The Second Sex Simone De Beauvoir

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vintage feminism classic feminist texts in short form with an introduction by natalie haynes when this book was first published in 1949 it was to outrage and scandal never before had the case for female liberty been so forcefully and successfully argued de beauvoir s belief that one is not born but rather becomes woman switched on light bulbs in the heads of a generation of women and began a fight for greater equality and economic independence these pages contain the key passages of the book that changed perceptions of women forever translated by constance borde and sheila malovany chevallier annotated and introduced by martine reid

acknowledged by many feminists as the single most important theoretical work of the twentieth century simone de beauvoir s the second sex 1949 nevertheless occupies an anomalous place in the feminist canon yet it has had an undeniable impact not only on the

development of critiques of sexual politics but on twentieth century western thinking about the concept of woman in general this collection of six new essays by scholars from the disciplines of french english literature history cultural criticism feminist theory and philosophy makes a valuable contribution to the task of re reading and reassessing this enormously influential text for a new generation of feminist readers and also for cultural theorists for whom the question of the feminine is at the centre of key debates in philosophy and postmodernity the contributors provide a significantly new rethinking of the place of the second sex in cultural history and of women and representation the role of fictions and the problem of ethical agency in the work of the leading intellectual woman of this age

simone de beauvoir s 1949 book the second sex is a masterpiece of feminist criticism and philosophy an incendiary take on the place of women in post war french society it helped define major trends in feminist thought for the rest of the 20th century and its influence is still felt today the book s success owes much to beauvoir s brilliant writing style and passion but both are rooted in the clarity of her critical thinking skills she builds a strong argument against the silent assumptions that continually demoted and still demote women to second place in a society dominated by men beauvoir also demonstrates the central skills of reasoning at their best presenting a persuasive case organising her thoughts and supporting her conclusions above all though the second sex is a masterclass in analysis treating the structures of contemporary society and culture as a series of arguments that tend continuously to demote women beauvoir is able to isolate and describe the implicit assumptions that underpin male domination her demolition of these assumptions provides the crucial ammunition for her argument that women are in no way the second sex but are in every way the equal of men

in the introduction to the second sex simone de beauvoir notes that a man never begins by establishing himself as an individual of a certain sex his being a man poses no problem nancy bauer begins her book by asking then what kind of a problem does being a woman pose bauer s aim is to show that in answering this question the second sex dramatizes the extent to which being a woman poses a philosophical problem in exploring what it might mean to philosophize as a woman beauvoir produced a book that not only sparked the contemporary feminist movement but also bauer argues made an important but still profoundly undervalued contribution to the philosophical tradition

this collection of classic titles by beauvoir her most well know writings the second sex and the ethics of ambiguity as well as a biography of her life and a rare interview on her book the second sex french writer and feminist and existentialist she is known primarily for her treatise the second sex 1949 a scholarly and passionate plea for the abolition of what she called the myth of the eternal feminine it became a classic of feminist literature during the 1960s her novels expounded the major existential themes demonstrating her conception of the writer's commitment to the times she came to stay 1943 treats the difficult problem of

the relationship of a conscience to the other of her other works of fiction perhaps the best known is the mandarins 1954 a chronicle of the attempts of post world war ii intellectuals to leave their mandarin educated elite status and engage in political activism she also wrote four books of philosophy including the ethics of ambiguity 1947 several volumes of her work are devoted to autobiography which constitute a telling portrait of french intellectual life from the 1930s to the 1970s in addition to treating feminist issues de beauvoir was concerned with the issue of aging which she addressed in a very easy death 1964 on her mother s death in a hospital in 1981 she wrote a farewell to sartre a painful account of sartre s last years simone de beauvoir revealed herself as a woman of formidable courage and integrity whose life supported her thesis the basic options of an individual must be made on the premises of an equal vocation for man and woman founded on a common structure of their being independent of their sexuality table of contents the second sex on the publication of the second sex interview the ethics of ambiguity biography

