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Negotiators of Change: Historical Perspectives on Native American Women. Nancy Shoemaker.

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Nancy Shoemaker (Ed.), *Negotiators of Change: Historical Perspectives on Native American Women*. New York: Routledge, 1995. \$17.95 papercover.

According to Nancy Shoemaker, the editor of this informative collection of original essays, most scholars agree that Native American women enjoyed more authority and respect than European women before the Europeans landed in the New World. The historical account of the changing positions of Native American women in society, presented here, explores whether and how these positions changed after European contact. It focuses on the role of Native American women in social relations and in the economy and the changes encountered in these roles due to exposure to a different culture as well as to United States government policies and programs.

The information presented here spans several centuries, beginning in the early seventeenth century and stretching into the present and utilizes a variety of research traditions. Clifford Trafzer, for instance, offers a quantitative analysis of the purchasing record of the Yakima Reservation to explore the extent to which women participated in the trading economy of the reservation. Paivi Hoikkala uses oral history research to examine the impact of federal grant money of the political role of women in the Salt-River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community in Arizona.

A common theme of these works is that Native American women, rather than being displaced by the changing market situation created by Europeans, actually adapted readily to these changes by assuming new productive roles that reaped financial rewards. Murphy, for instance, found that Sauk, Mesquale, and Winnebago women readily assumed lead mining activities as a form of "gathering" activity typically assigned to women.

The book gives an insightful historical account of Native American women and attempts to integrate two opposing theories regarding the gender division of labor: the 'separate-sphere' theory posed by Michelle Rosaldo and the Marxist view, expounded by Eleanor Leacock, that the gender division of labor and unequal distribution of power are inevitable products of capitalism. Shoemaker suggests that, although job tasks do differ by gender in Native American society, the distribution of power

was equal. Students of Native American history, gender studies, labor markets, and social stratification would benefit from reading this work.

Nicholas A. Vacc, Susan B. De Vaney and Joe Wittmer (Eds.), *Experiencing and Counseling Multicultural and Diverse Populations*. Bristol, PA: Taylor and Francis, 1995. \$34.95 hardcover.

Social workers, psychotherapists and counselors have become much more aware of the role of cultural difference when working with their clients. Although a number of helpful books on this subject are now available, this book contributes further to the literature by offering a detailed exposition of multicultural practice. The book is interesting in that it is not restricted to major ethnic groups (such as Mexican Americans, African Americans and Native Americans), but includes material on the elderly, gays and lesbians and women entering the workforce.

The book's basic premise is that conventional counseling seeks to produce a convergence towards 'normalcy' among clients of all beliefs, life styles and ethnic differences. Generally, the definition of normalcy is based on white Anglo, middle-class ideals. Clients who diverge from these norms are persuaded to conform and to become more like the dominant group. As the editors points out, this view reflects the now discredited belief that America is a melting pot in which immigrants are happily assimilated into mainstream values. They argue instead that America's diversity should be recognized and supported. They contend that those who work with clients seeking help should adopt practices that nurture and maintain difference and seek solutions to personal problems within a framework of toleration and acceptance of diversity. The individual chapters of the book show how this can be achieved in practical ways.

The book's extensive coverage and detail will be of value not only to students learning about counseling with diverse clients but to professionals as well. It contains useful case material and its overall approach will appeal to those working in practice settings.