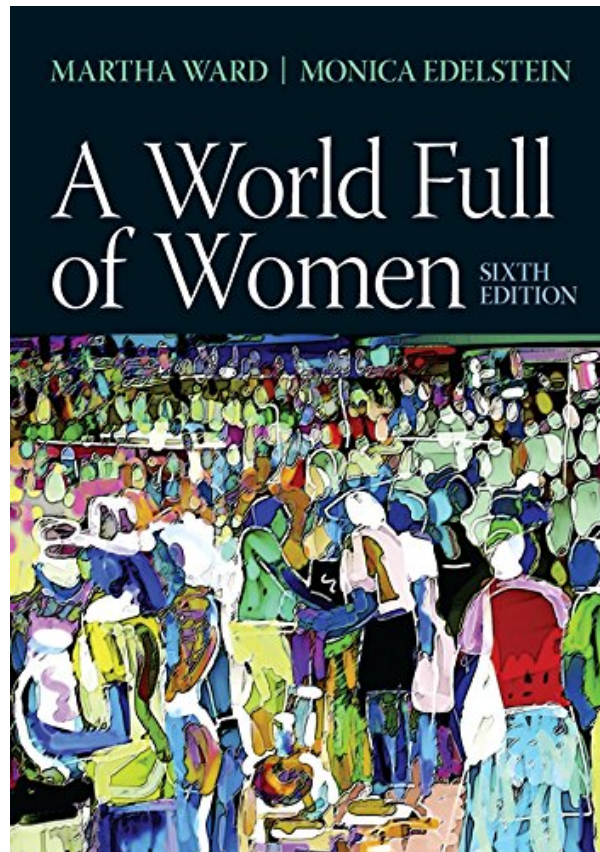


# A WORLD FULL OF WOMEN BY MARTHA C. WARD, MONICA D. EDELSTEIN



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# A World Full of Women

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## Review

“An accessible, personable, interesting introductory overview to the field of feminist anthropology. The familiar and friendly writing style opens students to thinking about difficult ideas, and challenging ideas, both at the emotional and intellectual levels.”

- Diana Fox, Bridgewater State College

“. . . an entry-level, comprehensive text that covers a great number of topics that are of interest to professors and students interested in gender and anthropology. I was impressed by the range of examples and visuals used.”

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“Thorough, user friendly, accessible”

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“*A World Full of Women* is a good, graspable, engaging, text for a gender based class.”

- Jessica Bodoh-Creed , California State University, Los Angeles

## About the Author

MARTHA WARD was professor of Anthropology at the University of New Orleans for 42 years. Among other activities, she taught the first course in Women’s Studies and Gender in Louisiana. She has survived the glass ceiling and academic politics, the Sexual Revolution, two marriages, Hurricane Katrina, and the intensities of motherhood ---among many similar experiences. She has done fieldwork in and published her work in Micronesia, Tirol in the Austrian-Italian Alps, on the politics of reproduction in the United States, and on health care disparities for poor women. The most recent project is a radical ethnographic and archival reconstruction of Voodoo in New Orleans, centering on the lives of its two famous practitioners, a mother and her daughter both named Marie Laveau. Post-retirement she loves on her grandchildren and her looms where she weaves in honor of the work of women through time and space.

MONICA EDELSTEIN earned her Ph.D. in Anthropology from Tulane University in 2001. Her research includes an investigation of spirit possession practices among Ethiopian immigrants in Israel and gendered

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Takes a cross-cultural approach to the study of women

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Academic text or personal expression?

By Gregory L Dyas

Though I enjoyed this book, I'm not sure most people are ready for Ward's obvious folding-in of her personal and political beliefs into this thorough work on the experiences of women.

Ward's writing on the work women do and on the wide variety of gender issues explained in the book is certainly interesting and edifying. However, her seemingly definitive pronouncements on political and social matters are at times given without explanation or evidence. In our changing world, some of the "truths" about male/female relationships in our society she takes as a matter of course are holding less and less water. Those familiar with issues in the anthropology of gender, while they may agree with her, will find places where evidence that supports her conclusions is amplified while that which doesn't is minimized or omitted.

Despite her conviction otherwise, I don't agree with her that it's possible to express one's personal opinion in such an otherwise academic context. Inevitably, one is cheapened by the other. That said, the book itself is quite interesting as a look into gender issues in anthropology and the viewpoints of both herself and other greats in the sub-field, like Mead & Benedict. Perhaps my wish though was simply for a more academically rigorous treatment.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Comprehensive!

By Lauren M. Moriarty

I was assigned this text for my first women's studies course and I couldn't have been happier with the professor's decision. Reading it was easy and interesting. The language used is simple, to the point and keeps the reader's attention. The concepts discussed are relevant, current and worth learning more about. I stepped away from this book having gained a different world view.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Well written and thoughtful.

By LeAnn M. Feeney

Lots of references to the work of Elizabeth Barber and connections to fabric. For someone with a textile background it provides even more "click" moments. Easily readable and packed with information it is a must read for anyone interested in the fields of Women's Studies and Anthropology.

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