

Original Intent

Robert H. Bork

Robert H. Bork is a conservative legal scholar, cultural theorist and high profile advocate of Originalism. As a theoretical basis for the interpretation of the US Constitution, his use of Original Intent was subject to intense criticism. Consequently he has adopted the position of Original Understanding.

Under Richard Nixon he served as Solicitor General, acceding to Acting Attorney General to perpetrate the “Saturday Night Massacre” during the Watergate affair.

In 1987, whilst serving as a circuit judge in the US Court of Appeals, he was nominated by Ronald Reagan to the Supreme Court. The fierce opposition to his appointment, split largely down party lines and focussing acutely on his personal politics led Senator Edward Kennedy to exclaim “Robert Bork's America is a land in which women would be forced into back-alley abortions, blacks would sit at segregated lunch counters, rogue police could break down citizens' doors in midnight raids, schoolchildren could not be taught about evolution, writers and artists could be censored at the whim of government...” The hearings, and the fervent partisan lobbying, explicitly revealed that the Supreme Court had now become a political prize. His subsequent failure to be confirmed by the Senate introduced a new verb to the dictionary: “to bork”.

Ironically, given his conviction regarding the lack of a Constitutional guarantee for privacy, publication during the hearings of his video rental history lead to the US Video Privacy Protection Act.

Though perhaps most notorious for his high profile Supreme Court battle and failure, his subsequent membership of 'think tanks' the AEI and Hudson Institute, his legal consultancy and best-selling books and articles on law and culture, have kept Robert H. Bork in demand as a scholar and commentator to this day~

MacGuffin

The term "MacGuffin" is used in cinema to describe an enigmatic object that generates narrative drive. A common tool of the thriller genre, its defining characteristic is its vital importance to the characters of the story. In its most elegant usage this desire may not be substantiated by the object itself; the counterfeit statuette that propels the violent narrative of *The Maltese Falcon* is one such example. In conversation with Francois Truffaut, Alfred Hitchcock explained the MacGuffin as follows: It might be a Scottish name, taken from a story about two men on a train. One man says, "What's that package up there in the baggage rack?" And the other answers, "Oh, that's a MacGuffin." The first one asks, "What's a MacGuffin?" "Well," the other man says, "it's an apparatus for trapping lions in the Scottish Highlands." The first man says, "But there are no lions in the Scottish Highlands," and the other one answers, "Well then, that's no MacGuffin!"

Mike Cooter, august, 2007