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# Review of Third World Women Speak out: Interviews in Six Countries on Change, Development, and Basic Needs

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## Books New and Recommended: A Potpourri

By Florence Howe

*This occasional feature will be restored to a regular place in the Newsletter. We are interested in brief reviews of four or five books that may (or may not) be grouped together, or in an essay-review on a group of related books. We are especially interested in books that will be useful as classroom texts, and in reference tools helpful to teachers. Write to the Editor with suggestions, if you are interested in working on this feature.*

*Third World Women Speak Out: Interviews in Six Countries on Change, Development, and Basic Needs*, by Perdita Huston, with a foreword by Arvonne Fraser. Praeger Publishers, 1979, \$17.95 cloth; \$4.95 paper.

The photographs are compelling, and the text does not allow you to put the book down until you have read it from cover to cover. The six countries are Tunisia, Egypt, Sudan, Kenya, Sri Lanka, and Mexico; and the voices are women's: "Now go back and tell." "Life is more difficult than before" [the coming of so-called "development" to a village]. "But it is still a privilege to be born a man." "We are like trees growing in the shade." "We need more women representatives—they know the problems." "Come learn, but go to the people, and listen."

There is no other book like this one. If you are using Ester Boserun's *Woman's Role in Economic Development* (St. Martin's Press, 1974), in a course on Women and the Third World, or if you are using Naomi Katz and Nancy Milton, *Fragment from a Lost Diary and Other Stories: Women of Asia, Africa, and Latin America* (Pantheon, 1973), in a course on fiction about women in the Third World, you will want *Third World Women Speak Out* to make your text and your course immediately palpable to students.

You should be able to find this book in any bookstore. If you cannot, write to Arvonne Fraser, Coordinator of the Office of Women

in Development of the U.S. Agency for International Development—who "provided both financial and intellectual support for this project."

*Trends in History: A Review of Current Periodical Literature in History*, published by The Institute for Research in History, 55 West 44th Street, New York, NY 10036. Subscriptions: \$12 for individuals; \$24 for institutions.

This is, in fact, a journal, but one that will appear twice a year; and because it will be reviewing a changing discipline, it will be as valuable as a book to those who are watching that field. The Institute for Research in History is an "independent community of scholars engaged in historical research, writing, and discussion." *Trends* is one of its projects. The first issue, just out, reviews recent journal articles on Women's History; on Methodology and Philosophy of History; and then on 13 specific "Regions and Cultures," including Modern Germany, Persia, the Middle East and North Africa, and Modern India.

*Women's Studies: A Recommended Core Bibliography*, by Esther Stineman, with the assistance of Catherine Loeb, Libraries Unlimited, Inc., PO Box 263, Littleton, CO 80160. \$27.50.

This is the single most useful reference tool in women's studies published thus far. The volume annotates 1,748 books and monographs in approximately 17 areas and sub-areas: Literature, for example, is divided into Anthologies, Drama, Essays, Fiction, History and Criticism, and Poetry. Autobiography, Biography, Diaries, Memoirs, Letters—is a single area; so is Business, Economics, Labor. Other areas include History; Law; Medicine, Health, Sexuality, Biology; Politics and Political Theory; Women's Movement and Feminist Theory—and I have not named all of them.

The Introduction is very helpful, as are the elaborate series of indices. But it is for two other reasons that we will appreciate this

book for years to come: the annotations have been written with a real sense of what readers, teachers, and librarians want to know; moreover, the volume provides a way of locating those books one has missed through this incredible decade that has exploded knowledge about women more quickly than any of us could, singly, take it all in. Thus, if you missed the 12 volumes in the *Female Studies* series published by KNOW, Inc., and The Feminist Press between 1970 and 1975, you can pick up most of those annotations in the "Education" section of this book. The volume is also strong on out-of-print books, whether or not they have been reprinted in expensive editions.

A couple of suggestions, were there to be another edition: the entries on mathematics and science are sparse, and there is no separate section for them (an important absent book, therefore, is Sheila Tobias's *Overcoming Math Anxiety*); and the 15 periodicals annotated in the very last section might easily have been 30.

*MLA Directory of Periodicals: A Guide to Journals and Series in Languages and Literatures*, 1978-79 edition, compiled by Eileen M. Mackesy, Karen Mateyak, and Diane Siegel, with the assistance of the MLA Bibliography staff. Price: \$65 to libraries, and \$30 to MLA members. Write to MLA, 62 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10011.

To be updated biennially, this volume annotates 3,000 journals and series, and answers questions for the researcher or writer seeking a publisher for an essay or review. Annotations contain information about the history of the journal, its editor, address, interests, policies, and requirements for submission. While the volume serves as a reminder of the explosion in periodicals more generally, it is also an index to the impact of women's studies. How many feminist periodicals has the *MLA Directory* included? Present are *Signs*, *Women and Literature*, and *Women's Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal*. A longer list is absent, and should be included in the 1980-81 update to come.