

# The Cultural Devastation Of American Women The Strange And Frightening Decline Of The American Fema

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*The Female Complaint* - Lauren Berlant 2008-02-25

The Female Complaint is part of Lauren Berlant's groundbreaking "national sentimentality" project charting the emergence of the U.S. political sphere as an affective space of attachment and identification. In this book, Berlant chronicles the origins and conventions of the first mass-cultural "intimate public" in the United States, a "women's culture" distinguished by a view that women inevitably have something in common and are in need of a conversation that feels intimate and revelatory. As Berlant explains, "women's" books, films, and television shows enact a fantasy that a woman's life is not just her own, but an experience understood by other women, no matter how dissimilar they are. The commodified genres of intimacy, such as "chick lit," circulate among strangers, enabling insider self-help talk to flourish in an intimate public. Sentimentality and complaint are central to this commercial convention of critique; their relation to the political realm is ambivalent, as politics seems both to threaten sentimental values and to provide certain opportunities for their extension. Pairing literary criticism and historical analysis, Berlant explores the territory of this intimate public sphere through close readings of U.S. women's literary works and their stage and film adaptations. Her interpretation of Uncle Tom's Cabin and its literary descendants reaches from Harriet Beecher Stowe to Toni Morrison's *Beloved*, touching on Shirley Temple, James Baldwin, and *The Bridges of Madison County* along the way. Berlant illuminates different permutations of the women's intimate public through her readings of Edna Ferber's *Show Boat*; Fannie Hurst's *Imitation of Life*; Olive Higgins Prouty's feminist melodrama *Now, Voyager*; Dorothy Parker's poetry, prose, and Academy Award-winning screenplay for *A Star Is Born*; the Fay Weldon novel and Roseanne Barr film *The Life and Loves of a She-Devil*; and the queer, avant-garde film *Showboat* 1988-The Remake. *The Female Complaint* is a major contribution from a leading Americanist.

*Comparative Patriarchy and American Institutions* - Francis Feeley 2010-02-19

As Claude Lévi-Strauss wrote in his book, *La pensée sauvage* (Paris, 1960): "biographical and anecdotal history ... is low-powered history, which is not intelligible in itself, and only becomes so when it is transferred en bloc to a form of history of a higher power than itself ... The historian's relative choice ... is always confined to the choice between history which teaches more and explains less and history which explains more and teaches less." This book oscillates between analysis, which tries to explain what man is, and anecdote, which tries to teach what he is capable of becoming. What better approach to understanding patriarchy, beyond learning the formal dictionary definitions of this term, than by examining the richly diverse descriptions of gender relationships found in the following chapters? It is the hope of these authors that the recognition of national differences and gender differences will provide new vantage points from which we may gain wider perspectives on our own prejudices and thereby find fulfillment of our aspirations to become more fully human.

*American Cultural Critics* - David Murray 1995

This collection of essays assesses the work of a number of American intellectuals, including Susan Sontag, F.O. Matthiessen, Daniel Bell and Hannah Arendt, who have addressed issues of culture and its multifaceted

relations to politics, history, sociology and literary criticism. Concentrating on writing since 1940, the essays examine the central themes of American postwar intellectual history, including the continuing reaction to (or against) modernity and technology, the legacies of Marxism and psychoanalysis, and the re-examination of American founding principles and figures in conservative or liberal terms.

**Cherokee Women** - Theda Perdue 1998-01-01

Theda Perdue examines the roles and responsibilities of Cherokee women during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, a time of intense cultural change. While building on the research of earlier historians, she develops a uniquely complex view of the effects of contact on Native gender relations, arguing that Cherokee conceptions of gender persisted long after contact. Maintaining traditional gender roles actually allowed Cherokee women and men to adapt to new circumstances and adopt new industries and practices.

