



Feminist Theory: The Intellectual Traditions

Josephine Donovan

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This first major study of feminist theory, which is revised and completely reset, now takes the reader into the twentieth century. It chronicles a renaissance of feminist theory through the so-called third wave of the present day, which follows significant "waves" of earlier periods: the fifteenth through early eighteenth centuries as well as the more widely recognized nineteenth century; and the 1960s through the 80s.

Feminist Theory: The Intellectual Traditions Details

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Author : Josephine Donovan

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Stephanie says

In my desire to understand the women's movement, I liked this book for its simplicity of describing the various historical approaches and agendas put forth. It's helpful to see less of a slant and more of the facts. (Of course the author always has a slant, but this is less irritating.)

Justin says

An excellent compilation of different feminist movements throughout history that is neither dry nor falsely exciting. Dononvan does a fair job of evenly presenting opposing views and criticisms within each movement regardless of contemporary society's views. She quotes other thinkers well. She clearly and concisely presents individual viewpoints while providing an incredible starting point to delve further. It's a rather incendiary historical book, sure to provoke strong reactions.

Annie says

This is an excellent starting point for anyone wondering 'what is feminism?' You will most likely be surprised at what you find. Donovan's book shows us that not all feminists agree about what a feminist world would look like.

Chelsea says

Very informative. Professors on Goodreads: please don't assign this as a book to read in one week!

Krista Borrero says

Read this for a course I was taking at New Paltz. If I remember correctly, it read like a text book.

Ulkem says

A perfect guide to understand the development and basics of feminism. Besides, a perfect source for clues for further reading on feminism.

?pek Sayrak says

Cok kapsamli bir calisma, 18. yuzyilin sonundan gunumuze kadar feminist hareketi analiz ediyor. Biraz agir ilerliyor bu kadar kapsamli oldugu icin ama gene de tavsiye ederim. Okuyun, okutun.

Mi Na says

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Ingrid says

After all these years, this is still my favorite book on feminist theories; it has a chapter on each theory and about the theorists and their diverse and often conflicting viewpoints, but my favorite things about the book are: 1. the footnotes, and 2. the works cited. Amazing resource!

Jeff Hoiland says

thought 'existentialism and feminism' was interesting

Kara says

Very informative and comprehensive, but dense and dry. Also I thought a bit overly focused on white ladies.

Heather says

Typical read in a college course...don't even get me started on the radical feminist chapter...i think they are all nuts and need some Prozac!

Sarah Carroll says

Took me a while to read this book, but it gives a great overview of the movements and concepts (Enlightenment, Abolitionism, Protestant individualism, Freudianism, Marxism, Liberation Theology, Ecology/Animal Rights, etc.) that were woven together to create the American feminist movement. It's chock-full of information and insights. Most interesting to me were the parts describing the intersection of different rights movements related to race, gender, sexuality, and class. It also confirmed my general dislike of Freud (women are only capable of narcissistic love and have a weaker moral compass because we don't experience castration anxiety, really??), although the neo-Freudian feminists who adapted his theories had some interesting things to say. Definitely a worthwhile read.
