

## Lawrence (Larry) Lader (1919-2006) – Founding Father of Abortion



Amid today's labeling of white supremacists, bashing white men who know nothing about women's health, and untenable sexual abuse and exploitation of women, it may come as a surprise to learn that legalized abortion was introduced, promoted, and advanced by Larry Lader – a white man, who today is revered as the [“The Founding Father of Abortion.”](#)

Abortion had rightly been viewed as a societal taboo, but that all changed with Lader's revolution to normalize the killing of unborn and unwanted children. Long-standing social pressures had forced a man to care for a child conceived outside of marriage, and women could legally pursue a man who impregnated her. There was strong family and community support for both the couple and the baby. The 19th century, however, saw a rise in abortion activity, which was initially prevalent among the young female servant class of immigrants without family, giving rise to prostitution.

For mainstream America, abortion was thought barbaric. Wealthy women would find willing medical doctors to perform abortion and the poor sought abortions in back alleys. Even [Margaret Sanger objected](#) to legalized abortion. When she drove by prostitutes standing in line for their abortions, she [saw birth control as the solution](#). Lader viewed this differently. He envisioned a day when the social stigma of abortion would be removed. Abortion would be safe, provided on demand, by doctors, and federally funded. To achieve this, he said: [“every revolution has to have a villain.”](#) To grab attention he needed to shift, divert, divide, and confuse the issue. He targeted the women's movement, doctors, and, his villain – the [hierarchy of the Catholic Church](#), -under the guise of population control, medical safety, and women empowerment.

Finding power, clout and influence in his pen – Lader wrote articles that interested him. He re-shaped social order, coined new language, and fed a narrative that ignored truth, facts, and laws. By hoodwinking, seducing, and coercing powers of influence, he was hell-bent to legalize abortion and promote unrestricted sexual freedom.

He wasn't a researcher or scientist, rather, a journalist with an agenda, determined to make a name for himself. He was successful! [Cited](#) at least seven times, as a material expert, in the 1973 Roe V. Wade Supreme Court decision – this would hardly be the crescendo to his life's work. He turned revolutionary activist – unsuccessfully suing the Catholic Church, and at age 76, in 1992 he launched a campaign to legalize and distribute the abortion drug, RU486.

Lader, an atheist, with wealthy Jewish roots, grew up in New York City. He went to Harvard University, where he discovered Karl Marx. After graduating in 1941, he served in World War II, working for Armed Forces Radio. His war dispatches published in the New York Times, launched his career as a journalist, where his work appeared in [numerous leading publications](#). He aspired to be a published author.

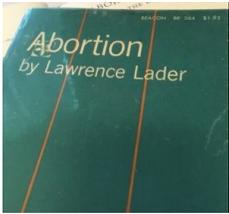


Karl Marx

During this time, he met Betty Friedan, author of the [Feminine Mystique](#), through Jean MaInnis (whom he dated and later married). MaInnis had extreme ideas for the times: She kept her maiden name and they had separate bank accounts. The [short-lived marriage](#) ended in divorce in 1946.

Lader forged relationships with the elite and influential (most notably, Margaret Sanger), who aligned with his radical thoughts of [Malthusianism](#) and [Eugenics](#). Malthusianism is a population theory that absolves wealthier segments of society from the responsibility of caring for the poor, by reducing the number of people born. [Eugenics](#), Darwin's evolutionary theory, 'survival of the fittest', seeks to limit the fertility of the poor and the unfit.

Lader's first book, *The Biography of Margaret Sanger*, was published in 1955. He spent three years interviewing her, referring to himself as "her [disciple](#)," and he also said she was "the greatest influence on his life." In 1966, Bobbs-Merill published Lader's second book. Simply titled: "Abortion", the first words stated: "Abortion is the dreaded secret of our society." In an article in the [Los Angeles Times in 1995](#), Lader reflected: He thought he was simply writing a book, "I had no idea of getting involved in a campaign."



At the [press conference](#) announcing the publication of his book, Lader told reporters he had received hundreds of inquiries from women seeking an abortion doctor. In that moment, he decided to not just write about abortion, but do something about it. When women asked for an abortion, he referred over 2,000 to a willing doctor.

In 1967 Lader met obstetrician and gynecologist, [Dr. Bernard Nathanson](#) at a dinner party. Nathanson, also a [Jewish Atheist](#), was "[swept up](#)" by Lader's anti-authoritarianism, and wanted to be involved in "[brewing up a revolution](#)". He performed "therapeutic abortions" and was disturbed with the deaths caused by illegal abortions. For Lader, having an obstetrician on his team would help legitimize abortion as a legal medical procedure.

With a budget of \$3,500, the two men founded the National Association for the Repeal of Abortion Laws (NARAL) in 1969. (Today, known as NARAL – Pro-Choice America). On a mission, they had their villain, and a strategy: To convince the media and the public that the Catholic hierarchy was imposing its will on America. They would portray Catholics as opposed to the hierarchy; and they would support them in public office as "[heroes who oppose abortion for themselves, but believe our church should not impose its will on our non-Catholic neighbors](#)." They wanted to make this a church-state issue and expose the tax-deductible lobbying effort of Catholics.