**Our Lady of Guadalupe** - Jeanette Rodriguez 2010-07-05

Our Lady of Guadalupe is the most important religious symbol of Mexico and one of the most powerful female icons of Mexican culture. In this study, based on research done among second-generation Mexican-American women, Rodriguez examines the role the symbol of Guadalupe has played in the development of these women. She goes beyond the thematic and religious implications of the symbol to delve into its relevance to their daily lives. Rodriguez's study offers an important reinterpretation of one of the New World's most potent symbols. Her conclusions dispute the common perception that Guadalupe is a model of servility and suffering. Rather, she reinterprets the symbol of Guadalupe as a liberating and empowering catalyst for Mexican-American women.

**The Other Blacklist** - Mary Helen Washington 2014-04-08

Mary Helen Washington recovers the vital role of 1950s leftist politics in the works and lives of modern African American writers and artists. While most histories of McCarthyism focus on the devastation of the blacklist and the intersection of leftist politics and American culture, few include the activities of radical writers and artists from the Black Popular Front. Washington's work incorporates these black intellectuals back into our understanding of mid-twentieth-century African American literature and art and expands our understanding of the creative ferment energizing all of America during this period. Mary Helen Washington reads four representative writers—Lloyd Brown, Frank London Brown, Alice Childress, and Gwendolyn Brooks—and surveys the work of the visual artist Charles White. She traces resonances of leftist ideas and activism in their artistic achievements and follows their balanced critique of the mainstream liberal and conservative political and literary spheres. Her study recounts the targeting of African American as well as white writers during the McCarthy era, reconstructs the events of the 1959 Black Writers' Conference in New York, and argues for the ongoing influence of the Black Popular Front decades after it folded. Defining the contours of a distinctly black modernism and its far-ranging radicalization of American politics and culture, Washington fundamentally reorients scholarship on African American and Cold War literature and life.

*American Dreams and Nazi Nightmares* - Kirsten Fermaglich 2007

A unique contribution to America's encounter with Holocaust memory that links the use of Nazi imagery to liberal politics

**The Cambridge Companion to Nineteenth-Century American Women's Writing** - Dale M. Bauer 2001-11-15

Providing an overview of the history of writing by women in the period, this 2001 Companion establishes the context in which this writing emerged, and traces the origin of the terms which have traditionally defined the debate. It includes essays on topics of recent concern, such as women and war, erotic violence, the liberating and disciplinary effects of religion, and examines the work of a variety of women writers, including Harriet Beecher Stowe, Rebecca Harding Davis and Louisa May Alcott. The volume plots new directions for the study of American literary history, and provides several valuable tools for students, including a chronology of works and suggestions for further reading.

*Amnesia and Redress in Contemporary American Fiction* - M. Gauthier 2011-10-10

This book shows how a political and cultural dynamic of amnesia and truth telling shapes literary constructions of history. Gauthier focuses on the works of Don DeLillo, Toni Morrison, Michelle Cliff, Bharati Mukherjee, and Julie Otsuka.

*Reservation Reelism* - Michelle H. Raheja 2011-01-01

In this deeply engaging account Michelle H. Raheja offers the first book-length study of the Indigenous actors, directors, and spectators who helped shape Hollywood's representation of Indigenous peoples. Since the era of silent films, Hollywood movies and visual culture generally have provided the primary representational field on which Indigenous images have been displayed to non-Native audiences. These films have been highly influential in shaping perceptions of Indigenous peoples as, for example, a dying race or as inherently unable or unwilling to adapt to change. However, films with Indigenous plots and subplots also signify at least some degree of Native presence in a culture that largely defines Native peoples as absent or separate. Native actors, directors, and spectators have had a part in creating these cinematic representations and have thus complicated the dominant, and usually negative, messages about Native peoples that films portray. In *Reservation Reelism* Raheja examines the history of these Native actors, directors, and spectators, reveals their contributions, and attempts to create positive representations in film that reflect the complex and vibrant experiences of Native peoples and communities.

