



Labor of Love, Labor of Sorrow: Black Women, Work, and the Family, from Slavery to the Present

By Jacqueline Jones

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The forces that shaped the institution of slavery in the American South endured, albeit in altered form, long after slavery was abolished. Toiling in sweltering Virginia tobacco factories or in the kitchens of white families in Chicago, black women felt a stultifying combination of racial discrimination and sexual prejudice. And yet, in their efforts to sustain family ties, they shared a common purpose with wives and mothers of all classes.

In *Labor of Love, Labor of Sorrow*, historian Jacqueline Jones offers a powerful account of the changing role of black women, lending a voice to an unsung struggle from the depths of slavery to the ongoing fight for civil rights.

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Editorial Review

Review

Winner Of The Brown Publication Prize Of The Association Of Black Women Historians

"Brilliant, bedrock scholarship crucial to our understanding of the crisis of the black family in the 1980's."

-- Los Angeles Times

"A valuable contribution...on several counts. Labor of Love, Labor of Sorrow exorcises several malignant stereotypes and stubborn myths, it is free of the sexism and racism it describes, and it interprets old data in new ways.... Rather than simply looking at data, Miss Jones sees them. In so doing she has turned an are light on several dark and unexplored corners."

-- Toni Morrison, The New York Times Book Review

"A remarkable, inspiring work...which reveals important truths about our society. It is a major contribution to American social history and should be required reading for everyone who cares about the progress of justice and equality in America." -- Coretta Scott King

"Jacqueline Jones's excellent study takes us far into the implications of the broad social differences between the black and the white experiences in America."

-- Nathan I. Huggins

"A seminal work of scholarship, which has no rival in its subtle explication of the complex interface of work, sex, race and class. All future studies of the black worker will have to take this book into account." -- Henry Louis Gates

From the Publisher

"A seminal work of scholarship which has no rival in its subtle explication of the complex interface of work, sex, race, and class." --Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

From the Inside Flap

A powerful account of the changing role of American black women in the labor force and in the family.

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Lillian Albrecht:

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