

Hall describes the strategies used by women strikers to neutralize the National Guard, who were young men and often related to the women they were sent to teargas. Women mitigated the ideology of “good vs. bad women” in order to maintain a united front and to support those strikers who seemed to bridge the dichotomy between “lady” and “hussy.”

The emphasis on the interrelatedness as opposed to the separation of public and private spheres is a common theme throughout the volume. Joan Jensen’s article on Native American women gives us a picture of Seneca women’s vast knowledge of and expertise in agriculture and of the community power and status they derived through their control of land and agriculture. She describes how some Seneca women adopted and others resisted the dramatic changes advocated by government, the church, and social reformers.

The volume addresses a multitude of themes including family life, forms of work, definitions of womanhood, sources of power, forms of white domination, women’s relationships—both conflictual and cooperative—and sexuality. The anthology’s greatest contribution is the writers’ insistence on the development of a multicultural framework in which race is “theorized not simply described.” In this regard, the articles are uneven, with many providing more description than analysis of race. Even so, this anthology fills an enormous void by bringing to the fore a truly multicultural women’s history.

The book can serve as a reader for women’s history, or it can be used selectively for survey courses on ethnic studies or women’s studies. The bibliographies at the end of the anthology are extremely helpful as a teaching resource.

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Philip Durham and Everett L. Jones. *The Negro Cowboys*. (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1983) 278 pp., \$7.95 paper.

Except for books such as *The Negro Cowboys*, the African American West remains an enigma to most Americans. Popular media continue to perpetuate the stereotype of a white West, in spite of the fact that some of the earliest explorers accompanying the European invasion were of African descent. Beginning in 1501 with the Spanish conquest of Mexico, Africans were there. They were with Balboa when he “discovered” the Pacific, with Cortes in Mexico, with Cabeza de Vaca, Coronado, and others. Estevanico (Little Stephen) first explored New Mexico and Arizona.

When Lewis and Clark were dispatched by President Thomas Jefferson to explore the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, Clark’s slave, York, took a principal role in the success of that expedition. The fur trade which followed saw trappers plying their trade in the West, and a great many of these were black.

Blacks were noted among the mountain men, the most famous being James Beckwourth who was adopted by the Crow Indians and rose to the position of a chief. Trailing them would be miners, farmers, cattle drovers, gunslingers, prostitutes, teamsters, lawmen, merchants, and other blacks whose occupations and roles would reflect those of their white counterparts.

Only recently has there been rigorous study of the substantial instances of black and Indian amalgamation which occurred in the West (as well as in all parts of the United States). Some historians have reported that a few Indian tribes actually became predominantly black. In Oklahoma and other areas, for instance, it is not rare to find those who claim both African American and Indian heritage.

History has also glossed over the stories of Westerners who were escaped slaves or free blacks attempting to launch new lives in another part of this country. Some of these people set up all-black towns in Kansas, Oklahoma, Colorado, and elsewhere.

The Negro Cowboys, first published in 1965 on the heels of race riots around the United States, the death of Malcom X, and other major events influencing black America, attempted to address the black West and place the African American in context regarding *his* role. I emphasize “his” because the major shortcoming of this book is that the black woman does not exist. Reflecting romanticized fiction and Hollywood films, women do not even play “supportive roles.” Because of the increasing amount of letters, diaries, and other material which have come to light in the last couple decades regarding the role of black women, an expanded version of this book is in order, or a companion edition written on “Cowgirls.”

This does not mean *The Negro Cowboys* has little value. It does much to document the stories of Ben Hodges, Cherokee Bill, “Deadwood Dick,” plus thousands of other drovers, mustangers, and others who rode the Shawnee, Chisholm, and Goodnight-Loving Trails, and who settled in communities all over the West. Combined with other texts, *The Negro Cowboys* provides an opportunity to begin to examine the lives of African Americans in the West.

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Troy Duster. *Backdoor to Eugenics*. (New York: Routledge, 1990) 201 pp., \$13.95 paper.

During the first decades of this century, the theory of eugenics, which applied social Darwinism to human beings, was an influential movement. Its major contention was that Northern Europeans were genetically superior to other groups—Southern and Eastern Europeans, Asians, blacks and Jews. Therefore, the presence of these “inferior” groups in the U.S. should be limited, both by constraining the growth of their populations and by