*A Global Introduction to Baptist Churches* - Robert E. Johnson 2010-09-13

Coinciding with the four-hundredth anniversary of the birth of the Baptist movement, this book explores and assesses the cultural sources of Baptist beliefs and practices. Although the movement has been embraced, enriched, and revised by numerous cultural heritages, the Baptist movement has focused on a small group of Anglo exiles in Amsterdam in constructing its history and identity. Robert E. Johnson seeks to recapture the varied cultural and theological sources of Baptist tradition and to give voice to the diverse global elements of the movement that have previously been excluded or marginalized. With an international communion of over 110 million persons in more than 225,000 congregations, Baptists constitute the world's largest aggregate of evangelical Protestants. This work offers insight into the diversity, breadth, and complexity of the cultural influences that continue to shape Baptist identity today.

**Black Women, Feminism and Black Liberation** - Vivian Verdell Gordon 1987

Women First, Men Last -

**Feet Don't Fail Me Now** - Brenda Washington Lacey 2007

Drill team performance is a phenomenal expression of African American rhythmic dance performance created exclusively by African American youth. The purpose of the book is to understand and document what young African American females say about their dance creativity through their self-evaluation of how and why they perform on drill teams in urban public schools. In examining the socio-cultural institutional contexts in which drill exists and flourishes, this book will enable readers to better understand black female dance creativity according to the young African American females who created this phenomenon. This book gives substantive voice and vision to the creative self-expressiveness of how young African American females represent themselves during their drill team performance amidst the popular gendered perceptions

and stereotypical cultural expectations of others who attempt to influence and mediate their dance creativity. While drill team performance was bonding and liberatory for these young African American females, they were subject to other's expectations about how their bodies should move on the drill floor. Young African American females on drill teams "faced down" stereotypical images of women and sexism in expressing their creativity during a drill team performance. Race, gender, and sexism are fundamental factors which influence black female youth identity within contemporary urban dance culture. Young African American females have a unique vantage point about their creative role and style in performing drill routines. Drill was empowering for the individual and the team. The self-reflection and self-evaluation of young African American females about their drill team performance style within the contemporary urban dance arena has not been explored nor recorded. Moreover, the emerging viewpoints and visibility of young African American females on a drill team is undocumented in the literature. This book will stimulate further awareness and exploration of the contributions of young African American females to dance culture as well as inquiry and discussion about the impact of gender and sexism in youth dance ethnology. Undoubtedly, this book expands the body of knowledge about drillin' outside the historically Greek organizations on Black college campuses and contributes to the field of urban youth dance creativity.

*Radical Hope* - Jonathan Lear 2009-06-30

Presents the story of Plenty Coups, the last great Chief of the Crow Nation. This title contains a philosophical and ethical inquiry into a people faced with the end of their way of life.

**The Oxford Handbook of Modern and Contemporary American Poetry** - Cary Nelson 2012-01-06

The Oxford Handbook of Modern and Contemporary American Poetry gives readers a cutting-edge introduction to the kaleidoscopic world of American poetry over the last century. Offering a comprehensive approach to the debates that have defined the study of American verse, the twenty-five original essays contained herein take up a wide array of topics: the influence of jazz on the Beats and beyond; European and surrealist influences on style; poetics of the disenfranchised; religion and the national epic; antiwar and dissent poetry; the AIDS epidemic; digital innovations; transnationalism; hip hop; and more. Alongside these topics, major interpretive perspectives such as Marxist, psychoanalytic, disability, queer, and ecocritical are incorporated. Throughout, the names that have shaped American poetry in the period--Ezra Pound, Wallace Stevens, Marianne Moore, Mina Loy, Sterling Brown, Hart Crane, William Carlos Williams, Posey, Langston Hughes, Allen Ginsberg, John Ashbery, Rae Armantrout, Larry Eigner, and others--serve as touchstones along the tour of the poetic landscape.

