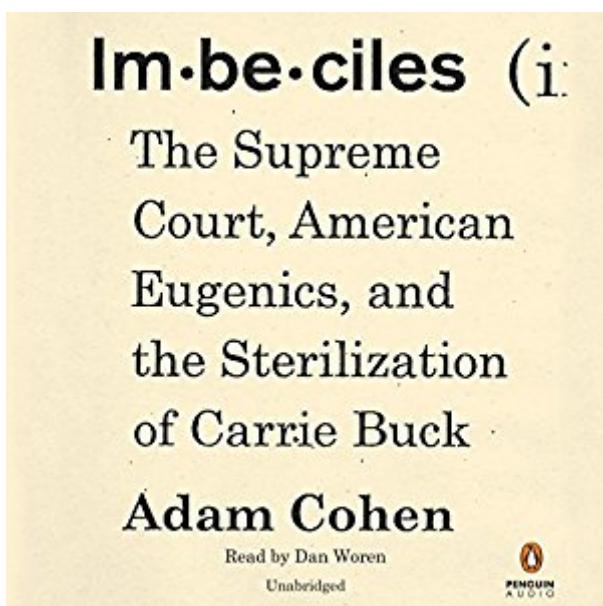


The book was found

Imbeciles: The Supreme Court, American Eugenics, And The Sterilization Of Carrie Buck



Synopsis

One of America's great miscarriages of justice, the Supreme Court's infamous 1927 *Buck v. Bell* ruling made government sterilization of "undesirable" citizens the law of the land. New York Times best-selling author Adam Cohen tells the story in *Imbeciles* of one of the darkest moments in the American legal tradition: the Supreme Court's decision to champion eugenic sterilization for the greater good of the country. In 1927, when the nation was caught up in eugenic fervor, the justices allowed Virginia to sterilize Carrie Buck, a perfectly normal young woman, for being an "imbecile". It is a story with many villains, from the superintendent of the Dickensian Virginia Colony for Epileptics and Feebleminded who chose Carrie for sterilization to the former Missouri agriculture professor and Nazi sympathizer who was the nation's leading advocate for eugenic sterilization. But the most troubling actors of all were the eight Supreme Court justices who were in the majority - including William Howard Taft, the former president; Louis Brandeis, the legendary progressive; and Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., America's most esteemed justice, who wrote the decision urging the nation to embark on a program of mass eugenic sterilization. Exposing this tremendous injustice - which led to the sterilization of 70,000 Americans - *Imbeciles* overturns cherished myths and reappraises heroic figures in its relentless pursuit of the truth. With the precision of a legal brief and the passion of a front-page exposé, Cohen's *Imbeciles* is an unquestionable triumph of American legal and social history, an ardent accusation against these acclaimed men and our own optimistic faith in progress.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 13 hours and 19 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Penguin Audio

Audible.com Release Date: March 1, 2016

Language: English

ASIN: B01AIT2QKO

Best Sellers Rank: #15 in Books > Law > Constitutional Law > Civil Rights #30 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Nonfiction > Law #36 in Books > Law > Legal History

Customer Reviews

The author writes about *Buck vs. Bell*, the 1927 supreme court decision on Virginia sterilization law

as a blatant violation of the fundamental purpose of the law, "the strong should not harm the weak" He presents scientific, political, historical and cultural context of the law, and influential persons and their personal history. The author points out the common theme of moralizing diseases by the people of prestigious, upper, elitist classes, and selectively ignoring of socio economic factors in public health concerns, and the opportunistic and condescending attitudes by the powerful.

Surprisingly the decision has never been overturned and as of 2010, in California, over 100 female inmates were sterilized. The lives of Carrie Buck and her mother, sister, and her daughter did not count to the powerful, they were just means to their professional conviction or personal glory, however, they, the powerless, lived as kind and loving people. (this reminded me of a scene from a movie, *Philomena*, a great scene about her persevering character against evil done to her).

Adam Cohen has written an outstanding book on a subject (eugenics) very few Americans and very few lawyers know anything about. He analyzes the epic Supreme Court decision that endorsed involuntary sterilization and informs us of the broad support enjoyed by the eugenics movement early in the last century. The revelation that Nazi war criminals used the Supreme Court's decision as part of their legal defense at the Nuremberg trials underscores how devastating the decision really was. And it's still the law of the land today! This is a very sad story told in a very well written book. I recommend it highly.

In the 1920s eugenics reared its ugly head first at the Colony for Epileptics and the Feeble-minded. Thought of the day was that eugenics would improve genetics of future generations. People who were referred to institutions became wards of the state. States wanted to pass laws that would allow sterilization to most of its patient's. Defective traits were those deemed offensive to the middle-class. A test case was needed to go to the Supreme Court...Buck v Bell was designated to accomplish this. In reading this informative and insightful book you will learn of the mania and misin-formation that was used to further the cause of eugenics.

A good read and a difficult one recalling how this country and legal system failed the poor and the women in this country

I learned a lot about prejudice in America in this book and will never feel the same about revered people. The book is well written and is an exposé of well educated people and their regard for poorer, uneducated people in this country during the time of Oliver Wendell Holmes and his

supreme Court.

Superb book about a gross miscarriage of justice and one of the worst decisions issued by the US Supreme Court. The author well describes the characters and issues involved in the case and crafts a compelling and powerful conclusion.

Excellent research on the ethical problems associated with the Eugenics movement. I use this book in my Ethics course.

The story was very disturbing to know there were prominent leaders in our country who believed in thishorrible idea of a perfect nation by promoting their proud and selfish solutions. on the unfortunate and poorpeople. Neither me or my friends knew we had this terrible thinking in this country's past.

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

Imbeciles: The Supreme Court, American Eugenics, and the Sterilization of Carrie Buck Three Generations, No Imbeciles: Eugenics, the Supreme Court, and Buck v. Bell ISO 11135:2014, Second Edition: Sterilization of health-care products - Ethylene oxide - Requirements for the development, validation and routine control of a sterilization process for medical devices Buck, Buck, Moose: Recipes and Techniques for Cooking Deer, Elk, Moose, Antelope and Other Antlered Things Supreme Conflict: The Inside Story of the Struggle for Control of the United States Supreme Court Dissent and the Supreme Court: Its Role in the Court's History and the Nation's Constitutional Dialogue May It Please the Court: The Most Significant Oral Arguments Made Before the Supreme Court Since 1955 The First Amendment: Transcripts of the Oral Arguments Made Before the Supreme Court in Sixteen Key First Amendment Cases (May It Please the Court) The American Supreme Court, Sixth Edition (The Chicago History of American Civilization) The American Supreme Court: Fifth Edition (The Chicago History of American Civilization) In Reckless Hands: Skinner v. Oklahoma and the Near-Triumph of American Eugenics Jewish Justices of the Supreme Court: From Brandeis to Kagan (Brandeis Series in American Jewish History, Culture, and Life) The Supreme Court and Tribal Gaming: California v. Cabazon Band of Mission Indians (Landmark Law Cases & American Society) Plutocrats United: Campaign Money, the Supreme Court, and the Distortion of American Elections The Supreme Court (True Books: American History (Paperback)) Storm Center: The Supreme Court in American Politics (Eleventh Edition) Overruling Democracy: The Supreme Court versus The American People Oral Arguments Before the Supreme Court: An

Empirical Approach (American Psychology-Law Society Series) Supreme Court (American Government Handbooks) The Supreme Court of the United States: A Student Companion (Oxford Student Companions to American Government)

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)