



# Banned But Not Beaten

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Confronting Book Bans from a Utilitarian Perspective



# Background & Concerns

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- Book banning targets many books that promote diverse identities and antiracism.
- Banned books often feature LGBTQ+ themes and authors of color.
- State legislators are initiating bans to threaten free expression, unlike typical local community-led challenges.

# Utilitarian analysis

Applying utilitarian ethics reveals book bans fail to promote the greatest societal good and instead disproportionately harm marginalized groups.

The supposed benefits of protecting children and upholding values are minimal and unproven compared to the harms caused.

# How We Can Resist



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