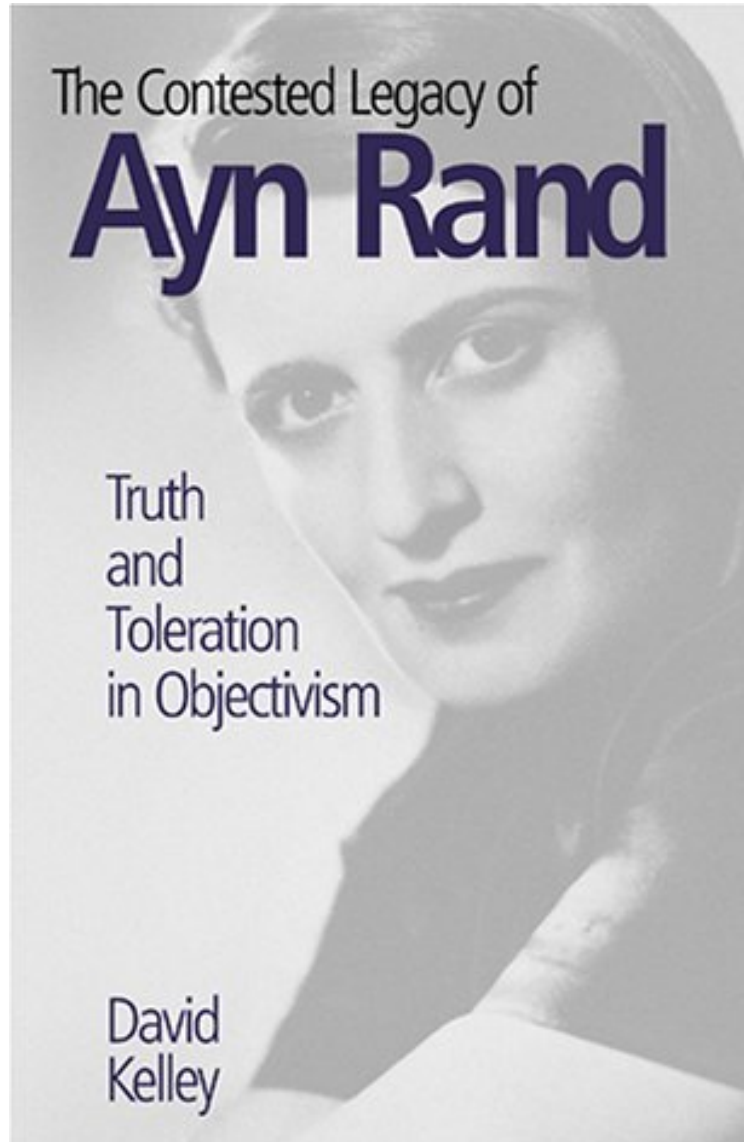


## The Contested Legacy of Ayn Rand: Truth and Toleration in Objectivism

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**From Brand: Transaction Publishers : The Contested Legacy of Ayn Rand: Truth and Toleration in Objectivism** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Contested Legacy of Ayn Rand: Truth and Toleration in Objectivism:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Of biases and truthBy M. J. NaylorI very much enjoyed reading this

well-crafted, well-written, book of 128 pages including index and notes. It is very understandable and the prose is excellent. For me it was a high watermark on how civilized people should respond to hostile, abusive, verbal and written attacks. To me it's not only important that people learn how to agree, but that they also learn how to disagree - AND remain civilized human beings. The author comes across as being both intellectually, as well as, emotionally mature. This is a book without rancor. It is a book in which someone can ruthlessly assault Dr. Kelley's character and then call his followers, "snarling wimps," and the author does not return with a like volley of malevolence. Instead, he searches for underlying principles and truth. One would think that such vicious attacks would come from the enemies of Objectivism, not from its guardians and supporters! 32 of 48 people found the following review helpful. Renewed my excitement for Objectivism. By Mike Anthony... I actually found The Contested Legacy of Ayn Rand: Truth and Toleration in Objectivism far from dull. Why? Because it instilled in me a sense of excitement and appreciation for well-reasoned arguments that I had not experienced since I first started reading Rand's works in the early 1980's. Back then, the more I read, the more my excitement waned. By the time I finished reading every book written by Rand and Peikoff, I decided to give up on Objectivism for two main reasons: Intolerance and Dogmatism. But in this book, Kelley addressed the issues of Moral Judgment, Sanction, Toleration and the nature of Closed/Open Philosophical Systems in such a carefully reasoned way that it has given me a desire to renew my interest in Objectivism. As an Open System, Objectivism can grow and flourish, and is worth investing Time and Rational Effort on. And with the emergence of the Objectivist Center, and other Objectivist organizations independent from Peikoff's Orthodoxy, I believe the Movement is headed in the right direction. If Objectivism remains a Closed System under Peikoff's stewardship (his "Tribal Leadership"), then it is not worthy of any additional expenditure of time, money or energy.

Ayn Rand's philosophical novels *The Fountainhead* and *Atlas Shrugged* made her the most controversial author of her age. Her works have drawn millions of readers and continue to sell at a breathtaking pace. Their impact on American culture runs from libertarian politics to the self-esteem movement in psychology to the rugged individualism of Silicon Valley and the Internet. Rand also launched a movement of intellectuals committed to her philosophy of Objectivism. While it has grown dramatically since Rand's death in 1982, however, the Objectivist movement has also fractured into rival camps whose differences over doctrine and strategy are compounded by competition for leadership and bitter accusations of heresy. In *Truth and Toleration*, philosopher David Kelley analyzes the conflicts that led him to break ranks with orthodox Objectivists and create an independent branch of the movement. Originally published in 1990 as a manifesto, this work has been revised as an analysis of the principles of intellectual collaboration—the terms on which intellectuals and activists can work together in a common cause. Going beyond the immediate issues, Kelley discusses the nature of individual responsibility for the spread of ideas and for their historical consequences. He offers a new argument for toleration based on a non-relativistic theory of truth. He describes the nature of tribalism among intellectuals, showing how the troubled legacy of Ayn Rand has followed a pattern similar to the not-so-civil wars among followers of other original and charismatic thinkers such as Marx and Freud. In a postscript for the second edition, Kelley reviews the growth in Objectivist scholarship and the influence of Rand's ideas over the past decade. *Truth and Toleration* is an engaging introduction to the Objectivist movement, its core ideas, and its central fissures. At the same time, it offers a case study in the sociology of intellectual movements and a frank discussion of the issues that arise whenever thinkers leave their studies to promote their idea in the public realm.

"The Contested Legacy of Ayn Rand represents a precious contribution to the literature of reason." -- Roderick T. Long, Professor of Philosophy, Auburn University "His arguments are bold yet fair; sophisticated yet fully accessible. They are a very significant contribution to Objectivist thought." -- Stephen Cox, Professor of Literature University of California at San Diego About the Author David Kelley is the executive director of the Objectivist Center. Educated at Princeton University, earlier in his career he taught philosophy at Brandeis University and Vassar College. He has written widely on the subject of libertarianism including *The Evidence of the Senses*; *The Art of Reasoning*; and is co-author of *The Logical Structure of Objectivism*.