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University of Toledo  
September 11, 2021

***THE EYE OF THE STORM:  
ACADEMIA AND GAINING THE RECOGNITION  
OF MATRIARCHAL STUDIES***



Heide Goettner-Abendroth  
May 14, 2011  
St. Gallen, Switzerland



Venus” of Willendorf  
24,000–22,000 BCE



Venus de Milo  
*ca.* 130–100 B.C.E.

**What Happened  
between  
These Two Eras?**



## What Happened

- Ancient Greek Propaganda
- Hyksos Invasion of Egypt
- Development of Monotheism
- “Age of Discovery”/Age of Imperial Colonialism



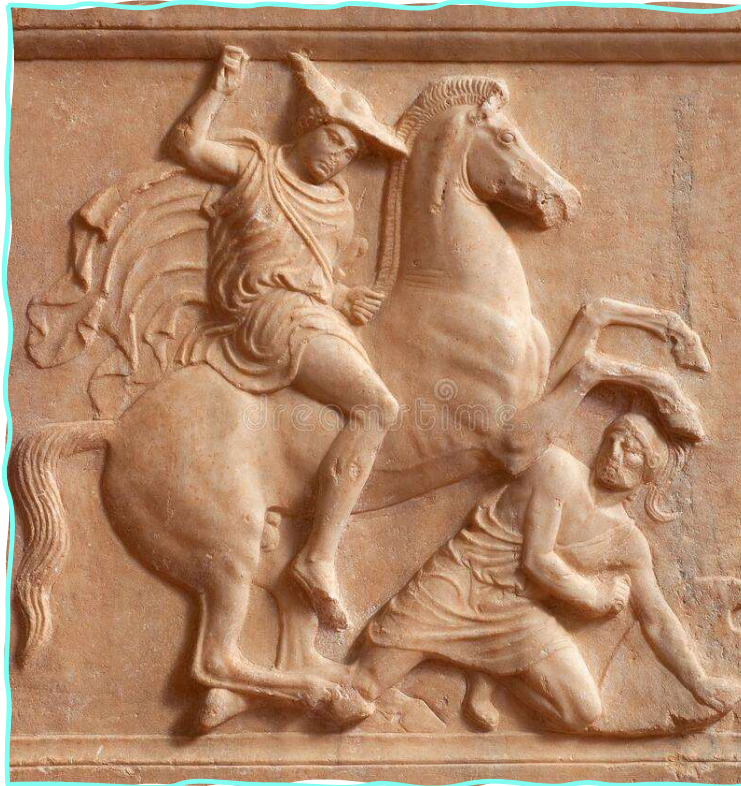
Greek Bass Relief  
Amazon Women v. Greek Soldiers  
<https://www.istockphoto.com/photos/greek-amazons>

## Ancient Greeks Spread Fear



<https://www.newyorker.com/books/joshua-rothman/real-amazons>

# More Greek Propaganda v. Amazons

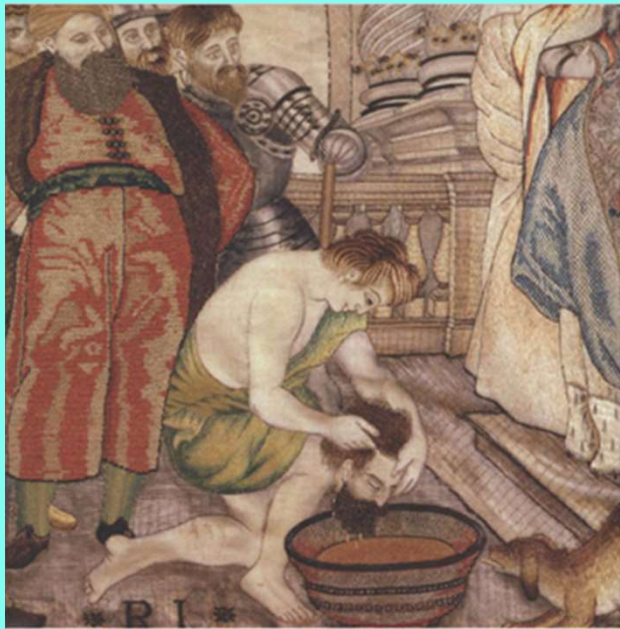


<https://www.dreamstime.com/ancient-greek-bas-relief-grave-stele-depicting-battle-scene-rider-deceased-fallen-hoplite-heavily-armed-foot-image181696823>



