

(Download) Backlash

Backlash

Susan Faludi

**Download PDF | ePub | DOC | audiobook | ebooks*



#6582697 in Books Publishing Mills 1992-07 Format: Audiobook Original language: English PDF # 4 1.19 x 4.29 x 7.041, Binding: Audio Cassette | File size: 67.Mb

Susan Faludi : Backlash before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Backlash:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. AN ESSENTIAL FEMINIST BOOK, IF THERE EVER WAS ONE By Steven H Propp Susan Charlotte Faludi (born 1959) is a journalist and author, who won a Pulitzer Prize for Explanatory Journalism in 1991. She has also written Stiffed: The Betrayal of the American Man and The Terror Dream: Myth and Misogyny in an Insecure America. [NOTE: page numbers below refer to the 552-page hardcover edition.] She wrote in the Introduction to this 1991 book, To be a woman in America at the close of the 20th century--- what good fortune. That's what we keep hearing, anyway. And yet Behind this celebration of the American woman's victory, behind the news that the struggle for women's rights is won, another message flashes. You may be free and equal now, it says to women, but you have never been more miserable. This bulletin of despair is posted everywhere (Pg. ix) She points out, If American women are so equal, why do they represent two-thirds of all poor adults?... Why are they still far more likely than men to live in poor housing and receive no health insurance, and twice as likely to draw no pension?... Why does the average female college graduate today earn less than a man with no more than a high school diploma why are nearly 80 percent of working women still stuck in traditional female jobs---as secretaries, administrative support workers and salesclerks? (Pg. xiii) She continues, Seen against this background, the much ballyhooed claim that feminism is responsible for making women miserable becomes absurd the afflictions ascribed to feminism are all myths. From the man shortage to the infertility epidemic to the female burnout to toxic day care, these

so-called female crises have had their origins in a closed system that starts and ends in the media, popular culture, and advertising. Women themselves don't single out the women's movement as the source of their misery. To the contrary, in national surveys 75 to 95 percent of women credit the feminist campaign with IMPROVING their lives. Less than 8 percent think the women's movement might have actually made their lot worse. (Pg. xv) She asserts, the antifeminist backlash has been set off not by women's achievement of full equality but by the increased possibility that they might win it. It is a preemptive strike that stops women long before they reach the finish line. As the backlash has gathered force, it has cut off the few from the many---and the few women who have advanced seek to prove, as a social survival tactic, that they aren't so interested in advancement after all. Some of them parade their defection from the women's movement, while their working-class peers founder and cling to the splintered remains of the feminist cause. (Pg. xx) She clarifies, The backlash is not a conspiracy. Although the backlash is not an organized movement, that doesn't make it any less destructive. A backlash against women's rights succeeds to the degree that it appears NOT to be political. It is most powerful when it lodges inside a woman's mind and turns her vision inward, until she imagines the pressure is all in her head, until she begins to enforce the backlash, too---on herself. (Pg. xxii) She concludes the Introduction with the statement, Feminism's agenda is basic: It asks that women not be forced to choose between public justice and private happiness. It asks that women be free to define themselves---instead of having their identity defined for them, time and again, by their culture and their men. The fact that these are still such incendiary notions should tell us that American women have a way to go before they enter the promised land of equality. (Pg. xxiii) She documents of Dr. Srully Blotnick [author of *Otherwise Engaged: The Private Lives of Successful Career Women*]: the career of this national authority was built on sand. Not only was Blotnick not a licensed psychologist, almost nothing on his résumé checked out; even the professor that he cited as his current mentor had been dead for fifteen years. (Pg. 7) Against the man shortage, she notes, Men in the 80s were a little more anxious to marry than the press accounts let on. Single men far outnumbered women in dating services, matchmaking clubs, and the personal columns. In fact, it had become common practice for dating services to admit single women at heavily reduced rates in hopes of remedying the imbalance. (Pg. 16) About the single female depression myth, she observes, In fact, no one knew whether single women were more or less depressed in the 80s; no epidemiological study had actually tracked changes in single women's mental health. As it turns out, social scientists have established only one fact about single women's mental health: employment improves it. (Pg. 36) Of child care abuse cases, she points out, The study concluded that there was no epidemic of child abuse at day care centers. In fact, if there was an abuse crisis anywhere it was at home---where the risk to children is almost twice as high as in day care. (Pg. 43) She states, If establishing masculinity depends most of all on succeeding as the prime breadwinner, then it is hard to imagine a force more directly threatening to fragile American manhood than the feminist drive for economic equality. And if supporting a family epitomizes what it means to be a man, then it is little wonder that the backlash erupted when it did---against the backdrop of the 80s economy. That the ruling definition of masculinity remains so economically based helps to explain, too, why the backlash has been voiced most bitterly by two groups of men: blue-collar workers, devastated by the shift to a service economy, and younger baby boomers. (Pg. 65) She observes that While the media promoted the backlash, who covered it? The mainstream press wasn't doing a very good job. The formerly quasi-feminist *Hers* column in the *New York Times* was now printing stories on such politically charged topics as what it's like to have a makeover. And many smaller-circulation feminist newspapers were closing up shop; even in the San Francisco Bay Area most of the publications had folded by 1989. (Pg. 108) She continues, Surely, however, women could still turn to the flagship of feminist journalism, *Ms.*, for the real scoop on the backlash. But as the 80s advanced, *Ms.*'s readers would find the magazine retreating almost as quickly as the culture around it. We give you permission to have nicely plucked eyebrows, *Ms.* chirped in the October 1989 issue, in a three-page feature on grooming. All this from a magazine that used to be critical of the beauty industry. (Pg. 108) She points out that Warren Farrell [once the author of *The Liberated Man*, and a board member of New York NOW] changed radically, writing *Why Men Are the Way They Are*. She comments, As the ranks of career women have grown, the situation has only grown worse for men, Farrell says. For Farrell, the career woman's brush-off is also no abstract affair: his wife, a Harvard-educated, fast-rising IBM executive, left him and eventually married another IBM manager. Farrell sees a direct link between her professional success and their marital dissolution. (Pg. 303-304) She reports on Sylvia Ann Hewlett [author of books such as *A Lesser Life: The Myth of Women's Liberation in America*]: Hewlett says women opposed the ERA because they knew it would cost them in marital support and protective labor benefits. But the ERA would have had no effect on these supports other than to make them sex blind, as most state laws had already stipulated anyway. Half the states didn't require husbands to support their wives---and the states that did have such provisions hardly enforced them. As for protective labor benefits, the courts had already eliminated them---having found them to be a violation of women's civil rights. And it was blue-collar women who petitioned the courts to overturn these benefits. (Pg. 315) She dislikes Betty Friedan's 1981 book *The Second Stage*: Much of the book is insistently self-referential, devoted to rehashing power struggles she lost at long-forgotten feminist conferences, reprints of her old speeches, and complaints that other feminists kept ignoring her proposals. Friedan's penchant for imperial decrees and self-dramatization is long-standing. (Pg. 322) She points out about Robin Norwood's *Women Who Love Too Much*, As Norwood let slip to a few

