex marriage battle that ask anew whether courts can spur political and social reform. Finding that the answer is still a resounding no, Rosenberg reaffirms his powerful contention that it's nearly impossible to generate significant reforms through litigation. The reason? American courts are ineffective and relatively weak; far from the uniquely powerful sources for change they're often portrayed as. Rosenberg supports this claim by documenting the direct and secondary effects of key court decisions—particularly *Brown v. Board of Education* and *Roe v. Wade*. He reveals, for example, that Congress, the White House, and a determined civil rights movement did far more than *Brown* to advance desegregation, while pro-choice activists invested too much in *Roe* at the expense of political mobilization. Further illuminating these cases, as well as the ongoing fight for same-sex marriage rights, Rosenberg also marshals impressive evidence

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Gerald Rosenberg in *The Hollow Hope* presents a thought provocative theory about the ability of courts to bring about social change. Rosenberg considers landmark cases such as *Brown v. Board of Education*, *Roe v. Wade*, and others and argues in amazingly convincing detail that the court action made little difference in the desegregation movement or the abortion debate and that in some cases a strategy of litigation has proven counter productive. This is a dramatic departure from the more traditional view of these cases that they are iconic symbols of social change. Courts because of their structures and lack of implementation power are actually poor agents of social change unless the executive and legislative branches are prepared to provide the federal teeth to say integrate schools a movement that occurred a full decade after the original *Brown* case was decided. Would've gone five stars but for two complaints, it felt to me that the cases like *Brown* and *Roe* where underestimated. There was still something valuable in the fact a governing body ruled that such rights exist, even if political leaders were unwilling to act. Secondly, the section on abortion could use an update to include *Casey* and any post 1991 cases. Overall, a provocative book that altered my thinking on social change litigation.

Readable book. Provocative! I get the message, and I believe it....at times. The Court is usually behind public momentum and even public policy. But Rosenberg is an evangelical for this theory, to the detriment of complete rationality. I guess he has been attacked too often. This is a non-partisan book.

you will have a misprint that starts on page 51. make sure that you get a new one. but otherwise the book is a very good source of information regarding the role of the courts in creating social change... or not. It is very debatable, this was the text that I used in a class so during the entirety of the book I was able to contradict or counter the arguments made.

Needed this book for a class. I was thrilled it was available on Kindle. The one criticism I have is that the abortion chapters were not updated from the previous edition. Otherwise, very interesting read.

I did not want to accept his thesis, but really besides a few quibbles its rock solid. A very impressive work.

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