newly translated and unabridged in english for the first time simone de beauvoir s masterwork is a powerful analysis of the western notion of woman and a groundbreaking exploration of inequality and otherness this long awaited new edition reinstates significant portions of the original french text that were cut in the first english translation vital and groundbreaking beauvoir s pioneering and impressive text remains as pertinent today as it was sixty years ago and will continue to provoke and inspire generations of men and women to come

this book presents an analysis of the concepts of female empowerment and resilience against violence in the informal entertainment and sex industries generally the key debates on sex work have centred on arguments proposed by the oppressive and empowerment paradigms this book moves away from such debates to look widely at the micro issues such as the role of income in the lives of sex workers the significance of peer organisations and networks of women and how resilience is enacted and empowerment experienced it also uses positive deviancy theory as a useful strategy to bring about notable changes in terms of empowerment and agency for women working in this sector and also for addressing the wider issues of migration hiv aids and violence against women and girls the focus is on moving beyond a victimisation framework without downplaying the extent of the violence that women in this industry experience it conceptualises the theories of empowerment and power which have not been tested against women who work in this sector combined with in depth interviews with women working in the industry as well as academics activists and personnel in the ngo and donor sector in doing so it informs the reader of the numerous social political and economic factors that structure and sustain the global growth of the industry and analyses the diverse factors that lead many thousands of women and girls around the world to work in this sector the work presents an important contribution to the study of citizenship and rights from a non western angle and will be of interest to academics researchers and policymakers across human rights sociology economics and development

studies

ontologies of sex philosophy in sexual politics considers the ontological presuppositions of feminist theories of sexual difference and brings them into conversation with phenomenological ontological accounts of erotic experience erotic relation is a corporeal intimate and affective encounter with the other in which the subjects have the possibility of being revealed to themselves and to each other in who they are in eroticism law paradoxes death abjection subjectivity sovereignty commitment engagement freedom are at stake by inquiring into various types of analyzes of sexual oppression and different accounts of ethics of eros this book invites the reader to deepen their existential reflection on the significance of eros for human life in general and for political subjectivity in particular

like man woman is a human being when the second sex was first published in paris in 1949 groundbreaking risqué brilliantly written and strikingly modern it provoked both outrage and inspiration the independent woman contains three key chapters of beauvoir s masterwork which illuminate the feminine condition and identify practical social reforms for gender equality it captures the essence of the spirited manifesto that switched on light bulbs in the heads of a generation of women and continues to exert profound influence on feminists today

when sex became gender is a study of post world war ii feminist theory from the viewpoint of intellectual history the key theme is that ideas about the social construction of gender have its origins in the feminist theorists of the postwar period and that these early ideas about gender became a key foundational paradigm for both second and third wave feminist thought these conceptual foundations were created by a cohort of extraordinarily imaginative and bold academic women while discussing the famous feminist scholars simone de beauvoir margaret mead the book also hinges on the work of scholars who are lesser known to american audiences mirra komarovsky viola klein and ruth herschberger the postwar years have been an overlooked period in the development of feminist theory and philosophy and tarrant makes a compelling case for this era being the turning point in the study of gender

the culmination of a lifetime s scholarly work this pioneering study by sister prudence allen traces the concept of woman in relation to man in western thought from ancient times to the present volume i uncovers four general categories of questions asked by philosophers for two thousand years these are the categories of opposites of generation of wisdom and of virtue sister prudence allen traces several recurring strands of sexual and gender identity within this period ultimately she shows the paradoxical influence of aristotle on the question of woman and on a philosophical understanding of sexual coomplementarity supplemented throughout with helpful charts diagrams and illustrations this volume will be an important resource for scholars and students in the fields of women's studies philosophy history