**Women, Culture, and Politics in Latin America** - Seminar on Feminism & Culture in Latin America 1992-02-25

The result of a collaboration among eight women scholars, this collection examines the history of women's participation in literary, journalistic, educational, and political activity in Latin American history, with special attention to the first half of this century.

*Bruce Springsteen, Cultural Studies, and the Runaway American Dream* - Jerry Zolten 2016-05-23

There is little question about the incredible power of Bruce Springsteen's work as a particularly transformative art, as a lyrical and musical fusion that never shies away from sifting through the rubble of human conflict. As Rolling Stone magazine's Parke Puterbaugh observes, Springsteen 'is a peerless songwriter and consummate artist whose every painstakingly crafted album serves as an impassioned and literate pulse taking of a generation's fortunes. He is the foremost live performer in the history of rock and roll, a self-described prisoner of the music he loves, for whom every show is played as if it might be his last.' In recent decades, Puterbaugh adds, 'Springsteen's music developed a conscience that didn't ignore the darkening of the runaway American Dream as the country greedily blundered its way through the 1980s' and into the sociocultural detritus of a new century paralysed by isolation and uncertainty. Bruce Springsteen, Cultural Studies, and the Runaway American Dream reflects the significant critical interest in understanding Springsteen's resounding impact upon the ways in which we think and feel about politics, religion, gender, and the pursuit of the American Dream. By assembling a host of essays that engage in interdisciplinary commentary regarding one of Western culture's most enduring artistic and socially radicalizing phenomena, this book offers a cohesive, intellectual, and often entertaining introduction to the many ways in which Springsteen continues to impact our lives by challenging our minds through his lyrics

and music.

**Reading Native American Women** - Inés Hernández-Avila 2005-07-14

This new collection reveals the vitality of the intellectual and creative work of Native American women today. The authors examine the avenues that Native American women have chosen for creative, cultural, and political expressions, and discuss points of convergence between Native American feminisms and other feminisms. This book will be of great value to researchers of Native American studies, women's studies, anthropology, cultural studies, and writing and composition.

**American Holocaust** - David E. Stannard 1993-11-18

This controversial treatise focuses on the social and cultural issues involved in the invasion of the Americas by European nations. It describes the suppression or extermination of native cultures, and focuses on the cultural and ideological principles behind the colonization efforts.

**Violence** - Diane Deanda 2014-05-01

Understand violence within its cultural context! To reduce violence, we need to understand what it is, where it comes from, and what it means in cultural context. *Violence: Diverse Populations and Communities* provides new empirical research and theoretical models to help you understand the impact of violence on various ethnic and cultural groups. From the effects of abuse on Latino children to aged Korean-American women's perceptions of elder mistreatment, this comprehensive volume covers all ages, many ethnic groups, and multiple types of violence. *Violence: Diverse Populations and Communities* looks at such neglected populations as Mexican, Korean, Vietnamese, and Cambodian immigrants as well as Black, Caucasian, and Latino cultures. The forms of violence studied range from the devastation of war to keeping elders isolated for long periods of time and culturally specific forms of abuse. This comprehensive volume also includes a thorough literature review, stressing the need for more research, especially into the needs and experiences of neglected populations, and suggesting fruitful areas for further inquiry. *Violence: Diverse Populations and Communities* asks and answers complex questions, including: Is war or street violence more traumatic for adolescent refugees from the Khmer Rouge? What social support benefits do street gangs offer their members? How do cultural expectations of male and female roles affect dating violence? What culturally sensitive interventions best address the needs of a Latina rape survivor? How do women of various Asian cultures respond to spousal battering? How can practitioners working with elder abuse victims define their roles, objectives, and interventions to accommodate cultural differences? The groundbreaking research in *Violence: Diverse Populations and Communities* provides an illuminating exploration into the cultural meaning of violence. By questioning standard assumptions and discovering what violence means to those who suffer from it and perpetrate it, practitioners can better serve multicultural client populations. This book will change the way you see violence by helping you understand its manifestations within various cultural contexts.

