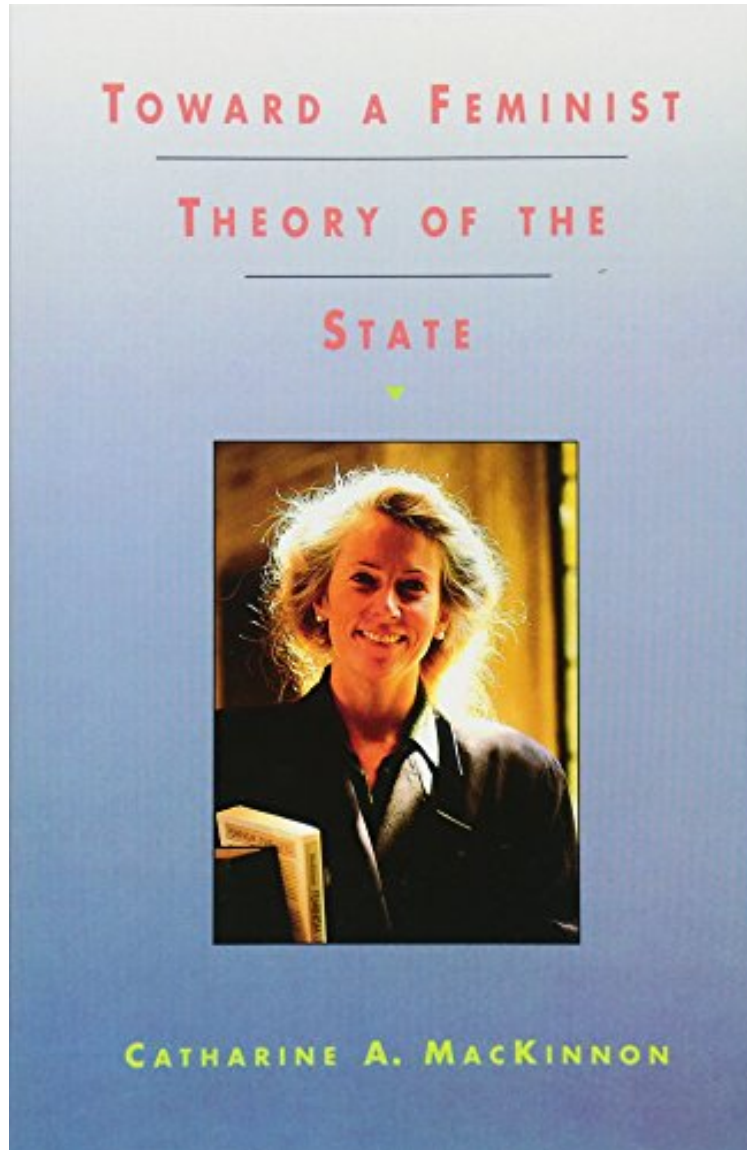


[Library ebook] Toward a Feminist Theory of the State

Toward a Feminist Theory of the State

Catharine A. MacKinnon

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Catharine A. MacKinnon : Toward a Feminist Theory of the State before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Toward a Feminist Theory of the State:

13 of 22 people found the following review helpful. BrilliantBy Mr. R.The writing of Catharine MacKinnon is the most thorough and conclusive explanations of male domination in our society that I have had the pleasure of exploring. It refutes many other feminist theories and then gives a solid base for her own explanation of feminism. I highly recomend this writing to anyone interested in feminism or political theory.2 of 2 people found the following

