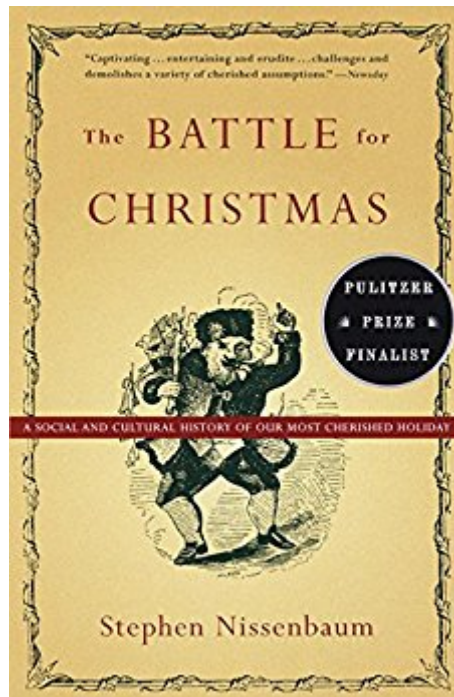


The book was found

The Battle For Christmas



Synopsis

Anyone who laments the excesses of Christmas might consider the Puritans of colonial Massachusetts: they simply outlawed the holiday. The Puritans had their reasons, since Christmas was once an occasion for drunkenness and riot, when poor "wassailers" extorted food and drink from the well-to-do. In this intriguing and innovative work of social history, Stephen Nissenbaum rediscovers Christmas's carnival origins and shows how it was transformed, during the nineteenth century, into a festival of domesticity and consumerism. Drawing on a wealth of period documents and illustrations, Nissenbaum charts the invention of our current Yuletide traditions, from St. Nicholas to the Christmas tree and, perhaps most radically, the practice of giving gifts to children. Bursting with detail, filled with subversive readings of such seasonal classics as "A Visit from St. Nicholas" and "A Christmas Carol," *The Battle for Christmas* captures the glorious strangeness of the past even as it helps us better understand our present. From the Trade Paperback edition.

Book Information

File Size: 9563 KB

Print Length: 400 pages

Publisher: Vintage (December 1, 2010)

Publication Date: December 1, 2010

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B004CFAWQ6

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #249,304 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #54

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Religion & Spirituality > Christian Books & Bibles > Christian Living > Holidays > Christmas #78 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Customs & Traditions #267 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Christian Living > Holidays > Christmas

Customer Reviews

UMass professor Stephen Nissenbaum's Pulitzer-Prize nominated "The Battle For Christmas" is an engrossing, sober look at a holiday celebration reformed from reaction to drunken revelry. Its 317 pages do not debunk so much as dissect traditions which seemed to "stand outside history." He sees larger points within about 18th and 19th century societal, racial, and cultural divides and Christmas' role in spurring American consumerist society. Nissenbaum bookends "Battle" with accounts of New England's "wassail" tradition and of Christmas celebrations in the slavery South. He finds similar tales of pauper (peasant class, slave) trading places with prince (gentry, slavemaster) with wild costumes (German Belsnickle, African John Canoe, Boston-Philadelphia "mumming"), endorsed begging, whiskey-soaked revelry and feasting, bawdy songs, wanton sex, vandalism and violence equal parts Halloween and Mardi Gras. Nissenbaum successfully argues that this role reversal behavior was tolerated, even encouraged to reinforce traditional class roles. Nissenbaum builds his unsentimental holiday history between these pillars. He reinterprets beloved, seemingly eternal seasonal traditions (Dickens' "Christmas Carol," decorated trees, St. Nicholas) as creations to refocus the celebration on temperance, home, and family (especially children). He links their manufacture and deliberate spread to 19th century revisionist views: abolition and the role of freed blacks, new child rearing and education theories. Nissenbaum redefines "Twas The Night Before Christmas" nearly line-by-line, showing the social satire within Clement Moore's detailed descriptions and figurative redrawing of the "jolly old elf.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Jamaican Christmas Recipes: 21 Most Wanted Jamaican Christmas Recipes (Christmas Recipes Book) Christmas Recipes - Top 200 Christmas Recipes (25 Vegan, 25 Paleo, 25 Gluten Free, 25 Low Carb and 100 Traditional Recipes, Christmas Cookbook) A Victorian Christmas Tea: Angel in the Attic/A Daddy for Christmas/Tea for Marie/Going Home (HeartQuest Christmas Anthology) Christmas Homecoming: The Heart of a Stranger/A Place to Call Home/Christmas Legacy (HeartQuest Christmas Anthology) Madness in Christmas River: A Christmas Cozy Mystery (Christmas River Cozy, Book 3) Murder in Christmas River: A Christmas Cozy Mystery (Christmas River Cozy, Book 1) A Cancer Battle Plan: Six Strategies for Beating Cancer from a Recovered "Hopeless Case" [CANCER BATTLE PLAN] The Battle for Leyte Gulf: The Incredible Story of World War II's Largest Naval Battle The Battle: The Definitive History of the Battle of Waterloo Sink or Be Sunk! The Naval Battle in the Mississippi Sound That Preceded the Battle of New Orleans Battle Royale: Remastered (Battle Royale (Novel)) The Battle for Christmas The Battle for Christmas: A Social and Cultural History of Our Most Cherished Holiday Christmas Ideas 2016 (Ideals Christmas) Adults Who Color Christmas Edition: An Adult Coloring Book Featuring Holiday Inspired

Art, Including Whimsical Christmas Tress, Snowflakes, and Gifts Papa's Christmas Gift: Around the World on the Night Before Christmas Christmas Tree Pins: O Christmas Tree (Schiffer Book for Collectors) VINTAGE CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS: Christmas Cards, Customs, Carols, Legends, Poems, Recipes, Advertisements (Vintage Memories) Christmas Coloring Book Of Victorian Greetings: Enjoy Coloring Christmas Cards Of Yesteryear Play A Song Of Christmas - 35 Favorite Christmas Songs and Carols In Easy Arrangements (CD-Rom: includes piano accompaniment, lyrics and printable PDF of piano sheet music)

[Dmca](#)