## **Contents**

Preface	ix
1	
Understanding Censorship	
Challenging Information	3
"What Is Book Banning? And What Isn't?" Ken Paulson, <i>Free Speech Center at Middle Tennessee State University,</i> April 29, 2024	12
"'Don't Say Gay' Rules and Book Bans Might Have Felt Familiar in Medieval Europe" Jessica Hines, <i>The Conversation</i> , May 16, 2024	15
"What You Need to Know About the Book Bans Sweeping the U.S." Morgan Gilbard, <i>Teachers College at Columbia University</i> , September 2023	18
"Manuscripts Don't Burn: A Timeline of Literary Censorship" Dan Sheehan and Lisa Tolin, PEN America, July 13, 2023	22
"Politics and School Libraries: What Shapes Students' Access to Controversial Content" Kirsten Slungaard Mumma, Brookings Institution, February 14, 2023	33
2	
A New Era of Censorship	
Censorship in the 2020s	41
"Here's the Long List of Topics Republicans Want Banned from the Classroom" Sara Schwartz and Eesha Pandharkar, <i>Education Week</i> , February 2, 2022	46
"After National Backlash, Florida Lawmakers Eye Changes to Book Restrictions" Andrew Atterbury, <i>Politico</i> , January 19, 2024	52
"New Report: Book Bans Spike by 33% over Last School Year" PEN America, September 21, 2023	55
"Who's Behind the Escalating Push to Ban Books? A New Report Has Answers" Eesha Pendharkar, <i>Education Week</i> , September 28, 2022	58

## **Controversial Ideas**

Race and Gender in Book Bans	63
"Narratives About Critical Race Theory and Americans' Belief About Public Schools" Ariell Bertrand, Melissa Arnold Lyon, and Rebecca Jacobsen, <i>Brookings Institution</i> , January 25, 2024	71
"Efforts to Ban Critical Race Theory Have Been Put Forth in all but One State—and Many Threaten Schools with a Loss of Funds" Taifha Natalie Alexander, <i>The Conversation</i> , April 7, 2023	75
"Now the Most Challenged and Banned Book, <i>Gender Queer</i> Was Written to Give Teenagers the Guidance That Author Maia Kobabe Never Had" PEN America, May 3, 2023	77
"Killing the Indians in 2023: Book Banning Seeks to Erase Native Americans—Opinion" Debbie Reese, <i>School Library Journal</i> , October 25, 2023	80
4	
Censorship and the Law	
The Legal Debate	85
"Congress Introduces New Bill to Fight Book Bans in Schools" Andrew Albanese, <i>Publisher's Weekly</i> , December 6, 2023	91
"State Laws Are Behind Many Book Bans, Even Indirectly, Report Finds" Eesha Pendharkar, <i>Education Week</i> , May 19, 2023	93
"Illinois Set to Become First State to End Book Bans" Shia Kapos, <i>Politico</i> , May 3, 2023	97
"Penguin Random House, PEN America, Authors and Parents Sue Florida County for Removing Books on Race and LGBTQ Themes" Sarah Mokrzycki, <i>The Conversation,</i> May 19, 2023	100
"Anti-Censorship Legislation: A Flawed Attempt to Address a Legitimate Problem" Daveed Ross-Gartenstein, Madison Urban, and Cody Wilson, <i>Lawfare</i> , July 27, 2022	104

## 5

## **Education and Activism**

Librarians and Students React to Book Banning	115
"How Teachers Can Stay True to History Without Breaking New Laws That Restrict What They Can Teach About Racism" W. Fitzhugh Brundage, <i>The Conversation</i> , June 2, 2023	122
"'Are You There, God?' Reminds Us Why Books Are Still Banned, Even in the Digital Age" Joanna Weiss, <i>Politico</i> , April 29, 2023	125
"How School Libraries Buy Books, Struggle for Funds, and Confront Book Bans: An Explainer" Mark Lieberman, <i>Education Week</i> , February 27, 2023	129
"Anti-CRT Bills Are Aimed to Incite the GOP Base—Not Parents" William H. Frey, Brookings Institution, May 30, 2022	135
"How Teens Benefit from Being Able to Read 'Disturbing' Books That Some Want to Ban" Gay Ivey, <i>The Conversation</i> , February 29, 2024	142
"Book Bans and the Librarians Who Won't Be Hushed" Elaine McArdle, <i>Harvard Graduate School of Education</i> , November 6, 2023	146
Bibliography Websites Index	153 157 161