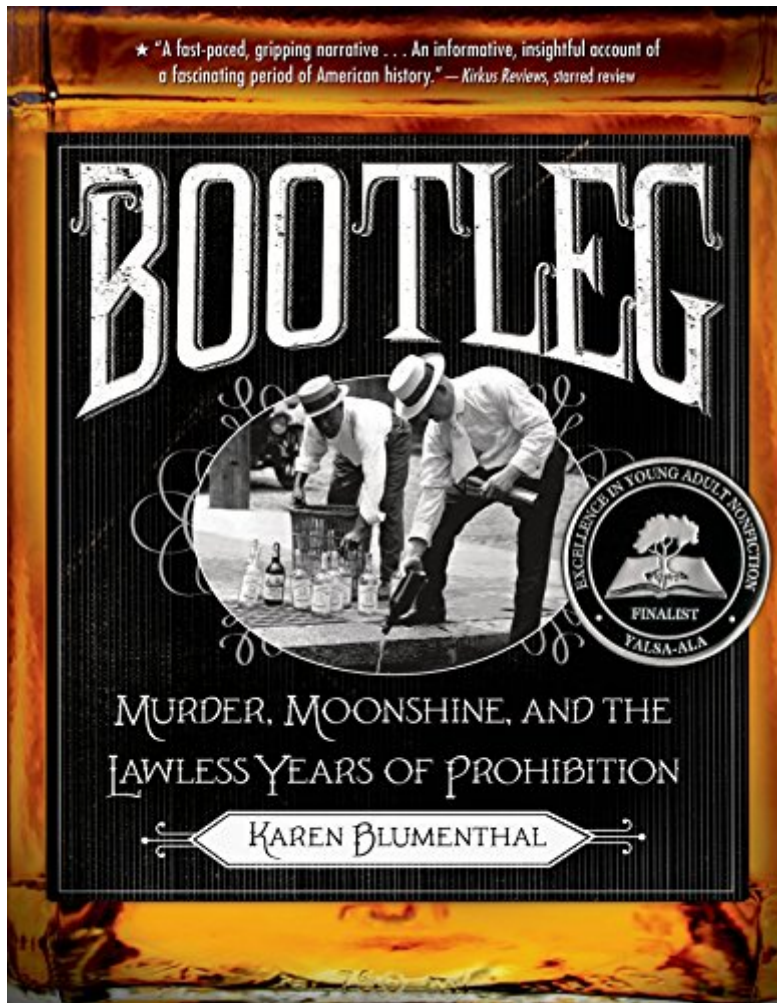




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# Bootleg: Murder, Moonshine, And The Lawless Years Of Prohibition



## Synopsis

It began with the best of intentions. Worried about the effects of alcohol on American families, mothers and civic leaders started a movement to outlaw drinking in public places. Over time, their protests, petitions, and activism paid off—when a Constitutional Amendment banning the sale and consumption of alcohol was ratified, it was hailed as the end of public drunkenness, alcoholism, and a host of other social ills related to booze. Instead, it began a decade of lawlessness, when children smuggled (and drank) illegal alcohol, the most upright citizens casually broke the law, and a host of notorious gangsters entered the public eye. Filled with period art and photographs, anecdotes, and portraits of unique characters from the era, this fascinating book looks at the rise and fall of the disastrous social experiment known as Prohibition. *Bootleg* is a 2011 Kirkus Best Teen Books of the Year title. One of School Library Journal's Best Nonfiction Books of 2011. YALSA Excellence in Nonfiction Finalist in 2012.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

As I've said in reviews before, the era of American Prohibition completely and utterly fascinates me for more reasons than I can care to cite. Because I've had the good fortune to read so many of the scholarly efforts exploring this unique period in U.S. history, I've now been directed toward some of the books targeted at readers much younger than I and I'm giving Karen Blumenthal's *BOOTLEG: MURDER, MOONSHINE, AND THE LAWLESS YEARS OF PROHIBITION* an enthusiastic thumbs up. It's a quick read, briskly covering approximately 100 years of American background. How can that be given the fact that Prohibition itself only lasted 13 years? Well, Blumenthal rightly explores the decades that led up to this grand social experiment as there were several important events that culturally set the stage for a voting electorate to get behind such a daunting political achievement. That's a reality many books leave out or only cover superficially; to her credit, Blumenthal embraces what effect Morris Sheppard, Carrie Nation, and a handful of important others had on society-at-large. At a lean 130 pages, *BOOTLEG* clearly doesn't fathom the depths of these events. Instead, Blumenthal keeps the target focused on young readers, choosing to present perhaps only the more colorful players that set America on the path to enacting the Eighteenth Amendment. In fact, the first half of her work concentrates on the formative incidents, leaving the second half free to investigate the people who made Prohibition what it was: bootlegger Bill McCoy, cultural pioneer Henry Ford, and (naturally) mobster Al Capone. Because I have read so much of this subject matter, it would be easy to brush aside *BOOTLEG* and criticize its brevity. However, it's precisely because I have read so much that I can attest to the book serving as one of the best functional explanations of how a nation got itself into such a predicament and what lengths they were forced to consider to get itself out of it. Sure, it's a quick read as I took it all in in a single sitting of a few hours but it was a great summation of why *The Roaring Twenties* properly earned the moniker. HIGHEST RECOMMENDATION POSSIBLE. Adults might not be fulfilled but young one and teens looking for a terrific book for a book report or to expand on what you've learned in class couldn't do better than sharing a few hours with Karen Blumenthal's *BOOTLEG: MURDER, MOONSHINE, AND THE LAWLESS YEARS OF PROHIBITION*. It's a dynamic telling of a fairly dark era in America's past.

I can only give this book a 3 because it is such a brief history of the era. I think it is certainly factually

correct and hits many of the highlights but so much of details have been left out. To get a really good read on the events leading up to and the end of this fascinating time in our country's history, buy Last Call by Daniel Okrent. Available at .com.

My students loved the book. One kid actually snuck it out of the classroom to finish reading it at home.

A short read that gives a brief history. Guess I was looking for something with more detail. I should have checked the page count before I purchased.

As a teacher, I found this book to be not only interesting, but useful for use in the classroom as a supplement to the textbook.

I bought this for my grandson. He needs it for school. I started reading it and found it very interesting.

Trying to research the Prohibition era, and this book was a great overall reference.

Good book for middle school or high school students. Easy and fast to read.

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