**Melville & Women** - Elizabeth A. Schultz 2006

Throughout his life, Melville lived surrounded by women, and he wove women's experiences into most of his literary work, early and late. The 12 essays in this collection extend the interest in Melville and women evident in recent scholarship, biography, art, and drama.

**Women of Color in U.S. Society** - Maxine Baca Zinn 1993-12-30

The theme of race, class, and gender as interlocking systems of oppression unites these original essays about the experience of women of color. African Americans, Latinas, Native Americans, and Asian Americans. The contributing scholars discuss the social conditions that simultaneously oppress women of color and provide sites for opposition. Though diverse in their focus, the essays uncover similar experiences in the classroom, workplace, family, prison, and other settings. Working-class women, poor women, and professional women alike experience subordination, restricted participation in social institutions, and structural placement in roles with limited opportunities. How do women survive, resist, and cope with these oppressive structures? Many articles tell how women of color draw upon resources from their culture, family, kin, and community. Others document defenses against cultural assaults by the dominant society. Native American mothers instilling tribal heritage in their children; African American women engaging in community work; and Asian American women opposing the patriarchy of their own communities and the stereotypes imposed by society at large. These essays challenge some of our basic

assumptions about society, revealing that experiences of inequality are not only diverse but relational."

**The Cultural Devastation of American Women** - Nancy Levant 2006-07

*The Cultural Devastation of American Women* is a factual investigation into the American woman's abuse of liberation. Levant burrows into the psyches and habits of American women. She exposes over-spending, over-decorating, obsessions with beauty, weight, social climbing, and the hiring out of traditional female functions. All of these demonstrate a rejection of biological instincts and behaviors. Levant exposes demanding, unreasonable, and incompetent mothers. She delves with brutal frankness into women and marriage, child rearing, divorce, hypochondria, self-absorption, and vanity, challenging the assumption that Westernized society freed women from social bondage. Levant calls for a critical evaluation of womanhood in 21st Century America. *The Cultural Devastation of American Women* is reckoning day for American women as readers of all ages and political persuasions find complete agreement with the proof of the voices of suffering children. By including the commentary of daycare children to create premise and purpose, Levant allows our children to report on the current state of parenthood, home life, and themselves.

**The Religious Imagination of American Women** - Mary Farrell Bednarowski 1999

"Explores five ideas that animate the theological imagination of women in religious communities throughout America: ambivalence toward tradition; the immanence, or indwelling, of the divine; the sacredness of the ordinary and the ordinariness of the sacred; the vision of the universe as a web of relationships; and healing as a central function of religion"--back cover.

**Feminist Nightmares: Women At Odds** - Susan Ostrov Weisser 1994-10

Though all women are women, no woman is only a woman, wrote Elizabeth Spelman in *The Inessential Woman*. Gone are the days when feminism translated simply into the advocacy of equality for women. Women's interests are not always aligned; race, class, and sexuality complicate the equation. In recent years, feminist ideologies have become increasingly diverse. Today, one feminist's most ardent political opponent may well be another feminist. As feminism grows increasingly diverse, the time has come to ask a painful and frequently avoided question: what does it mean for women to oppress women? This pathbreaking, provocative anthology addresses this troublesome dilemma from various feminist perspectives, offering an interdisciplinary collection of writings that widens our understanding of oppression to take into account women who are at odds. The book examines the social, political, and psychological ramifications of this phenomenon, as evidenced in a range of texts, from women's antislavery writing to women's anti-abortion writing, from mother-daughter incest stories to maternal surrogacy narratives, from the Bible to the popular romance novel, from Jane Austen to Alice Walker. The value of the volume is perhaps best summed up by an early response to the idea—This is a book that should never be written; feminists should concentrate on how men oppress women. Ironically, it is precisely because the subject triggers such responses, the authors argue, that a volume such as *Feminist Nightmares* has become a necessity.