<https://www.mykonosgreece.com/visiting-the-archaeological-museum-of-piraeus/>

## The Amazons: Women Warriors



Herodotus

The Histories

A new translation by Robin Waterfield

OXFORD WORLD'S CLASSICS

## Amazons as “Man Killers”

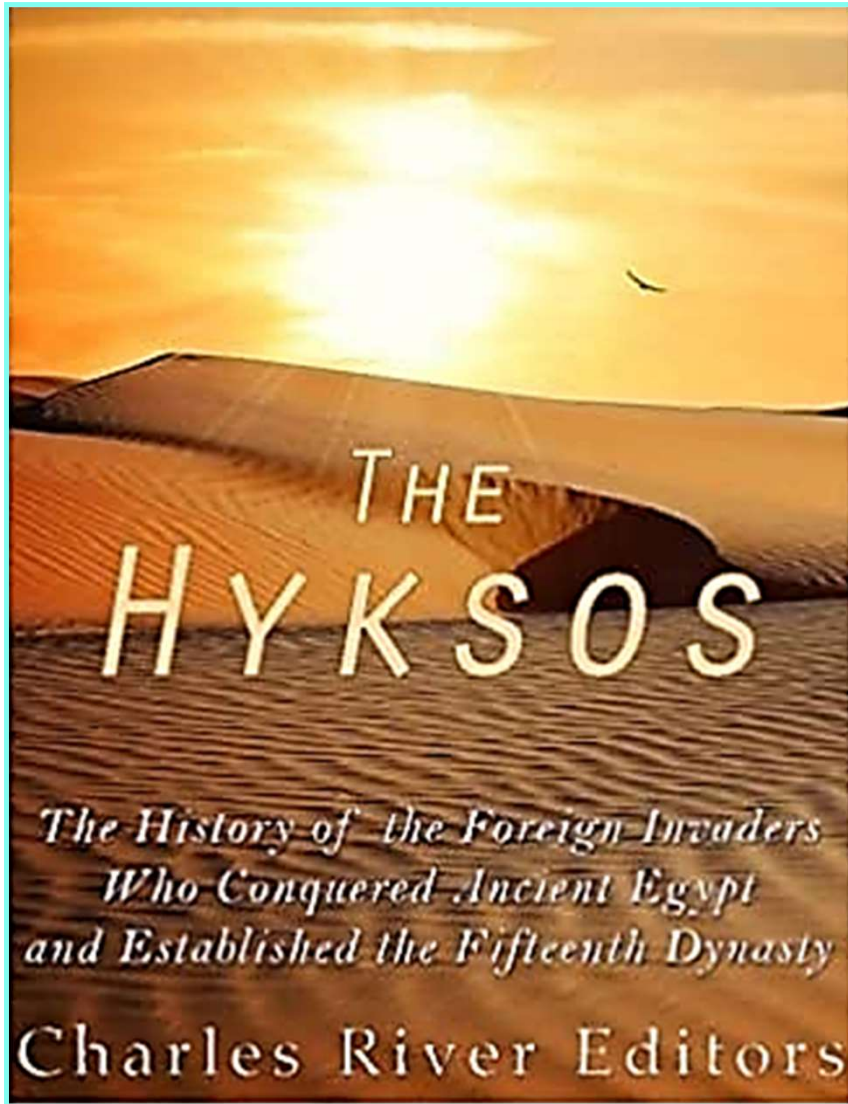
healing diseases of the wound.

[110] Here is a story about the Sauromatae. It is set during the war between the Greeks and the Amazons, for whom the Scythian name is Oeorpata, which, translated into Greek, means ‘killers of men’, because *oior* is ‘man’ in Scythian, and *pata* means ‘to kill’. So the story goes that after their victory over the Amazons at the battle of Thermodon, the Greeks sailed away in three ships, taking with them all the Amazons they had been able to capture alive. When they were out at sea, the women set upon the men and killed them, but they did not know anything about ships or how to use the rudders, sails, or oars; consequently, having done away with the men, they began to drift at the mercy of the waves and winds. They fetched up in Lake Maeetis, at the place called Cremni, which is in country inhabited by the free Scythians. The Amazons went ashore there and made their way to inhabited territory. The first

# Herodotus

4.110–17 The **Amazons** are a foreign band of warrior women who appear regularly in Greek myth. They are the ancestresses of the Sauromatae, who appear at the end of H's list of the Scythians' neighbours, and whose half-Amazon origins H relates, again developing his interest in the blending of cultures through marriage (nn. 1.1, 3.159). The Sauromatae are the eastern neighbours of the Royal Scythians. According to Rolle (p. 88), graves of women warriors are found throughout the steppe region. They are buried with armour and weapons, and the skeletons bear evidence of wounds taken in battle. In Sauromatia, the region of the lower Volga, 20 per cent of graves containing weapons and harness are those of women, but sizeable numbers have been found in western Scythia as well.

