



Last Call: The Rise and Fall of Prohibition

Daniel Okrent

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A brilliant, authoritative, and fascinating history of America's most puzzling era, the years 1920 to 1933, when the U.S. Constitution was amended to restrict one of America's favorite pastimes: drinking alcoholic beverages.

From its start, America has been awash in drink. The sailing vessel that brought John Winthrop to the shores of the New World in 1630 carried more beer than water. By the 1820s, liquor flowed so plentifully it was cheaper than tea. That Americans would *ever* agree to relinquish their booze was as improbable as it was astonishing.

Yet we did, and *Last Call* is Daniel Okrent's dazzling explanation of why we did it, what life under Prohibition was like, and how such an unprecedented degree of government interference in the private lives of Americans changed the country forever.

Writing with both wit and historical acuity, Okrent reveals how Prohibition marked a confluence of diverse forces: the growing political power of the women's suffrage movement, which allied itself with the antiliquor campaign; the fear of small-town, native-stock Protestants that they were losing control of their country to the immigrants of the large cities; the anti-German sentiment stoked by World War I; and a variety of other unlikely factors, ranging from the rise of the automobile to the advent of the income tax.

Through it all, Americans kept drinking, going to remarkably creative lengths to smuggle, sell, conceal, and convivially (and sometimes fatally) imbibe their favorite intoxicants. *Last Call* is peopled with vivid characters of an astonishing variety: Susan B. Anthony and Billy Sunday, William Jennings Bryan and bootlegger Sam Bronfman, Pierre S. du Pont and H. L. Mencken, Meyer Lansky and the incredible—if long-forgotten—federal official Mabel Walker Willebrandt, who throughout the twenties was the most powerful woman in the country. (Perhaps most surprising of all is Okrent's account of Joseph P. Kennedy's legendary, and long-misunderstood, role in the liquor business.)

It's a book rich with stories from nearly all parts of the country. Okrent's narrative runs through smoky Manhattan speakeasies, where relations between the sexes were changed forever; California vineyards busily producing "sacramental" wine; New England fishing communities that gave up fishing for the more lucrative rum-running business; and in Washington, the halls of Congress itself, where politicians who had voted for Prohibition drank openly and without apology.

Last Call is capacious, meticulous, and thrillingly told. It stands as the most complete history of Prohibition ever written and confirms Daniel Okrent's rank as a major American writer.



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Jaleesa Greenwood:

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Melinda Gregory:

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Judy Marinez:

A lot of people always spent their particular free time to vacation or go to the outside with them household or their friend. Were you aware? Many a lot of people spent they free time just watching TV, or even playing video games all day long. If you want to try to find a new activity this is look different you can read a new book. It is really fun for you personally. If you enjoy the book that you simply read you can spent the whole day to reading a book. The book Last Call: The Rise and Fall of Prohibition it is rather good to read. There are a lot of people that recommended this book. These were enjoying reading this book. If you did not have enough space to bring this book you can buy the actual e-book. You can m0ore effortlessly to read this book from your smart phone. The price is not to fund but this book provides high quality.

John Smithers:

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demonstrate the relaxing pattern this is your body and mind is going to be pleased when you are finished studying it, like winning a. Do you want to try this extraordinary paying spare time activity?

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