

## EXAMPLES OF AMAZON PULLING PRINTED MATERIALS

Amazon is hiding behind the First Amendment so that it can continue to profit from the sale of contraband animal fighting magazines that are among its best selling subscriptions.

**1. Amazon is not a principled defender of the First Amendment – it has pulled materials on at least ten recent occasions, some of which are fully protected by the First Amendment.**

- Amazon removed a Star Wars book cover without explanation; film industry experts speculated that someone had complained it would give a sneak-peek of a new character in an upcoming movie.
- At the request of Scientologists, Amazon removed a book that was critical of Scientology, stating that, “under certain circumstances, for legal reasons, we need to stop selling a book.” Amazon later reversed itself, stating that “the original decision . . . seemed like the right decision at the time . . . [b]ut like so many decisions, once you start peeling a decision, like an onion, you say maybe there’s a better way to handle this.”
- In response to requests, Amazon.com no longer ships materials containing Nazi propaganda to Germany.
- Amazon.co.uk removed a controversial book involving the Ulster Unionist Party and the Catholic Church.
- Amazon removed its links to and from a website that featured autopsy photos of NASCAR drivers, because in Amazon’s view the photos were “too graphic.”
- In response to criticism from “Dr. Laura” Schlessinger during her radio show, Amazon removed a book that evangelical groups characterized as “kiddie porn.”
- For undisclosed “legal reasons,” Amazon.co.uk will not sell “House of Bush, House of Saud,” a book that examines the links between President Bush’s administration and wealthy families in Saudi Arabia. Unlike the cockfighting magazines, which are not sold by any other seller, this book is widely sold in bookstores in the US and UK.
- Amazon removed an image of a book cover that showed a plane flying through the top of a building shaped like a needle, out of concern that the image too closely resembled the attack on the World Trade Center.

**2. Amazon also abandons the First Amendment with regard to its own policies, which ban the sale of twenty-three categories of objectionable materials, many of which include fully protected materials.**

The twenty-three categories of materials banned by Amazon include sexually explicit materials, crime-scene photographs, textbook answer keys, and a pick-and-choose category for everything else that “we [Amazon] deem offensive,” which “is probably about what you would expect.” The dog fighting DVD include sexually explicit footage.

**3. Amazon is also ignoring its own policy, which claims to prohibit the sale of “illegal items” as well as “any product which may lead to the production of an illegal item or illegal activity.”**

The animal fighting magazines are not only illegal in and of themselves, but they also unquestionably lead to illegal animal fighting, animal cruelty, and trafficking in fighting animals and weapons, as well as illegal gambling activity.