**The Routledge Introduction to American Women Writers** - Wendy Martin 2016-04-28

*The Routledge Introduction to American Women Writers* considers the important literary, historical, cultural, and intellectual contexts of American women authors from the seventeenth century to the present and provides readers with an analysis of current literary trends and debates in women's literature. This accessible and engaging guide covers a variety of essential topics, such as: the transatlantic and transnational origins of American women's literary traditions the colonial period and the Puritans the early national period and the rhetoric of independence the nineteenth century and the Civil War the twentieth century, including modernism, the Harlem Renaissance, and the Civil Rights era trends in twenty-first century American women's writing feminism, gender and sexuality, regionalism, domesticity, ethnicity, and multiculturalism. The volume examines the ways in which women writers from diverse racial, social, and cultural backgrounds have shaped American literary traditions, giving particular attention to the ways writers worked inside, outside, and around the strictures of their cultural and historical moments to create space for women's voices and experiences as a vital part of American life. Addressing key contemporary and theoretical debates, this comprehensive overview presents a highly readable narrative of the development of literature by American women and offers a crucial range of perspectives on American literary history.

Women of the Dawn - Bunny McBride 2021-08-05

Women of the Dawn tells the stories of four remarkable Wabanaki Indian women who lived in northeast America during the four centuries that devastated their traditional world. Their courageous responses to tragedies brought on by European contact make up the heart of the book. The narrative begins with Molly Mathilde (1665-1717), a mother, a peacemaker, and the daughter of a famous chief. Born in the mid-1600s, when Wabanakis first experienced the full effects of colonial warfare, disease, and displacement, she provided a vital link for her people through her marriage to the French baron of St. Castin. The sage continues with the shrewd and legendary healer Molly Ockett (1740-1816) and the reputed witchwoman Molly Molasses (1775-1867). The final chapter belongs to Molly Dellis Nelson (1903-1977) (known as Spotted Elk), a celebrated performer on European stages who lived to see the dawn of Wabanaki cultural renewal in the modern era.

**Women's Journey to Empowerment in the 21st Century** - Kristen Zaleski 2019-10-03

Women's Journey to Empowerment in the 21st Century offers a global view into the patriarchal attitudes that shape cultural practices that oppress women and continue to take form in the modern era. In closely examining a range of issues—from the college campus rape epidemic in the United States to the climate change effects in Ghana—this book compels readers to utilize a contextual framework in order to take a closer look into contemporary violence and oppression against women in our world. Written through the lens of transnational feminism, it examines the intersections of nationhood, race, gender, sexuality, and economics within the context of a world shaped by globalization and colonialism, causing the redefinition of borders and the realignment of migration patterns. A transnational feminist perspective also supports a definition of global sisterhood based on equity, understanding, and mutual experiences. Students focusing on social justice, social work, women's studies, feminist theory, and/or violence against women will find the book to be an invaluable resource.

**The Reader's Companion to U.S. Women's History** - Wilma Mankiller 1998

Covers issues and events in women's history that were previously unpublished, misplaced, or forgotten, and provides new perspectives on each event.

Historical and Archaeological Perspectives on Gender Transformations - Suzanne M. Spencer-Wood 2012-12-09

In many facets of Western culture, including archaeology, there remains a legacy of perceiving gender divisions as natural, innate, and biological in origin. This belief follows that men are naturally pre-disposed to public, intellectual pursuits, while women are innately designed to care for the home and take care of children. In the interpretation of material culture, accepted notions of gender roles are often applied to new findings: the dichotomy between the domestic sphere of women and the public sphere of men can color interpretations of new materials. In this innovative volume, the contributors focus explicitly on analyzing the materiality of historic changes in the domestic sphere around the world. Combining a global scope with great temporal depth, chapters in the volume explore how gender ideologies, identities, relationships, power dynamics, and practices were materially changed in the past, thus showing how they could be changed in the future.

