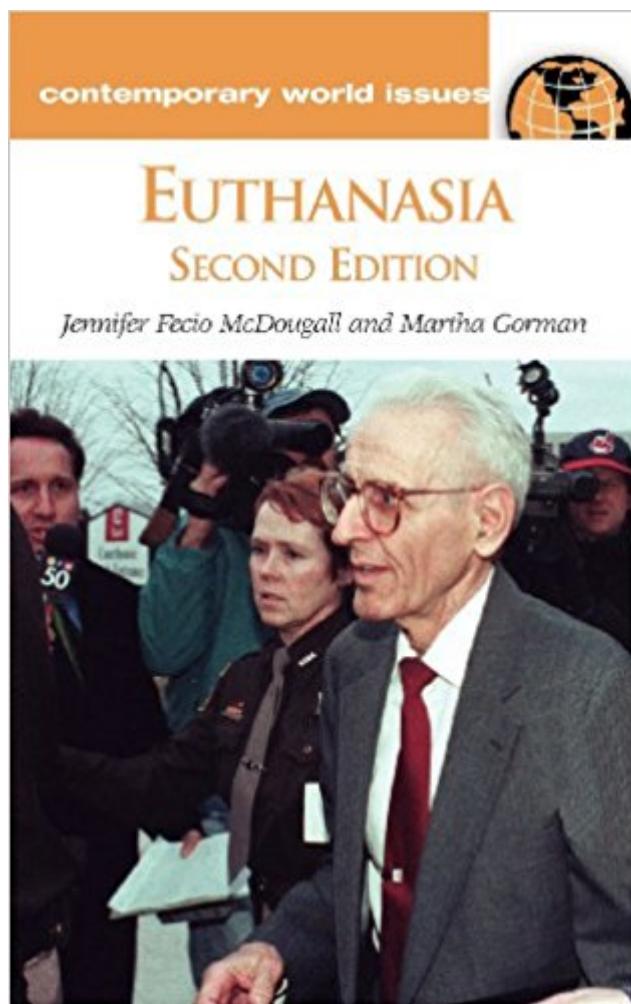


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Euthanasia: A Reference Handbook, 2nd Edition (Contemporary World Issues)



Synopsis

This timely work is a balanced overview of end-of-life issues related to euthanasia and assisted suicide. Includes the full text of documents such as the Hippocratic Oath and position statements from several religions. A detailed chronology pinpoints key events from the time of Hippocrates to current legal cases still being decided.

Book Information

Series: Contemporary World Issues

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Customer Reviews

Grade 10 Up. Beginning with the early philosophers' views on the right to die, this well-organized volume traces the history of and medical developments in euthanasia. Although some of the reading is slow going (laws and documents), the text is well written and objective. Case studies are presented in a straightforward manner and include extensive documentation and attributable quotes. The chapters dealing with euthanasia in other countries and biographical information on key figures are especially helpful. Other sections focus on periodicals, non-print material, organizations, and the Internet. The tables, graphs, and maps clearly present statistics that can often be confusing. - Christine A. Moesch, Buffalo & Erie County Public Library, NY Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Digital edition.

"McDougall's and Gorman's book is recommended for school and public libraries." -

ARBA "Recommended. All academic, medical, and large public libraries; all levels." - Choice "The second updated edition of Euthanasia is a recommended pick for high school to college-level

This is the kind of book which results when writers with no specialized knowledge of a subject are commissioned by a publisher to research and write a book to fill a gap in a series. "Euthanasia: Second Edition" (2008) is based almost solely on secondary sources and virtually no primary material which is not available on the Internet. The "credits" on page xiii thank all the good folks in the publishing company and area libraries for their help -- but do not credit a single expert in the pro- or anti-euthanasia field whom they could have contacted for direct quotations and succinct, up-to-date opinions. Example: all the information about the 1997 legalization of euthanasia in the Republic of Colombia comes not from the report of the Colombian Constitutional Court which approved it, or from the doctors there who practice it, or from Colombian medical journals, but from reports by Television New Zealand (7,500 miles away!) and the San Diego Union Tribune! For a reference book, this is shameful. Entire major issues are left unaddressed, such as the development in 1999 of safe, efficient, legal methods of self-deliverance by the NuTech Group, a primary advocate for personal autonomy at the end of life. Another area almost wholly ignored is the will of the people in the Western world, approximately 75% of whom support the right of a terminally ill person with less than six months of expected life expectancy to end their lives when, where, and how they choose. It is also not noted that despite the will of the people, their elected representatives generally refuse to enact the laws their constituents demand. Those with serious interests in the subject of euthanasia and physician-hastened death would do well to look elsewhere. RNC

The second updated edition of EUTHANASIA is a recommended pick for high school to college-level libraries: it provides details on the science, medicine, politics and sociology of euthanasia, discussing end-of-life issues around the world, providing capsule biographies of those who have participated in euthanasia, and surveying the documents relating to dying with dignity. The result is a powerful recommendation not just for health collections, but for social issues sections as well. Diane C. Donovan California Bookwatch

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