colleagues, many of her patients in the book are really just her. The grand finale of the book---and long and detailed final therapy session is only the therapist talking to and about herself. (Pg. 355)She notes that the pay gap had only improved for women by less than five percentage points since 1979. And as much as half of that improvement was due to men's falling wages, not women's improving earnings. Take out men's declining pay as a factor and the gap had closed only three percentage points. (Pg. 364)There is so much more to this book---analysis of mass media, television and movies, etc. But if you have any interest whatsoever in feminism and the women's movement in general, this book is absolute Must reading. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Backlash-Susan Faludi By GCGarrison First off, this is now an outdated book as it was written in 1991 and the statistics and studies are 17 years ago. Things have changed for the worse and the better since...I have a 'feeling' which Dr. Luara disdains. The bottom line I think Ms. Faludi makes in this book and the next one "Betrayal" which I've also read is that men and women want the exact same thing. We all want LOVE...and safety, and understanding, and compatibility, and respect. How basic. Takes 500 page tomes to say this though. Ms Faludi is some intellectual, has Laura Ingraham ever interviewed her, well why not? Her thesis and doctorate is definitely worth your time reading if you like sociology and want to figure out why men and women have gotten so out of whack...as in can love last, now really...and why not? 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Feminist By Stars No. 1. Patriarchy is alive and well in our society. Anyone that denies it must live in a fantasy world. Women are still being abused physically, mentally, emotionally, financially, and sexually, every SINGLE DAY. The Abuse of women has been going on for thousands of years, mostly because abusive men view women as weak, worthless, stupid, and incapable, of living life independently and making their own decisions. I should know! I left 2 abusive husbands and an abusive boyfriend. It becomes a pattern in your life. I have broken the cycle and my daughter is proof. I did not allow her to be abused and worked hard to prevent it. No. 2. Women make less than men. Everyone knows that! Our worth as human capital is not as much to employers because we may have babies, cramps, or become caretakers. Men would not survive without women, of course because there would be no creation, but also because they would kill each other. Survival of the fittest includes love, affection, and care. Men cannot provide that on their own to each other, they are too competitive and unemotional. No. 3. Susan Faludi would have had a greater chance of making an impression on women if United States women woke up and fought against patriarchy. We still have a long way to go. I applaud Susan Faludi, Gloria Steinem, and all others who support Feminism. I am and always will be a feminist. Believe me, Feminism is alive and well. Continue the good fight ladies. I applaud: Backlash.

A sweeping examination of the women's movement identifies the factors--economic, political, and cultural--that have led to its demise, looking at attitudes toward women in film, fashion, science, law, politics, and the media. Book available.

.com Feminist Susan Faludi writes that during the 1980s and early 1990s American culture reacted to the progress of the feminist movement with a vengeance. This "undeclared war against American woman" was exemplified by the popular idea that women had moved from having too few options to having an overabundance. From movies to the workplace, women were bombarded with the message that no matter how hard they tried, it was impossible to attain it all. Faludi argues that data on working women and motherhood in the previous decade had been purposefully skewed. In Backlash she masterfully disarms the attackers, then translates popular "facts," and lays the groundwork for the dawning of a new age of feminism. ... an invigorating and thorough report from the battleground. -- New York Times, Ellen Goodman From the Inside Flap Winner of the National Book Critics Circle award for nonfiction, this controversial, thought-provoking, and timely book is "as groundbreaking as Simone de Beauvoir's *The Second Sex* and Betty Friedan's *The Feminine Mystique*." -- Newsweek. From the Trade Paperback edition.