**Black Female Vampires in African American Women's Novels, 1977-2011** - Kendra R. Parker 2018-11-09

This book critically situates the figure of the black female vampire within literary studies, cultural studies, gender studies, and critical race studies. It invites readers to take a closer look at the black female vampire figure and how that figure shapes and is shaped by cultural narratives about African American womanhood.

**The Culture of Calamity** - Kevin Rozario 2007

Turn on the news and it looks as if we live in a time and place unusually consumed by the specter of disaster. The events of 9/11 and the promise of future attacks, Hurricane Katrina and the destruction of New Orleans, and the inevitable consequences of environmental devastation all contribute to an atmosphere of imminent doom. But reading an account of the San Francisco earthquake of 1906, with its vivid evocation of buildings “crumbling as one might crush a biscuit,” we see that calamities—whether natural or man-made—have long had an impact on the American consciousness. Uncovering the history of Americans' responses to disaster from their colonial past up to the present, Kevin Rozario reveals the vital

role that calamity—and our abiding fascination with it—has played in the development of this nation. Beginning with the Puritan view of disaster as God's instrument of correction, Rozario explores how catastrophic events frequently inspired positive reactions. He argues that they have shaped American life by providing an opportunity to take stock of our values and social institutions. Destruction leads naturally to rebuilding, and here we learn that disasters have been a boon to capitalism, and, paradoxically, indispensable to the construction of dominant American ideas of progress. As Rozario turns to the present, he finds that the impulse to respond creatively to disasters is mitigated by a mania for security. Terror alerts and duct tape represent the cynical politician's attitude about 9/11, but Rozario focuses on how the attacks registered in the popular imagination—how responses to genuine calamity were mediated by the hyperreal thrills of movies; how apocalyptic literature, like the best-selling Left Behind series, recycles Puritan religious outlooks while adopting Hollywood's style and how the convergence of these two ways of imagining disaster points to a new postmodern culture of calamity. The Culture of Calamity will stand as the definitive diagnosis of the peculiarly American addiction to the spectacle of destruction.

**Poetry and Cultural Studies** - Maria Damon 2009

A collection of critical texts exploring poetry's engagement with the social

**African American Culture: An Encyclopedia of People, Traditions, and Customs [3 volumes]** - Omari L. Dyson 2020-07-31

Covering everything from sports to art, religion, music, and entrepreneurship, this book documents the vast array of African American cultural expressions and discusses their impact on the culture of the United States. According to the latest census data, less than 13 percent of the U.S. population identifies as African American; African Americans are still very much a minority group. Yet African American cultural expression and strong influences from African American culture are common across mainstream American culture—in music, the arts, and entertainment; in education and religion; in sports; and in politics and business. African American Culture: An Encyclopedia of People, Traditions, and Customs covers virtually every aspect of African American cultural expression, addressing subject matter that ranges from how African culture was preserved during slavery hundreds of years ago to the richness and complexity of African American culture in the post-Obama era. The most comprehensive reference work on African American culture to date, the book covers topics such as black contributions to literature and the arts, music and entertainment, religion, and professional sports. It also provides coverage of less-commonly addressed subjects, such as African American fashion practices and beauty culture, the development of jazz music across different eras, and African American business. • Identifies influential aspects of African American culture through entries on topics such as African Americans in sports, in musical genres such as blues, gospel, hip hop, and jazz, and in religions such as Christianity, Islam, and Yoruba • Makes clear the numerous ways African Americans have produced, maintained, and evolved their culture in the United States • Enables readers to truly comprehend what "diversity" is by gaining substantive knowledge of how a particular group of persecuted people has learned to thrive artistically and culturally in the United States