**Editor of 1998 Oxford Edition of Herodotus**



## Hyksos Invasion/Occupation of Egypt



Hyksos King Apepa or Apepy I - (Greek Apopis), 16 th. Dynasty

<https://larshaukeland.com/bits-pieces/archeology/exodus/the-hyksos-and-the-old-testament-exodus-18/>

## Hyksos Hypothesis



## Frieze of Expulsion of Hyksos



<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-8533295/Hyksos-people-usurped-Ancient-Egyptian-pharaohs-NOT-invaders.html>

## Whether Invaders or Immigrants...

- 1,800–1580 B.C.E.
- Seized Control of Egypt
- Driven out by Force



# The Hyksos

## Egyptian Military

## Drove Out Hyksos—But at What Cost?



### Egypt's

- Retreat from Parallel Culture



- Co-optation by Patriarchal Urges



## Diop Hypothesis

## Cultural Shifts Result

### Change in Mode & Items of Production

- Military Tools
- Technology

### Oppression of “Weak” Other

- Male Dominance

### New Moral Code to Justify Shifts

## From Farms & Art to Weapons



# Militarization of Egypt



Akenaton,  
Nefertiti,  
Tutankhamun,  
& Smenkhkare

Praising Sun  
Disc (“God”)

**MONOTHEISM**

**14<sup>th</sup> Century BCE  
(1353-1336 BCE)**

## Zoroastrianism

- Persian Cult
- Arose 1,200–1,500 B.C.E.
  - Popularized One-God Concept
  - Probably Helped to Shape
    - Judaism
    - Christianity
    - Islam



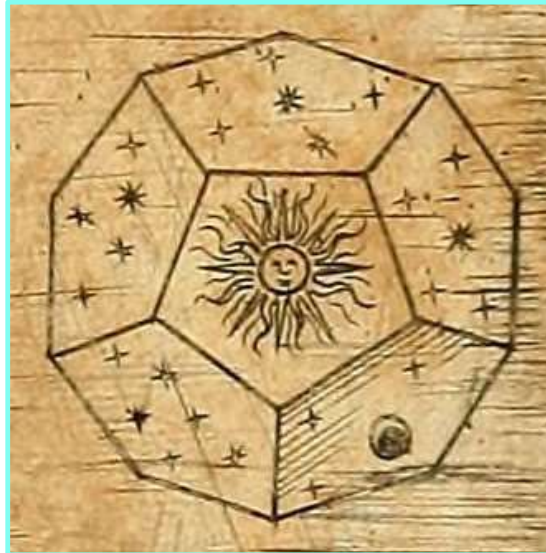
## Originally, One God Per Group

- “God” Not Universal but Particular
- Accounts for the “Deity War” in *Daniel*, 1–5(6)
- Jewish People’s God v. Marduk
- Probably a Knock-off of Canaanite God, “El”

**Monotheism Catches on...**

## Thales of Miletus (ca. 624–548 B.C.E.)

- Sought “Unifying Principle”
- (Theory of Everything)
- Decided on Water
- (Others Voted for
  - Air
  - Fire))



Kepler's Dodechadehron,  
Containing Everything

## Plato (ca. 428–348 B.C.E.)

- Dialogue *Timaeus* (ca. 360 B.C.E.)
  - Combine All Shapes to Cube
- Plato's “Demiurge”
  - The Divine Craftsman
  - Created All Original “Forms”
  - The Rest = Xerox of “Forms”
- Demiurge → Judaic Thought

# Going Universal

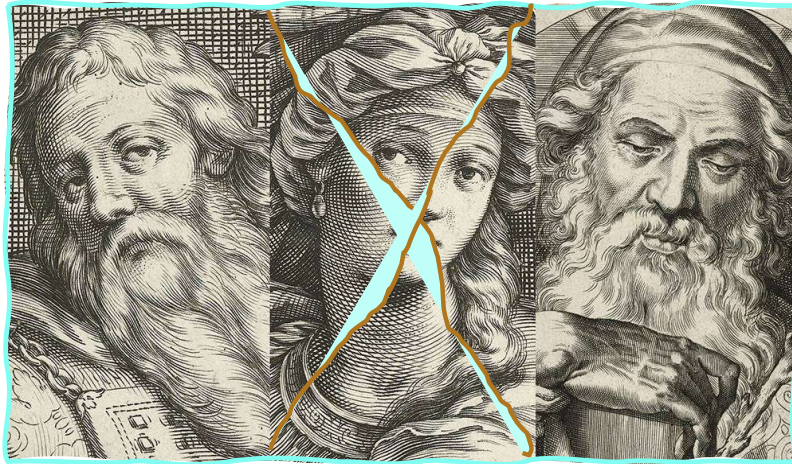
## Philo Judaeus of Alexandria (b. 25 B.C.E.)

