



Censorship: Changing Attitudes 1900-2000; Poverty: Changing Attitudes 1900-2000

Books Reviewed:

[Censorship: Changing Attitudes 1900-2000](#) [1]

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Reviewer:

[Clive Barnes](#) [4]

Editorial Choice:

off

Media type:

Book

BfK Rating:

4

This series is admirable in making an attempt to take a global view of its subjects, and in commissioning authors (and consultants) who are knowledgeable and have a commitment to what they are writing about. McGwire has worked with Index on Censorship and Amnesty International. Garlake is an education officer with Oxfam.

Both these books chart changes in opinion and behaviour through the twentieth century, but they have different strengths.

McGwire's is in her treatment of political censorship. Her three central chapters, on the role of media censorship in democracy, ranging from the influence of owners, through 'news values', to control and manipulation by government for the sake of national security, are particularly good. She is less sure in delineating the argument over what the limits of toleration of opinion and behaviour should be at the beginning of the twenty-first century, leaving her readers with a series of questions to ponder.

Garlake is best in her final chapters where she talks about the politics of international aid, and leaves no one in any doubt about where she stands: 'The rich nations currently use up eighty per cent of the world's resources. Our world is capable of sustaining all its people, but only if we learn to share what we have.' She is less clear about the recent shift in the United States and Europe away from the idea of state provision for the poor.

Poverty has a better glossary and reading list, scoring highly for the teachers' resources it mentions, but both books are a good addition to a series that is proving to be one of the most intelligent and attractive treatments of social issues from a historical perspective for 14-18 year olds.

Running Order:

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