

Against Empire: Feminisms, Racism and the West

By Zillah Eisenstein

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In Against Empire, Zillah Eisenstein extends her critique of neoliberal globalization and its capture of democratic possibilities. Faced with an aggressive American empire hostage to ideological extremism and violently promoting the narrowest of its interests around the globe, Eisenstein urgently looks to a global anti-war movement to counter U.S. power.

Looking beyond the distortions of mainstream history, Eisenstein detects the silencing of racialized, sex/gendered and classed ways of seeing. Against Empire insists that 'the' so-called West is as much fiction as reality, while the sexualized black slave trade emerges as an early form of globalization. 'The' West and western feminisms do not monopolize authorship; there is a need for plural understandings of feminisms as other-than-western. Black America, India, the Islamic world and Africa envision unique conceptions of what it is to be fully, 'polyversally', human.

Professor Eisenstein offers a rich picture of women's activism across the globe today. If there is to be hope of a more peaceful, more just and happier world, it lies, she believes, in the understandings and activism of women today.

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Editorial Review

Review

"This is a powerful and provocative work, at once an autobiography of an ardent and wide-ranging activist and a critical study of the workings of empire in this time. Eisenstein not only shows how feminism can and must rise to its global challenges, but how the workings of empire are systematically related to gender. She refuses the recourse to culturally imperialist notions of 'women' and the 'human' and shows how each of these terms might gain a broader, emancipatory meaning within a global framework."--Judith Butler, UC Berkeley

"One of the most lively feminist theorists of democracy. As always, Eisenstein is way ahead of the curve."--Cynthia Enloe, author of *Maneuvers: the International Politics of Militarizing Women's Lives*

"Zillah Eisenstein writes with passion and commitment. She traces the complexity of the relationships between gender, class, race and religious oppression against women, links the global with the local, the West with the East, the personal with the political, the economic with the cultural. Despite the complexity of her subject her language remains simple, illuminating and refreshing in this dark age of war and neo-imperialism."--Nawal El Saadawi, author of *Woman at Point Zero*

About the Author

Zillah Eisenstein is Professor of Politics at Ithaca College.

Users Review

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Nicole Rockwood:

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