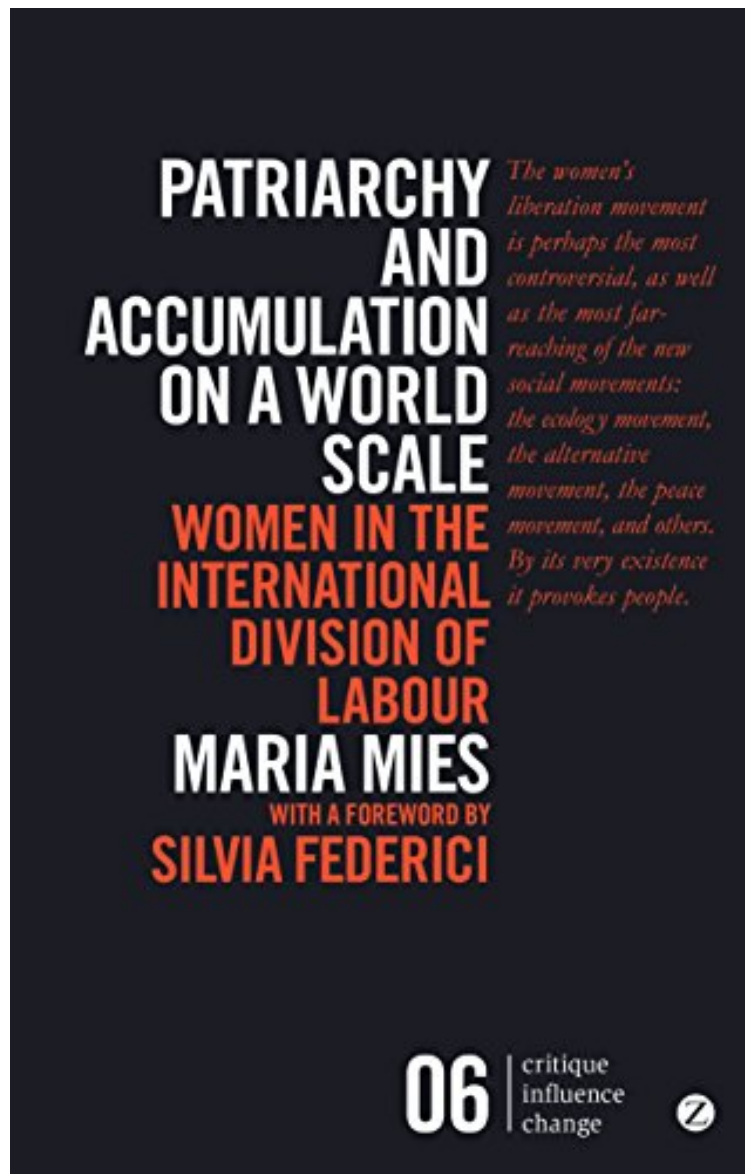


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Patriarchy and Accumulation on a World Scale: Women in the International Division of Labour (Critique Influence Change)

Maria Mies

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Maria Mies : Patriarchy and Accumulation on a World Scale: Women in the International Division of Labour (Critique Influence Change) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Patriarchy and Accumulation on a World Scale: Women in the International Division of Labour (Critique Influence Change):

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. An In-depth Analysis of the Destructive Nature of Capitalism and Patriarchy By tjasintoWow. I'm really surprised that no one has reviewed this book either in support of it or against it. Even though this book is more than a quarter of a century old, the concepts within it are more relevant today than they were when Mies wrote this back in the mid 1980's. Mies predicted the impact of unrestrained capitalism (born in the wake of the Cold War) on the atomization of women from all socio-economic backgrounds and across all borders. Mies offers within this book, an in-depth analysis of a concept she has coined as the process of 'housewifization', where in capitalist institutions shape global policy and perception in order to exploit women in the role of laborers from the underdeveloped world, who produce non-productive consumer goods for consumption by women living in the developed world, who are objectified by capitalist systems and mobilized as one unifying class of housewives as consumers of these goods and services. Mies also details the interplay between the advent of automation and technology within the production process and how these processes have played a role in the dehumanization of people and the destruction of our environment. Mies does invoke some Marxist ideology within her writing but with a gender twist, something that Marx did not acknowledge in his analysis of capitalism. This book is a must read for students of gender studies, history, economics, geography and politics.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A neglected class on feminist economics By chineseflowers This is a neglected classic by an eminent German political economist. Feminists who have focused on analyzing the cultural manifestations of patriarchy will find it an eye-opener as it explains feminist economics. Learn how women produce most of the world's food but are not allowed to accumulate a surplus on their wages, to own or manage more than a tiny fraction of the world's private land, and are the unpaid "base" of market economics with their subsistence, domestic, and reproductive labor. An inspiring writer with an important economic analysis.

6 of 7 people found the following review helpful. If You Read One Book in Your Life ... By Emma This must be the worst book summary on . "Patriarchy and Accumulation on a World Scale" answers EVERYTHING. How capitalism grew out of patriarchy, the "blind spot" of Marx that includes most of humanity, the invention of the housewife, how "first world" and "third world" women are two sides of the same fabric, violence against women, violence against subsistence workers, the new international male culture, body autonomy, how women's labor is rendered invisible, the failure of socialist states, the implications of technological advancement, and the increasing "housewifization" of labor (which has unfolded exactly as she predicted in the ensuing 30 years). If that's not enough for one (elegantly written) book, Mies goes on to introduce a NEW THEORY OF LABOR which is stunning in its aptness. She also lays out a vision for women across the globe uniting against the international division of labor. I could hardly contain myself in the joy of having all these seemingly contradictory pieces of a horrible (patriarchal capitalist) puzzle finally aligned so succinctly in my head. In sum, this is the most important book I have ever read. My only critique of the book is Mies' theory of the evolution of patriarchy. It veers into biological determinism, while the same breath claiming to denounce biological determinism. It is perplexing, and I wish I could ask her to clarify her thinking directly. But do not let this deter you: Her thinking everywhere else is clear and prophetic.

'It is my thesis that this general production of life, or subsistence production - mainly performed through the non-wage labour of women and other non-wage labourers as slaves, contract workers and peasants in the colonies - constitutes the perennial basis upon which "capitalist productive labour" can be built up and exploited.' First published in 1986, Maria Mies's progressive book was hailed as a major paradigm shift for feminist theory, and it remains a major contribution to development theory and practice today. Tracing the social origins of the sexual division of labour, it offers a history of the related processes of colonization and 'housewifization' and extends this analysis to the contemporary new international division of labour. Mies's theory of capitalist patriarchy has become even more relevant today. This new edition includes a substantial new introduction in which she both applies her theory to the new globalized world and answers her critics.