- Philo = “Hellenized” Jewish Thinker
- Popularized Unifying Principle
- Idea Transfer:  
Greek → Jewish → Christian



# Monotheism Becomes a Thing

# Downhill from There ... Women Disappear



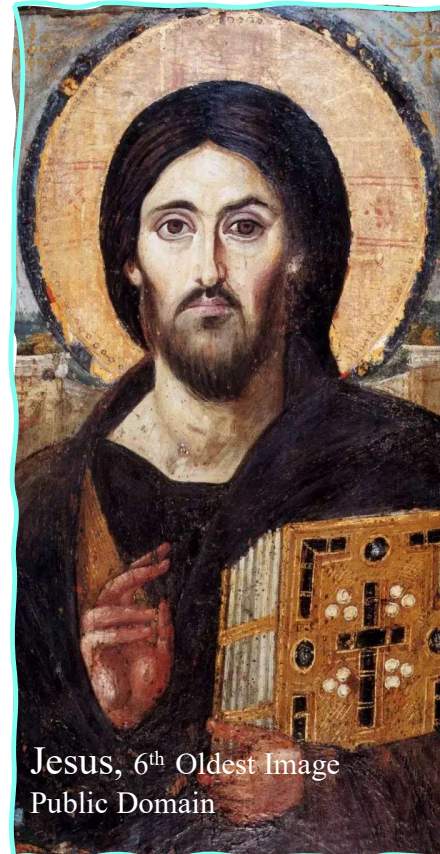
Aaron

~~Miriam~~

Moses

Rijksmuseum.nl

**When There Can Be Only One,  
He's Male**



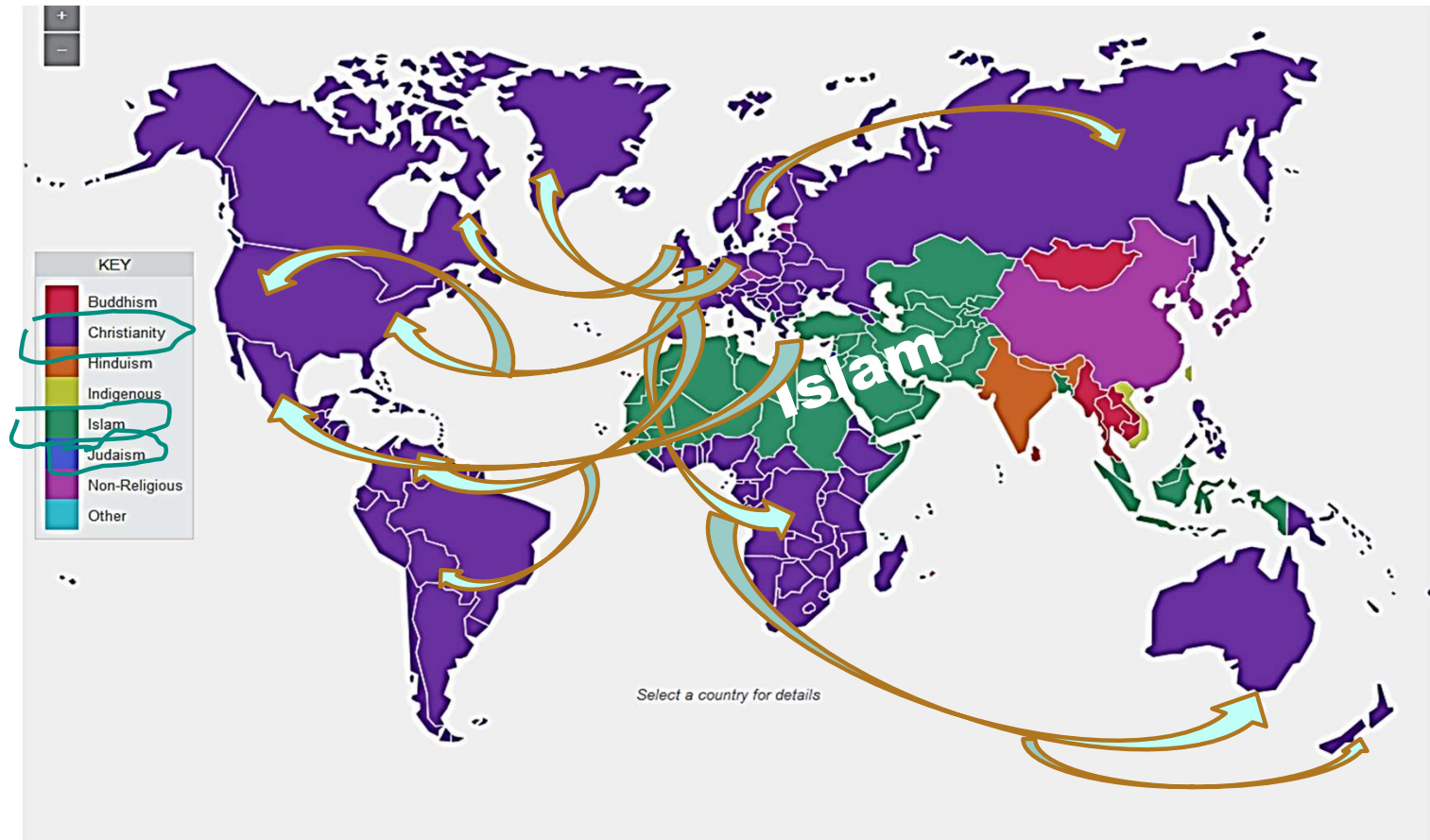
Jesus, 6<sup>th</sup> Oldest Image  
Public Domain



