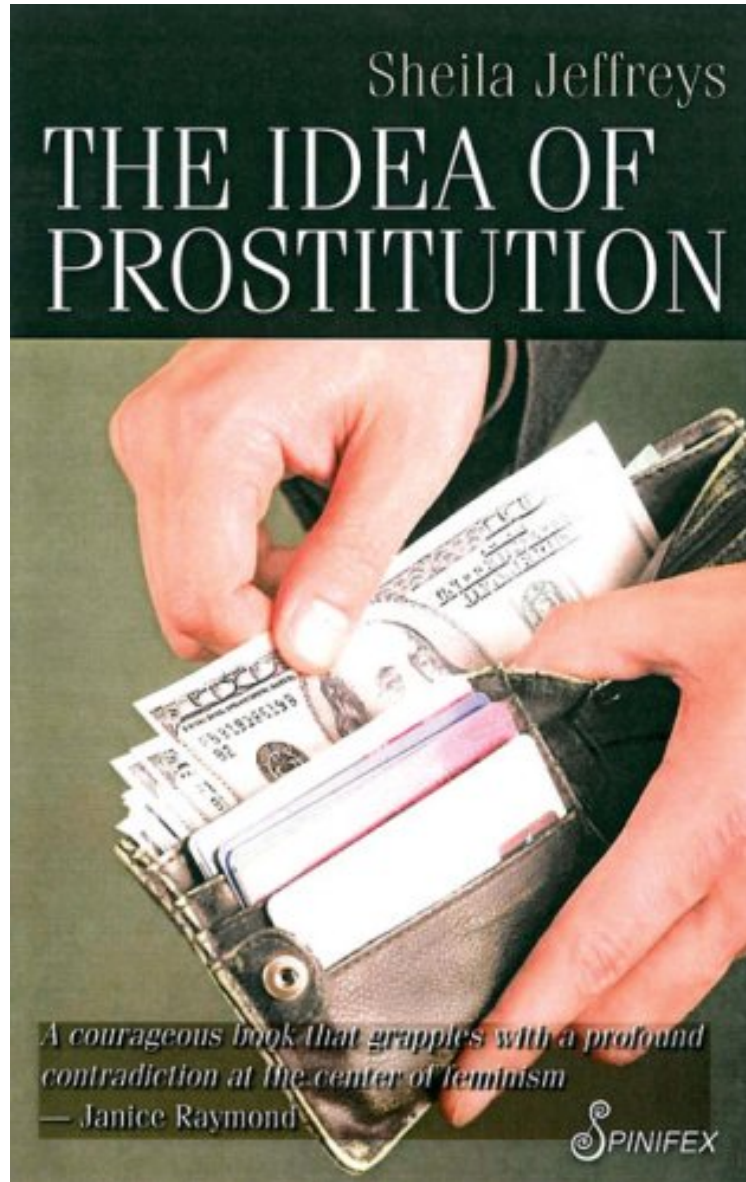


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The Idea of Prostitution

Sheila Jeffreys

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Sheila Jeffreys : The Idea of Prostitution before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Idea of Prostitution:

25 of 32 people found the following review helpful. The Idea of ProstitutionBy A CustomerIn The Idea of Prostitution, revolutionary feminist Sheila Jeffreys stands up against the multi-billion dollar sex industry. She tackles the ideology that women exist to be used/bought by men, the prostitution practices that stem from this ideology, and the sharp

increase in male prostitution behaviour that we have witnessed towards the end of the twentieth century and into the twenty-first century. Jeffreys takes us on a journey through time to the origins of prostitution and guides us through hundreds of years of sexual slavery. Her skill as a historian, radical feminist and political scientist enable us to see the political contexts that have produced a rise in prostitution throughout history and ways in which we might begin to end the male trade in women and children today. She investigates the connection between sexual liberal and libertarian ideologies and the development of the pro-prostitution or "sex work" lobby that marks the most recent push towards legalising the sale of women to men. Geographically, Jeffreys' reach is vast and the cross-cultural analysis she engages is helpful in revealing both the similarities and differences in male prostitution behaviour throughout the world. Jeffreys is consistent in showing that prostitution is created by the vulnerability of women in a global society that is economically, politically and sexually run by men. In this way, she ushers in the 2000 United Nations declaration in CEDAW that there is no distinction between free and forced prostitution because prostitution necessarily exploits the vulnerability of women. She does not shy away from the unpopular conclusion that if we are to end prostitution, we must concentrate on ending male power over women and children. Through her steadfast loyalty to the women used in prostitution, Jeffreys is able to show the cruelty of the flesh trade and the sexist, racist and classist motives of the "sex work" lobby today. One by one, she undoes the myths that enable people to feel comfortable with the sale of women, including the idea that there is a distinction between forced/free, child/adult prostitution and that there is a distinction between sex trafficking and prostitution. Her thorough analysis of these distinctions lead the reader to conclude that these are indeed lies perpetrated by those who collude to make every woman believe that her destiny is to be bought and sold. The Idea of Prostitution is invaluable for anyone interested in the historical development of prostitution, who is currently backing the growth of sexual slavery, and why it has become an accepted part of contemporary global culture. But perhaps the most wonderful aspect of Jeffreys' book is the optimism she instills in a new generation of women. She believes that together, we can end the sexual exploitation of women and children by claiming the right to defend ourselves and our communities against the brutal might of the international sex industry. 13 of 22 people found the following review helpful. BRILLIANT By A Customer The Idea of Prostitution provides an excellent understanding of the politics of sexuality. Clearly, she points out that prostitution is NOT choice but rather a decision based on social context and a system of power that we all live within. And yes it is time the men are punished for their bad behaviour not the women who are often trapped in prostitution because of a variety of reasons. Great work! I HIGHLY RECOMMEND this book. 11 of 25 people found the following review helpful. Excellent publication By A Customer The way I see it, she presents a very interesting summation of what goes on in this business unlike other writers. Definitely recommended.

From the white-slave traffic of the 19th century to present-day business practices, this well-researched report examines the changing concept of prostitution, exploring its initial roles as a form of sexual freedom and a way for women to escape poverty to a contemporary role as a human rights violation. Arguing against sexual violence, this record investigates various aspects related to the topic, including male prostitution, military brothels, and pornography. Comparing the act with slavery and marital rape, this new edition explores the claims of the prostitutes rights movement and the burgeoning sex industry. This invaluable book is not only informative vis--vis the condition of prostituted individuals but also determined in its convictions.

"This is thought-provoking, courageous and important scholarly work...essential reading." -- Anita Harris, Australian Journal of Political Science About the Author Sheila Jeffreys is the author of *Anticlimax: A Feminist Perspective on the Sexual Revolution*, *Beauty and Misogyny: Harmful Cultural Practices in the West*, and *Unpacking Queer Politics: A Lesbian Feminist Perspective*. She is a founding member of the Australian branch of the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women (CATWA) and a professor of sexual and international feminist politics at the University of Melbourne.