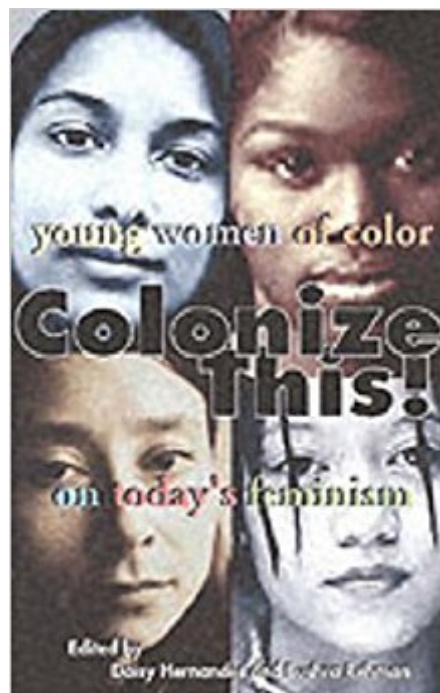




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Colonize This!: Young Women Of Color On Today's Feminism (Live Girls)



Synopsis

It has been decades since women of color first turned feminism upside down, exposing the 1970s feminist movement as exclusive, white, and unaware of the concerns and issues of women of color from around the globe. Now a new generation of brilliant, outspoken women of color is speaking to the concerns of a new feminism, and to their place in it. Daisy Hernandez of Ms. magazine and poet Bushra Rehman have collected a diverse, lively group of emerging writers who speak to their experience; to the strength and rigidity of community and religion, to borders and divisions, both internal and external; and address issues that take feminism into the twenty-first century. One writer describes herself as a "mixed brown girl, Sri-Lankan and New England mill-town white trash," and clearly delineates the organizing differences between whites and women of color: "We do not kick ass the way the white girls do, in meetings of NOW or riot grrl. For us, it's all about family." A Korean-American woman struggles to create her own identity in a traditional community: "Yam-ja-neh means nice, sweet, compliant. I've heard it used many times by my parents' friends who don't know shit about me." An Arab-American feminist deconstructs the "quaint vision" of Middle-Eastern women with which most Americans feel comfortable. This impressive array of first-person accounts adds a much-needed fresh dimension to the ongoing dialogue between race and gender, and gives voice to the women who are creating and shaping the feminism of the future.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Initially, I wanted to respond to the person who wrote 'racist' to say, that he's an ignorant idiot; particularly for his unexamined complicity in affirming the oppressive hegemony that burdens this culture and society. By attempting to silence and dismiss the marginalized voices of women of color he is only perpetuating racism, and extendedly, sexism, classism, neocolonialism, and homophobia by hiding them and pretending that they don't exist. However, I thought that maybe his apathy is only the result of being uninformed, unexposed, and/or simply being uneducated. I mean, who has the audacity to tactlessly claim in public that "To think about racism is to be racist. [and that, therefore,] People should think about other things." This is, either written by (1) someone from a position of unearned privilege; inferred by his/her inability to find urgency with the issue; or (2) someone who simply can't read. Slavery's long dead dude, not the embedded institution of oppressive "-isms" that circulate and reside within this society. And I know that sometimes it's hard to accept or understand that you're an oppressor too. Anyway, that's what I want to say. Instead, I'm going to be passive and say: Well, there's a great distinction between being racial and being racist. A racist is someone who vilifies another person through that person's race; and/or discriminates or commits violence against another person on the basis of that person's race. When a person emphasizes race to substantiate the socio-political flesh of his/her experiences, however, I don't read it as being racist. To me it is a reflection of the reality upon which other people are situated; and how that reality is defined and determined, sometimes, on the basis of one's skin.

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