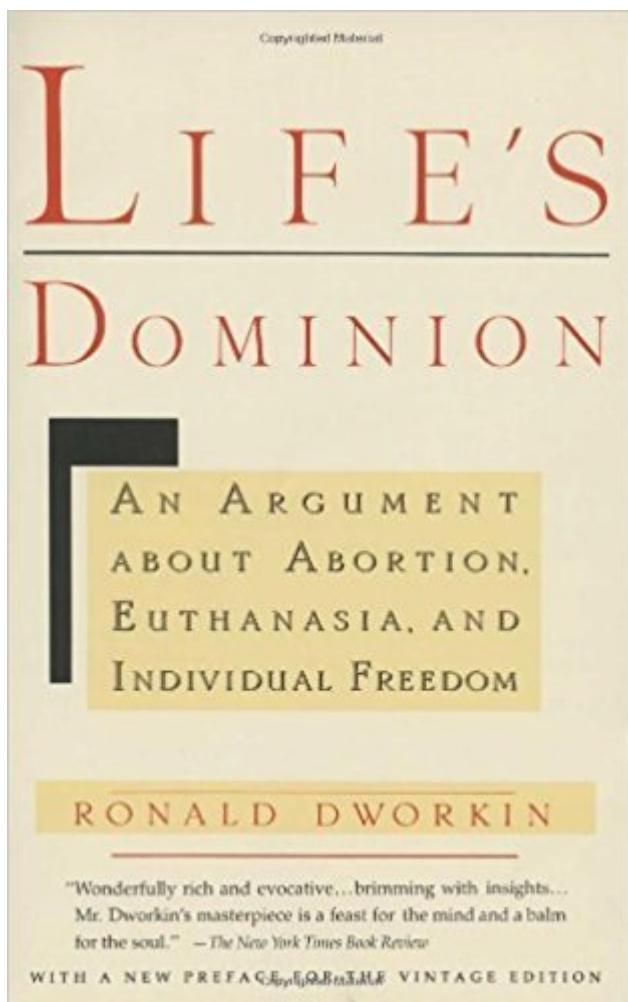


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**Life's Dominion: An Argument About  
Abortion, Euthanasia, And Individual  
Freedom By Dworkin, Ronald  
Published By Vintage 1st (first)  
Vintage Bks , July 1994 Edition (1994)  
Paperback**





## **Synopsis**

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## **Customer Reviews**

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This book tackles really important questions about the sanctity of life, the questions that I feel are purposely glossed over when it comes to abortion and euthanasia debates because the answers, though true, are morbid and against many ideals that society has created regarding life. This book is definitely a keeper.

Good book for my class. Much less expensive than college bookstore prices.

Nicely packaged and a good price for a bulk purchase. I bought it to use as a mordant in dying and the price makes it easy to use the quantities I need to dye large batches.

Amazingly, Dworkin offers a new take on the abortion dispute--and I think a correct one. I don't agree with everything he says, but this book sheds more light on these issues than any other that I have read. I would say that it is the best philosophical book I have read in a long while. Among the many things that I appreciate about this book is that Dworkin along the way also has interesting and insightful things to say about the philosophy of mind, the meaning of life, and the nature of human dignity. If you are at all interested in bio-ethics, the philosophy of the abortion dispute, euthanasia,

or the meaning of life--read this book. I plan to re-read it soon.

I'm reading this book as part of an Ethics and Health Care course and find Dworkin's argument to be a concise moral overview of the current debate on abortion and euthanasia. He does equal justice to views from the Catholic Church to the Women's movement on aspects of abortion and gives those with a less extensive legal background an easily understandable assessment of important precedents and pending legislation. I found his coverage on other systems outside of the US to be lacking, but realize this is not the primary focus of his work. For a better analysis of the current acceptability and status of PAS and euthanasia in the Netherlands look for articles by Van der Maas and Angell in JAMA or the NEJM. Overall, Dworkin does justice to a highly controversial issue with adequate research and moral reasoning. An excellent beginner to understanding abortion and euthanasia.

This book is one of the most amazing and critical inquiries into a socially relevant topic of the 20th century. The arguments are almost flawless, beautifully interwoven with examples, anecdotes and personally relevant stories spanning the whole spectrum of human emotion. This book will not bore you. It will be quite interesting from a humanistic, legal and historical point of view. However, Ronald Dworkin is indeed a liberal philosopher who believes that liberal social policy (in regards to abortion and euthanasia) can coexist with one's belief that life is ever precious. Naturally, conflicting and strict moral belief systems divide conservatives and liberals in regards to such hot-button issues. If you are truly willing to read this book with an open mind, you will not be disappointed and perhaps will become a better and more informed advocate. On the other hand, if you read this book while conceptualizing some circular reasoning debasing Dworkin's every word - in favor of a verse from the bible - this book is certainly not for you!

I was actually looking forward to reading this book. I came with an open mind and yet the poor writing and lack of credible arguments astounded me. How is this author a scholar and still able to write weakly biased material that is published by a major house? I would recommend not reading this book no matter what your stance is on these topics. If you agree with the author, you may be blinded by your beliefs to embrace his skewed logic, and if you disagree, you will get a bad impression of the actual arguments his side could give.

Dworkin has the right idea in giving reason to believe that some things have intrinsic value because

our intuitions about certain values cannot be explained with only subjective and instrumental values. However, his idea that creative process is what gives something intrinsic value seems wrong to me. The value of some of the things that Dworkin says have intrinsic value seems to be value that can be explained otherwise. Dworkin claims that the flag has intrinsic value, but its value can be explained by instrumental alone--the U.S. flag serves the purpose of representing a country. However, Dworkin's argument is interesting--the idea he has as to how to arrive at intrinsic value through unexplained intuitions is a good one.

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