review helpful. I was predisposed to dislike this book given my liberal outlook. So my review of three stars means it actually exceeded my expectations. I think overall it offers some valuable insights. First the good stuff. I appreciated her discussion early in the book about the differences between radical and liberal feminism. The more feminist theory I read the more difficult I find it to distinguish between the two approaches in a way that doesn't leave someone or some topics on the chopping block. In general I think that liberal feminists have addressed many of the valid concerns she addresses, such as situatedness and the social construction of sexuality. Her point that neutrality and an emphasis on negative rights camouflage and maintain status quo male supremacy was described in a novel way, but it's an argument I was introduced to by feminist liberals. MacKinnon's discussion of the "wages for housework" critique/movement was one of my favorite parts of the book, and perhaps one of the strongest arguments against liberalism she makes. If we associate liberal with incremental, it's very hard to see how we could get from the current model where housework is not remunerated within the market mechanism to one where it is. One of the weak parts of the book for me was the long introductory chapters on Marxism and feminism. I realize it's integral to her world view and her departure point for "unmodified" feminism, but she takes so much for granted from such a deeply misguided ideology that it was difficult for me to take her seriously for the first four chapters. Ultimately what I find flawed in MacKinnon's feminism is what I have called its hermeneutical closure. She offers an interpretation of sexuality, pornography, etc based on her understanding of women as a class that is deaf to all alternative interpretations that individual women might offer based on their idiosyncratic beliefs and histories. This closed system offers no hope for dismantling gender hierarchy. Any reform, any evolution in norms and beliefs, can be interpreted as a reaction to and thus yet another perpetuation of male dominance. It's a similar phenomenon to the Christian fundamentalist tactic of suggesting the Devil has planted evidence to tempt us away from faith in God. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. received in great condition. Also By Customer High quality book, received in great condition. Also, here is a place to review the quality of the physical product, not a place to do book reviews (so those of you leaving one star for the content of the book are just categorically mistaken) but insofar as the content of the book goes, 6 stars. MacKinnon rules.

Toward a Feminist Theory of the State presents Catharine MacKinnon's powerful analysis of politics, sexuality, and the law from the perspective of women. Using the debate over Marxism and feminism as a point of departure, MacKinnon develops a theory of gender centered on sexual subordination and applies it to the state. The result is an informed and compelling critique of inequality and a transformative vision of a direction for social change.

From Library Journal A theoretical legal treatise from activist attorney MacKinnon (Sexual Harrassment of Working Women, LJ 6/1/79; Feminism Unmodified, LJ 5/15/87), co-author of the controversial Dworkin-MacKinnon anti-pornography civil rights ordinance. She begins with a discussion of feminism and Marxism, because (as she explains) the latter is the only contemporary political tradition to confront organized social dominance as a dynamic. She goes on to analyze feminist method (consciousness-raising) and the knowledge it reveals; and what she calls feminism unmodified (radical feminism) as a post-Marxist methodology. She explores issues of sexuality/gender and how they contribute to women's oppression and the role of the liberal state in promoting it. Revealing, closely reasoned, densely written, this is not easy reading, but sure to be hotly debated among academicians and intellectuals. For university libraries.- Beverly Miller, Boise State Univ. Lib., Id. Copyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc. The single most important book in the new jurisprudence...It is, in my opinion, the only book in legal theory produced in the twentieth century which can rank with H. L. A. Hart's The Concept of Law (1961). Both change the framework and transform the paradigm of the theoretical debate. All discourse within the framework of liberal legal theory has had to place itself in relationship to the ideas and theories of Hart. All feminist legal theory, likewise, must place itself in reference to the writings of MacKinnon. Her work, however, is much more significant than that of Hart, because her perspective has the potential of social revolution. (Canadian Bar) Looking at the female and male halves of the world equally transforms everything--and Toward a Feminist Theory of the State makes that clear with scholarship, courage, and wit. By exposing and correcting the patriarchal values underlying nationalism and justice, Catharine MacKinnon causes an earthquake of thinking that rearranges every part of our intellectual landscape. This book is a "must read." (Gloria Steinem)[MacKinnon] convincingly links sexuality and violence. But what I value in this book is the leap of faith to a search for practical remedies for women's situation. (Naomi Black Toronto Globe and Mail) Looking at the female and male halves of the world equally transforms everything--and Toward a Feminist Theory of the State makes that clear with scholarship, courage, and wit. By exposing and correcting the patriarchal values underlying nationalism and justice, Catharine MacKinnon causes an earthquake of thinking that rearranges every part of our intellectual landscape. This book is a "must read." --Gloria Steinem