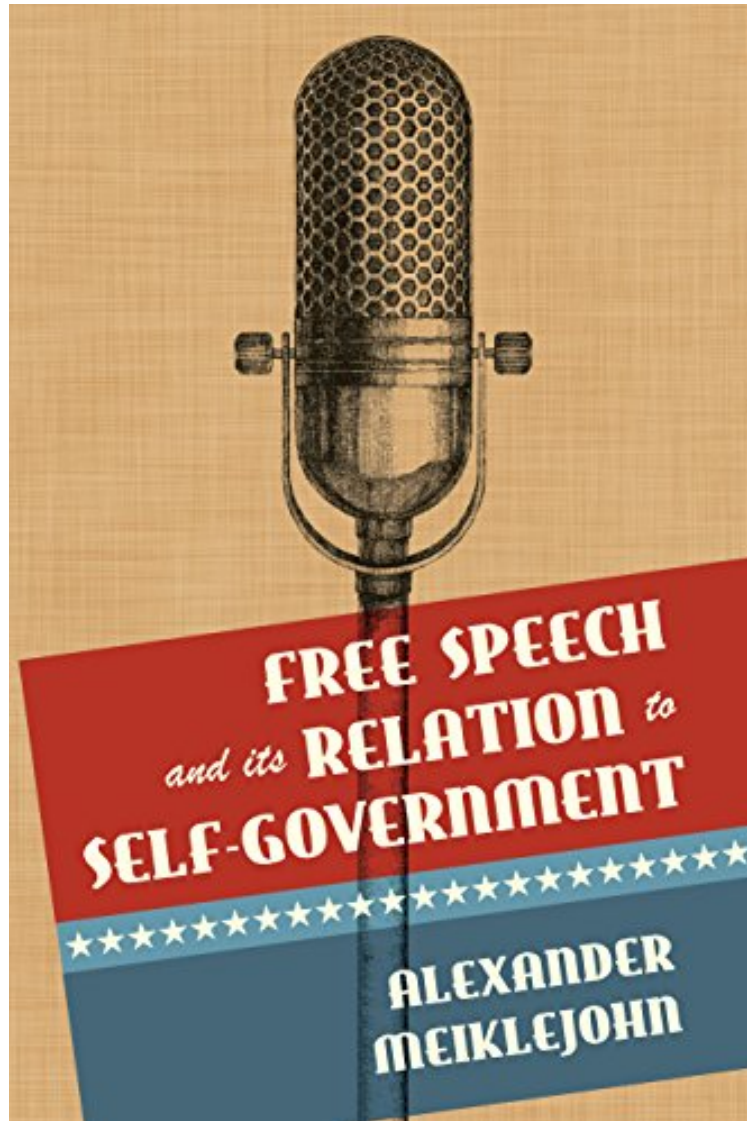


Free Speech and Its Relation to Self-Government

Alexander Meiklejohn

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Alexander Meiklejohn : Free Speech and Its Relation to Self-Government before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Free Speech and Its Relation to Self-Government:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Little-noticed, but deserving of more recognitionBy user0923955Meiklejohn's theory on free speech deeply influenced Supreme Court justices Black and Brennan. Grounding free speech as a pratical necessity of political self-governance, Meiklejohn criticizes Holmes's "clear and present danger" test as insufficiently protection of free speech. Meiklejohn endorses Brandeis' brilliant dissent in Whitney v. California that "those who won our independence were not cowards...they did not exalt order at the cost of

liberty. To courageous, self-reliant men, with confidence in the power of free and fearless reasoning applied through the processes of popular government" there was nothing to fear from the discord and instability that could result from speech. To Meiklejohn, the First Amendment means nothing more and nothing less than the absolute, unconditional, and unqualified right of all persons to comment freely on issues of public interest. Seditious libel, subversive advocacy, and incitement to revolution cannot be crimes in a free and democratic society.

Originally published: New York: Harper Brothers Publishers, [1948]. xiv, 107 pp. Reprint of the sole edition."Dr. Meiklejohn, in a book which greatly needed writing, has thought through anew the foundations and structure of our theory of free speech . . . he rejects all compromise. He reexamines the fundamental principles of Justice Holmes' theory of free speech and finds it wanting because, as he views it, under the Holmes doctrine speech is not free enough. In these few pages, Holmes meets an adversary worthy of him . . . Meiklejohn in his own way writes a prose as piercing as Holmes, and as a foremost American philosopher, the reach of his culture is as great . . . this is the most dangerous assault which the Holmes position has ever borne." -- John P. Frank, *Texas Law Review* 27:405-412. Alexander Meiklejohn [1872-1964] was dean of Brown University from 1901-1913, when he became president of Amherst College. In 1923 Meiklejohn moved to the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he set up an experimental college. He was a longtime member of the National Committee of the American Civil Liberties Union. In 1945 he was a United States delegate to the charter meeting of UNESCO in London. Lectureships have been named for him at Brown University and at the University of Wisconsin. He was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1963.

About the Author Alexander Meiklejohn was president of Amherst College and later founder of the University of Wisconsin's Experimental College in 1928. His other major books include *The Liberal College*, *Free Speech and Its Relation to the Government*, and *Political Freedom*.