theology literary studies and political science in volume 2 sister prudence allen explores claims about sex and gender identity in the works of over fifty philosophers both men and women in the late medieval and early renaissance periods touching on the thought of every philosopher who considered sex or gender identity between a d 1250 and 1500 the concept of woman provides the analytical categories necessary for situating contemporary discussion of women in relation to men adding to the accessibility of this fine discussion are informative illustrations helpful summary charts and extracts of original source material some not previously available in english in her third and final volume allen covers the years 1500 2015 continuing her chronological approach to individual authors and also offering systematic arguments to defend certain philosophical positions over against others

approaching simone de beauvoir s feminism and social commentary as a resource to understand our current crises beauvoir and politics a toolkit brings together established and emerging scholars to apply her insights to gender studies political philosophy decolonisation intellectual history age theory and critical phenomenology the essays in this collection start from key concepts in beauvoir s oeuvre and relate them to contemporary debates asking how her notion of ambiguity speaks to lived experiences that have been highly politicized in recent years such as pregnancy old age sexual violence and the exposure of black and brown bodies to police violence how myths inform our notions of collective national identities as well as notions of masculinity and femininity and how she provides conceptual tools that help to theorize the various political strategies that are used to challenge gendered and racialized systems of oppression these and other issues are central to this critical appraisal of beauvoir s legacy demonstrating the contemporary relevance of her thought as it diagnoses the present and looks toward change for a better future this book will be of great interest to undergraduate and postgraduate students looking to engage with the political content of simone de beauvoir s work and the timely application of her ideas

the bloomsbury companion to existentialism is the definitive guide to this key area of modern european philosophy now available in paperback the book covers the fundamental questions asked by existentialism providing valuable guidance for students and researchers to some of the many important and enduring contributions of existentialist thinkers chapters from an international team of experts explore existentialism s relationship to philosophical method ontology politics psychoanalysis ethics religion literature emotion feminism and sexuality emotions authenticity and the self its significance in latin american culture and its contribution to the development of post structuralism and cognitive science in addition five short chapters summarize the status of canonical figures kierkegaard nietzsche heidegger sartre and de beauvoir delineating the historical approach to their work while pointing to new directions contemporary research is now taking featuring a series of indispensable research tools such as an a to z glossary a timeline of key events texts and thinkers in existentialism a list of resources and an annotated guide to further reading this companion is

an essential resource to help the new reader navigate through the heart of existentialism and modern european philosophy

auto biography is currently one of the most popular literary genres widely supposed to illuminate the study of the individual and his or her personal circumstances missing persons suggests that auto biography is in fact based on fictions both about the person and about what it is possible to know about any one individual organised into chapters which consider particular kinds of auto biographical writing such as work on the british royal family and auto biographies of twentieth century men this book demonstrates the absences and evasions indeed the missing persons of auto biography mary evans book will provide invaluable reading for students of womens studies sociology and cultural studies courses

the concept of motherhood emerges strongly in the writings of simone de beauvoir violette leduc and annie ernaux whose work is examined here in the light of current debates about women s reproductive function and the longstanding glorification of the mere au foyer in france driven by fear of a falling population in this interdisciplinary study of twentieth century french women s writing fell uncovers tensions at the heart of the literary critique she shows these authors challenging the patriarchal view of motherhood as the sole justification for a woman s existence while at the same time confronting the conflict inherent in their relationship with their own mothers a survey of theoretical and historical material demonstrates vividly that the changing concept of motherhood remains a problematic and highly contentious issue for french feminists whether writing in 1940 or 1999

the first collection of its kind provocations a transnational reader in the history of feminist thought is historically organized and transnational in scope highlighting key ideas transformative moments and feminist conversations across national and cultural borders emphasizing feminist cross talk transnational collaborations and influences and cultural differences in context this anthology heralds a new approach to studying feminist history provocations includes engaging historically significant primary sources by writers of many nationalities in numerous genresÑfrom political manifestos to theoretical and cultural analysis to poetry and fiction these texts range from those of classical antiquity to others composed during the arab spring and represent asia the middle east latin america western europe and the united states each section begins with an introductory essay that presents central ideas and explores connections among readings placing them in historical national and intellectual contexts and concluding with questions for discussion and reflection £

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