Bread, milk and democracy: consumption and citizenship in twentieth-century Britain


Full text not available from this repository.

Official URL: http://www.bergpublishers.com/?TabId=1868&v=180101...

Abstract

Objects and commodities have frequently been studied to assess their position within consumer - or material - culture, but all too rarely have scholars examined the politics that lie behind that culture. This book fills the gap and explores the political and state structures that have shaped the consumer and the nature of his or her consumption. From medieval sumptuary laws to recent debates in governments about consumer protection, consumption has always been seen as a highly political act that must be regulated, directed or organized according to the political agendas of various groups. An internationally renowned group of experts looks at the emergence of the rational consuming individual in modern economic thought, the moral and ideological values consumers have attached to their relationships with commodities, and how the practices and theories of consumer citizenship have developed alongside and within the expanding state. How does consumer identity become available to people and how do they use it? How is consumption negotiated in a dictatorship? Are material politics about state politics, consumer politics, or the relationship between these and consumer practices? From the specifics of the politics of consumption in the French Revolution - what was the status of rum? How complicated did a vinegar recipe have to be before the resultant product qualified as 'luxury' - to the highly contentious twentieth-century debates over American political economy, this original book traces the relationships among political cultures, consumers and citizenship from the eighteenth century to the present.

Book description from publisher's website: http://www.bergpublishers.com/?tabid=1893

Metadata

Item Type: Book Section
School: Birkbeck Schools and Departments > School of Social Sciences, History and Philosophy > History, Classics and Archaeology
Depositing User: Ms Karyn Gowlett
Date Deposited: 24 Sep 2009 14:27
Last Modified: 17 Apr 2013 12:16
URI: http://eprints.bbk.ac.uk/id/eprint/802

Statistics

0 Downloads
899 Hits

Additional statistics are available via IRStats2.

Archive Staff Only (login required)
Edit/View Item
embraced democracy, the citizen-consumer, and civil society; he is at his best in This includes a particularly illuminating discussion of the transition from the politics of cheap bread to the postwar politics of clean milk as More generally, the novelty of this account lies in its pioneering attempt to turn the attention of political historians away from elections and parties towards an understanding of consumption and citizenship as central to the nature of political culture in twentieth-century Britain. Review of Trentmann, Frank, Free Trade Nation: Commerce, Consumption, and Civil Society in Modern Britain. H-Albion, H-Net Reviews. June, 2009. Bread, Milk and Democracy: Consumption and Citizenship in Twentieth-Century Britain Frank Trentmann. 129. Enticement and Deprivation: The Regulation of Consumption in Pre-war Nazi Germany Hartmut Berghoff. Jahrhundert, and is currently working on the history of consumption in twentieth-century Germany. Lizabeth Cohen is the Howard Mumford Jones Professor of American Studies in the history department of Harvard University. She is finishing a book on A Consumers’ Republic: The Politics of Mass Consumption in Postwar America. Gary Cross is Professor of History at the Pennsylvania State University. He is the author of An All-Consuming Century: Why Commercialism Won in Modern America and Kids’ Stuff: Toys and the Changing World of American Childhood.