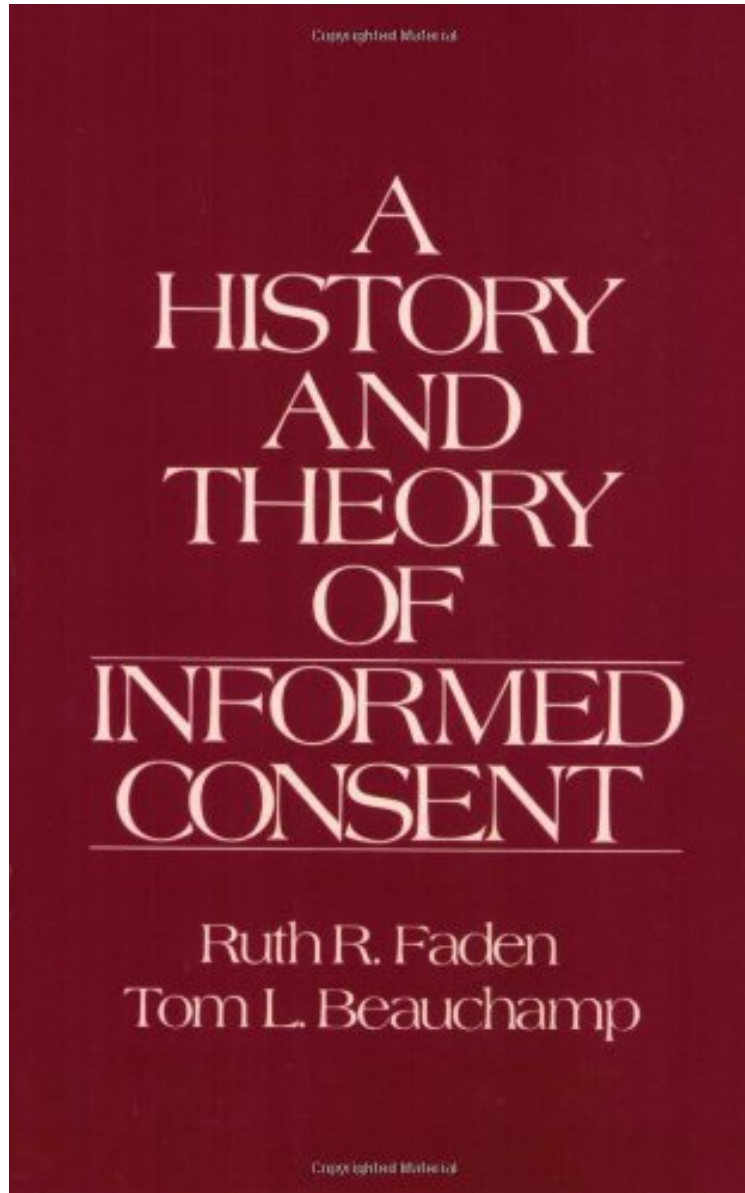


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# A History and Theory of Informed Consent

*Ruth R. Faden, Tom L. Beauchamp*

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**Ruth R. Faden, Tom L. Beauchamp : A History and Theory of Informed Consent** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A History and Theory of Informed Consent:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great account of the history of informed consent until the 80ies.By Eduard GfellerThis is a great introduction to the forces that shaped our understanding of informed consent. The FDA unfortunately, has insisted on providing adequate informed consent to study subjects, but has failed to develop the

concept further in the age of HIPPA. This book provides an excellent start to understanding the trends in informed consent. The age of the benevolent physician making decisions for his patients without their input, is unfortunately not over. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Informed Consent By Customer Within the history portion of the book, my only real objection is that the burgeoning of interest in informed consent that begins in the 1960's is read almost exclusively from within the context of legal and medical thinking (including medical research activity), e.g., the thalidomide scandal, the JCDH scandal, the Tuskegee Syphilis study scandal, and so on. What the authors do not pay sufficient attention to is what was going on in the wider world: the Vietnam War, the Civil Rights movement, Watergate, and all the other explosive events of the 1960's and 1970's that culminated in widespread disaffection with and suspicion of state power. Informed consent, like the rights of patients and research subjects, became a focus of wider public interest at that time because of a generalized suspicion of governmental overstepping of its boundaries and daily evidence of widespread abuses. Those abuses may have existed and certainly did exist before, but recognition of these abuses in the media-intense era of the 1960's was an important factor in stimulating public protest against abuses of governmental power and, by extension, of their rights as patients and research subjects. As the authors themselves acknowledge and even emphasize, had medicine been left to its paternalistic self to police its relationship with patients, nothing would have changed--and, indeed, in practice very little has changed.

Clearly argued and written in nontechnical language, this book provides a definitive account of informed consent. It begins by presenting the analytic framework for reasoning about informed consent found in moral philosophy and law. The authors then review and interpret the history of informed consent in clinical medicine, research, and the courts. They argue that respect for autonomy has had a central role in the justification and function of informed consent requirements. Then they present a theory of the nature of informed consent that is based on an appreciation of its historical roots. An important contribution to a topic of current legal and ethical debate, this study is accessible to everyone with a serious interest in biomedical ethics, including physicians, philosophers, policy makers, religious ethicists, lawyers, and psychologists. This timely analysis makes a significant contribution to the debate about the rights of patients and subjects.

"It ought to become a landmark synthesis in the literature of this important idea in bioethics and law."--Journal of the History of Medicine "A helpful and often authoritative account of informed consent that moves comfortably between empirical and philosophical approaches....An important work within [these] traditional areas."--American Political Science "Faden and Beauchamp's book ranks with the best....A fascinating and important history...a rigorous conceptual analysis."--New England Journal of Medicine "The only comprehensive treatment of a notion that has become increasingly important in a number of areas....Should be required reading for judges, medical professionals, policymakers, philosophers, and researchers in all fields that involve human subjects."--Choice. "A much-needed study of the history in America of the development and theory of informed consent. . . . Well worth reading." --Lineacre Quarterly "An up-to-date compendium of the history of medical, moral, and legal thinking about informed consent, topped off by a provocative and novel interpretation of the conceptual foundations of this important doctrine."--Journal of the American Medical Association "An exhaustive history of informed consent, both in the context of research and treatment...Lucid and informative."--Medical Humanities "Integrates disciplines, issues, perspectives, and time-frames into a thorough, multilayered analysis....The breadth of this work gives it richness and resonance."--Hastings Center Report "In addition to its substantive contribution and its excellent scholarship, A History and Theory of Informed Consent is remarkable for its organization, clarity, and logical exposition. It adds immensely to our capacity to think through the problems of informed consent in both its ethical and procedural senses."--Contemporary Psychology "A fair and balanced treatment of a subject that is often learned by example. It clearly sets forth the history of informed consent in legal and medical practices, providing the reader with a firm grounding in the principles that govern informed consent. Understanding these principles and the reasons behind them will not only help you deliver information more accurately to your patients, but it will also guide you in many decisions that you may have to make when discussing options with patients and their families. This is a lesson with the price of the book." --American Academy of Physician Assistants About the Author Ruth R. Faden is at Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health. Tom L. Beauchamp is at Georgetown University. Nancy M. P. King is at University of North Carolina School of Medicine.