

While it may seem that debates over euthanasia began with Jack Kervorkian, the practice of mercy killing extends back to Ancient Greece and beyond. In America, the debate has raged for well over a century. Now, in *A Merciful End*, Ian Dowbiggin offers the first full-scale historical account of one of the most controversial reform movements in America. Drawing on unprecedented access to the archives of the Euthanasia Society of America, interviews with important figures in the movement today, and flashpoint cases such as the tragic fate of Karen Ann Quinlan, Dowbiggin tells the dramatic story of the men and women who struggled throughout the twentieth century to change the nation's attitude--and its laws--regarding mercy killing. In tracing the history of the euthanasia movement, he documents its intersection with other progressive social causes: women's suffrage, birth control, abortion rights, as well as its uneasy pre-WWII alliance with eugenics. Such links brought euthanasia activists into fierce conflict with Judeo-Christian institutions who worried that the right to die might become a duty to die. Indeed, Dowbiggin argues that by joining a sometimes overzealous quest to maximize human freedom with a desire to improve society, the euthanasia movement has been dogged by the fear that mercy killing could be extended to persons with disabilities, handicapped newborns, unconscious geriatric patients, lifelong criminals, and even the poor. Justified or not, such fears have stalled the movement, as more and more Americans now prefer better end-of-life care than wholesale changes in euthanasia laws. For anyone trying to decide whether euthanasia offers a humane alternative to prolonged suffering or violates the sanctity of life, *A Merciful End* provides fascinating and much-needed historical context.

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A Merciful End: The Euthanasia Movement in Modern America - Ian While it may seem that debates over euthanasia began with Jack Kervorkian, the practice of mercy killing extends back to Ancient Greece and beyond. **A Merciful End: The Euthanasia Movement in Modern America** Elizabeth Lunbeck (1998). Keeping America Sane: Psychiatry and Eugenics in the United States and Canada, 1880-1940 by Ian Robert Dowbiggin. [REVIEW] **A merciful end : the Euthanasia movement in modern America** How did today's debate over euthanasia (taken from the Greek word for good death) become so divisive in American society? In *A Merciful End* Ian Dowbiggin **A Merciful End: The Euthanasia Movement in Modern America** Now, in *A Merciful End*, Ian Dowbiggin offers the first full-scale historical account of one of the most controversial reform movements in America. Drawing on **A Merciful End: The Euthanasia Movement in Modern America, by** *A Merciful End* has 14 ratings and 1 review. Lucy said: Very interesting and informative. Follows the historical timeline of the euthanasia movement in Am **A Merciful End: The Euthanasia Movement in Modern America** **A merciful end : the euthanasia movement in modern America.** Responsibility: Ian Dowbiggin. Imprint: New York : Oxford University Press, 2003. Physical **A Merciful End: The Euthanasia Movement in Modern America - Ian** **A merciful end : the Euthanasia movement in modern by Ian R Dowbiggin. A merciful end : the Euthanasia movement in modern America. by Ian R Dowbiggin. Merciful End Euthanasia Movement Video** Find helpful customer reviews and review ratings for *A Merciful End: The Euthanasia Movement in Modern America* at . Read honest and unbiased **A Merciful End - Ian Dowbiggin - Oxford University Press** Bulletin of the History of Medicine 78.1 (2004) 259-260 This book contains many engaging stories about the euthanasia movement in the

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