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## ***Victorian Illusions: The Morality of Pornography and the American Character 1925 – 2015***

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### **Abstract**

The relationship between pornography and American morality is a complex and evolving issue that reflects broader cultural, political, and social dynamics. An examination of the 1957 Supreme Court case, *Roth v. United States*, enlightening our understanding of early framework regarding pornography and obscenity, and the 1964 Supreme Court case, *Jacobellis v. Ohio*, which explored the issue of obscenity in the context of films and set the precedent of subjective determination or “I know it when I see it,” informs my argument that over the course of the 20th and early 21st centuries, the moral attitudes toward pornography in the United States have undergone significant shifts, influenced by changes in law, technology, gender relations, and the nation's evolving ideas about personal freedom, sexuality, and privacy.

My research, partially informed by the Linda Williams 1999 book, *The Pornography Wars: The Struggle to Control America's Pornographic Industry*, traces the development of the morality of pornography in the United States between 1925 and 2015, by examining the interplay between social conservatism, evolving cultural norms, and shifts in American character during this period.

**Keywords:** morality of pornography, american character, issue of obscenity, social conservatism, cultural norms.