Further to Fly - Sheila Radford-Hill 2000

Amid the longest-running economic boom in American history and despite the emergence of a significant black middle class, the lot of low-income black people in general—and black women in particular—seems more troubling than ever. Their plight, Sheila Radford-Hill argues in this book, is directly related to the diminution of black women's traditional power as culture bearers and community builders. A cogent critique of feminist theory and practice, Further to Fly identifies the failure of feminism to connect with the social realities it should seek to explain, in particular the decline of black women's empowerment. Further to Fly searches out the causes and effects of this decline, describing the ways in which, since the 1960s, black women have been stripped of their traditional status as agents of change in the community—and how, as a result, the black community has faltered. Radford-Hill explores the shortcomings of second-wave black and white feminism, revealing how their theoretical underpinnings have had unintended (and often unacknowledged) negative consequences for black women's lives and their communities. While acknowledging that African American women have made significant contributions to the black struggle for justice in America, Radford-Hill argues that more needs to be done. She combines social criticism and critical analysis to argue that black women must revive their legacy of activism and reclaim the tradition of

nurturing in the black community, proposing specific tactics that can be used to revive the support networks that help determine the obligations of community members and guide how people interact on an everyday level. As a deft account of genesis and effects of black women's diminishing power, and as a sobering analysis of the devastating blunders of feminist theory and practice, this work makes a compelling argument for an "authentic feminism," one that aggressively connects the realities of women's experiences, needs, aspirations, and responsibilities.

**Women Doing Life** - Lora Bex Lempert 2016-02-19

The carceral experiences of women serving life sentences. 2017 Michigan Notable Book Selection presented by The Detroit Free Press How do women - mothers, daughters, aunts, nieces and grandmothers - make sense of judgment to a lifetime behind bars? In *Women Doing Life*, Lora Bex Lempert presents a typology of the ways that life-sentenced women grow and self-actualize, resist prison definitions, reflect on and "own" their criminal acts, and ultimately create meaningful lives behind prison walls. Looking beyond the explosive headlines that often characterize these women as monsters, Lempert offers rare insight into this vulnerable, little studied population. Her gendered analysis considers the ways that women "do crime" differently than men and how they have qualitatively different experiences of imprisonment than their male counterparts. Through in-depth interviews with 72 women serving life sentences in Michigan, Lempert brings these women back into the public arena, drawing analytical attention to their complicated, contradictory, and yet compelling lives. *Women Doing Life* focuses particular attention on how women cope with their no-exit sentences and explores how their lifetime imprisonment catalyzes personal reflection, accountability for choices, reconstruction of their stigmatized identities, and rebuilding of social bonds. Most of the women in her study reported childhoods in environments where violence and disorder were common; many were victims before they were offenders. Lempert vividly illustrates how, behind the prison

gates, life-serving women can develop lives that are meaningful, capable and, oftentimes, even ordinary. *Women Doing Life* shows both the scope and the limit of human possibility available to women incarcerated for life.

**Cold War Women** - Helen Laville 2002

For too long, American women have been hidden in the history of the Cold War. In *Cold War Women* Helen Laville recovers their significance by examining the activities and ambitions of American women's organisations in the long period of uneasy peace. After the Second World War, women around the globe claimed that to avoid more death and devastation in the Atomic Age, they must promote internationalism and strive together for a peaceful future. However, as the Cold War escalated, American women abandoned the internationalist outlook of their foreign sisters in favour of solidarity with their national brothers. Far from being advocates of internationalism, many of these women became active agents for Americanism. This fascinating study will be invaluable to those in the field of gender and women's history, cultural studies and American history.

**Contemporary American Women Poets** - Catherine Cucinella 2002

In mapping the achievements of contemporary American women poets, this reference helps liberate them from restrictive conventional views and illustrates the tremendous diversity of their works. Included are alphabetically arranged entries on nearly 70 American women poets who published significant works after 1945.

*Radical Hope* - Jonathan Lear 2006

The philosophy and ethical inquiry of a people faced with the end of their way of life is pursued through the story of the Crow Nation as their culture was about to collapse.