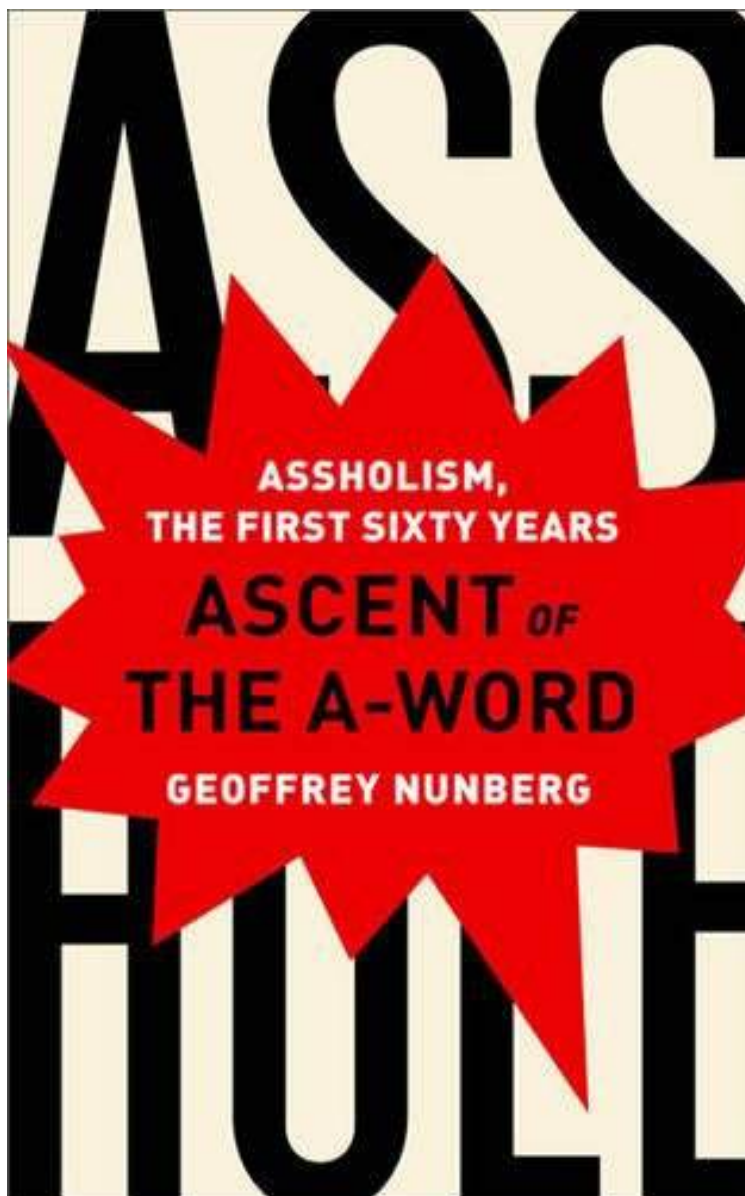


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By Geoffrey Nunberg

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45 of 47 review helpful A for Ascent of the A Word By Robert I Sutton I have read this book twice in the last month once in an advanced copy sent to me by the publisher and again this week when my copy arrived It is so much fun to read and so well researched that I couldn't put it down As the author of a book that is also on the A word publishers send me books like this constantly on bullying jerks nasty talk It first surfaced in the gripes of GIs during World War II and was captured early on by the typewriter of a young Norman Mailer Within a generation it had become a basic notion of our everyday moral life replacing older reproaches like lout and heel with a single inclusive category ndash ndash a staple of country outlaw songs Neil Simon plays and Woody Allen movies Feminists made it their stock rebuke for male insensitivity the est movement used it for the Kirkus s What exactly does it mean to call someone an asshole When did the epithet come to prominence as a social and now political invective Who are some of the biggest assholes in the public eye today These are just a few of the questions that lingu

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