



## **Within the Plantation Household: Black and White Women of the Old South (Gender and American Culture)**

*By Elizabeth Fox-Genovese*

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### **Within the Plantation Household: Black and White Women of the Old South (Gender and American Culture)** By Elizabeth Fox-Genovese

Documenting the difficult class relations between women slaveholders and slave women, this study shows how class and race as well as gender shaped women's experiences and determined their identities. Drawing upon massive research in diaries, letters, memoirs, and oral histories, the author argues that the lives of antebellum southern women, enslaved and free, differed fundamentally from those of northern women and that it is not possible to understand antebellum southern women by applying models derived from New England sources.

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## **Within the Plantation Household: Black and White Women of the Old South (Gender and American Culture)** By Elizabeth Fox-Genovese **Bibliography**

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## **Editorial Review**

From Library Journal

In her rich and rewarding book, Fox-Genovese challenges many of the conventions about women's history, which has been largely extrapolated from the experiences of northeastern women. Southern women black and white were southerners, bound by a rural world built on human bondage and race and dominated by men. These women were not passive or victims, but resourceful and resistant. Still, Fox-Genovese rejects the now fashionable view that planters' wives harbored antislavery or feminist sentiments. She places slave women at the center of opposition to slavery. Fox-Genovese has given black and white Southern women voices. Eloquent and powerful; for university and public libraries. Randall M. Miller, St. Joseph's Univ., Philadelphia Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Review

"Elizabeth Fox-Genovese . . . succeeds brilliantly.

Mechal Sobel, "New York Times Book Review""

"Virtually every sentence stimulates and every page challenges. . . . A vivid, extensive chronicle of Southern women's daily existence .

"Publisher's Weekly""

"An ambitious book . . . Elizabeth Fox-Genovese elevates American women's history to a new level of sophistication.

Nell Irvin Painter, Princeton University"

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"Asks us to put aside simple generalizations and explore the complicated world that masters and slaves built together on their terms, not ours. . . . Fox-Genovese provides a rich analysis . . . without losing her critical eye or her amazing capacity for empathy. Like no other historian before or since."

-- "Civil War Times"

Review

[A] well-written and thoroughly researched social history.--*New Yorker*

We have to thank a daughter of the Deep North for digging up and presenting more neglected testimony of plantation mistresses and their servants than has ever before been assembled so fully or organized and analyzed so cogently and provocatively.--C. Vann Woodward, *New York Review of Books*

Elizabeth Fox-Genovese undertakes the enormous tasks of telling the life stories of the last generation of black and white women of the Old South, and of analyzing the meanings of these connected stories as a way of illuminating both Southern and women's history--tasks at which she succeeds brilliantly.--Mechal Sobel, *New York Times Book Review*

An ambitious book that succeeds as history and as historiography. Weaving together multiple strands of analysis--including the psychological--Elizabeth Fox-Genovese elevates American women's history to a new level of sophistication.--Nell Irvin Painter, Princeton University

Virtually every sentence stimulates and every page challenges. . . . With a graceful and intelligent narrative, the author shows how and why Southern women did not--indeed could not--'participate in a sisterhood.' A vivid, extensive chronicle of Southern women's daily existence . . . is documented by passages from letters, diaries and oral histories--selectively and, consequently, effectively.--*Publisher's Weekly*

Asks us to put aside simple generalizations and explore the complicated world that masters and slaves built together on their terms, not ours. . . . Fox-Genovese provides a rich analysis . . . without losing her critical eye or her amazing capacity for empathy. Like no other historian before or since.--*Civil War Times*

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