Over the next few years, Lader and Nathanson were inseparable, tenaciously lobbying state legislatures to repeal prohibitions against abortion. Utilizing [unscrupulous tactics](#) they made up numbers of deaths/year of botched abortions. Their efforts were not gaining traction, until Lader came up with the idea to link legal abortion to the popular and growing feminist movement. "[If we're going to move abortion out of the books and into the streets, we're going to have to recruit the feminists. Friedan has got to put her troops into this thing – while she still has control of them.](#)"

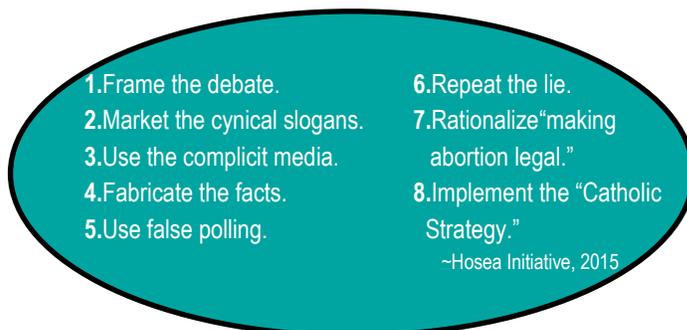
Lader and Nathanson convinced Friedan, the founder of National Organization of Women (NOW) to see legal abortion as a civil and basic human rights issue. Originally Friedan and executives of Planned Parenthood opposed abortion, believing it degraded women and gave too much power to men, but Lader was clever and strategic. Noting that American women like choice, he coined the language of the movement today – "Pro-Choice", "a woman's right to control her own body", and a "woman's right to choose."

Friedan never mentioned abortion in her first edition of the [Feminine Mystique](#), however Lader successfully persuaded her to use her platform to promote abortion as "liberating and empowering" to women. She joined them at NARAL. The jargon of the women's movement, caught on and was adopted by Planned Parenthood's then president, Alan Guttmacher. At the end of Betty Friedan's life, she [expressed her regret](#) for the narrative and the path the woman's movement had ultimately taken.

Nathanson had regrets too. As an obstetrician and gynecologist in New York City, Nathanson oversaw at least 75,000 abortions between 1970 and 1979, of which, 5,000 he performed himself. He earned the nickname: Abortion King. By 1973 the advancement of ultrasound technology, helped him see abortion for what it is and the pain the fetus experiences.

Nathanson became Pro-life, and to Lader's chagrin, converted to Catholicism in 1996. Were it not for his complete change of heart, we would never know the truth about Lader's power, influence, and lies to ram rod abortion down Americans' throats.

In 2009, at age 83, Bernard Nathanson met with Terry Beatley of the Hosea Initiative. He told her the 8-point Propaganda Strategy that he and Lader developed for NARAL to convince America that abortion is "[women's healthcare](#)." Beatley promised Nathanson that she would share this with lawmakers and clergy, so the people knew the truth. Here is [the strategy](#) used to deceive America:



In her book, Subverted, author, Sue Ellen Browder concisely and brilliantly lays out her experience as a columnist for Cosmopolitan, the fictitious stories she told about the Women's sexual revolution and how Larry Lader hijacked the women's movement; it is a must read! Like Nathanson, Sue Ellen converted to Catholicism.

In her book, Sue Ellen explains: We would never have known it was Lader who at last persuaded Betty to insert abortion into NOW's package of "women's rights" if it weren't for the written testimony of a third party who eye-witnessed events as they unfolded beneath the scenes. This eye-witness was Bernard "Bernie" Nathanson, M.D., director of one of the world's largest abortion clinics. Nathanson worked with Lader in the late 1960's to found NARAL, the first organization set up to repeal US abortion laws." ~ Sue Ellen Browder, Subverted, p. 51

Dr. Nathanson died in 2011. A friend reflected on two lessons learned by Nathanson's life: "**First – truth will prevail, and overcome darkness, second: We in the pro-life movement have no enemies to destroy. Our weapons are chaste weapons of the spirit: *truth and love*. Our task is less to defeat our opponents than to win them to the cause of life. To be sure, we must oppose the culture and politics of death resolutely and with a determination to win. But there is no one – *no one*- whose heart is so hard that he or she *cannot* be won over. Let us not lose faith in the power of our weapons to transform even the most resolute abortion advocates.**" ~ [Robert P George, Feb. 27, 2011](#)

Maine Right To Life encourages our members to trust that the truth will prevail. Let the stories of conversion of some of the most ardent pro-abortion turned pro-life advocates be a beacon of hope, and a call to action to each of us, that simple actions done in loving and caring ways plant seeds that move and change lives.