

NADINE STROSSEN

Why We Should

Resist It with

Free Speech,

Not Censorship

HATE- Why We Should Resist It With Free Speech, Not Censorship

Eli Noam

by Joana Lopes

HATE- Why We Should Resist It With Free Speech, Not Censorship, comes from the need of Nadine Strossen to clarify the concepts of freedom of speech, as well as equal rights. The new edition of the book first published in 2018 makes understand that "equal justice for all depends on full freedom of speech for all", especially since the U.S. is a democracy upholder of freedom of speech, equality and justice.

After writing about "hate speech" since 1977, and believing enough had been said about the issue, Strossen felt she should stop, for there was nothing else to be said on the subject, it had already been explored from all angles, namely from the legal point of view, even though she felt "hate speech" laws remained insufficient.

However, a new wave of activism on campus has risen in support of equal rights causes, which called for the author's attention, given that these protestors chose to censor "hate speech", as well as believed that free speech was damaging their cause. The results often injure the minorities, which are supposed to benefit from the fight against "hate speech".

One of the issues dealt with in this book is the crave for a better definition of the term "hate speech", given its vagueness. It is associated with unpopular ideas, usually discriminating minorities. But are they harmful? Strossen explains that "hate speech" is within the frame of the free speech principles, therefore, not to

be censored, but instead, counterspoken. She shows how this alternative solution has proven to prevent censorial countermeasures leading into violence. Nadine Strossen reminds the reader of how the First Amendment approach acts towards the free speech and democracy, using a neutral perspective.

"HATE- Why We Should Resist It With Free Speech, Not Censorship" also analyzes laws around "hate speech", for they often violate free speech and equality principals, are extremely restrictive and have demonstrated to be ineffective. This new edition also includes an extended discussion about "hate speech" in social media in the preface.

Nadine Strossen was the President of the American Civil Liberties Union, from 1991 to 2008, and is currently a member of the ACLU's National Advisory Council, as well as the Advisory Boards of Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC), Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE), Heterodox Academy, and the National Coalition Against Censorship. She is one of the greatest voices in the areas of constitutional law and civil liberties.

Having that said, this book is a very eloquent and clarifying proposal for the betterment of "hate speech" countermeasures. It's an analysis that starts from the definitions, goes through the problems inherent to the very formula of laws and points to an elegant, yet effective solution.