Minaret of Tilla-Kari  
Madressa, Uzbekistan,  
Samarkand, Registan  
Social Network for Travelers



# Monotheism Follows Colonialism



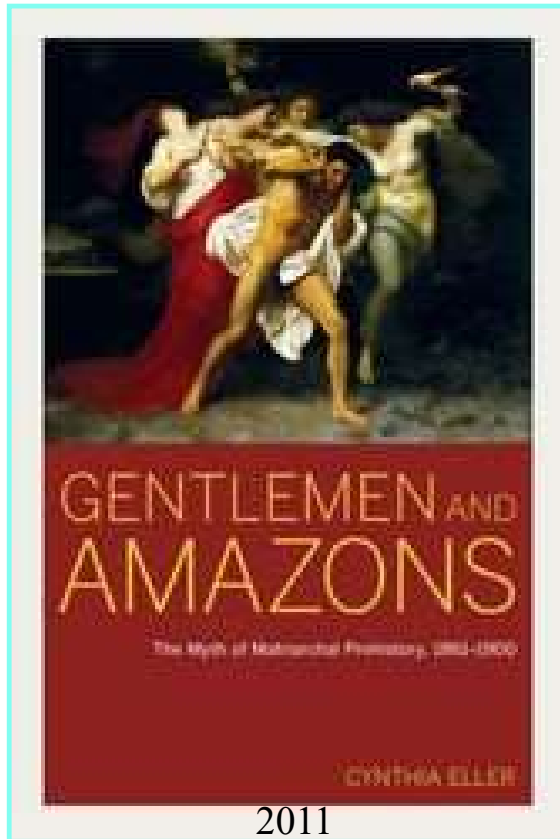
<https://wgte.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/sj14-soc-religmap/world-religions-map/>

## The Hatchet Job

### Western One-Culture

- Monotheism Spreads Patriarchy
- Matriarchy Dismissed as Myth, Fantasy
- Disagreement = Exclusion





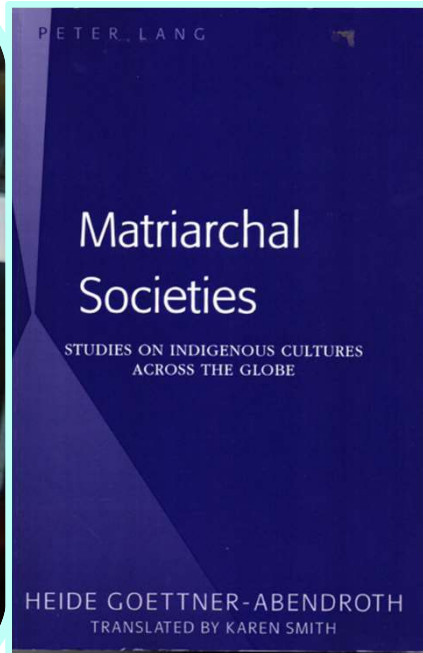
## Cynthia Eller: It's All a Male Myth!

This book traces the nineteenth-century genesis and development of an important contemporary myth about human origins: that of an original prehistoric matriarchy. It explores the intellectual history of the myth, which arose from male scholars ... The book ... provides the necessary context for understanding how feminists of the 1970s and 1980s embraced as historical “fact” a discredited nineteenth-century idea.

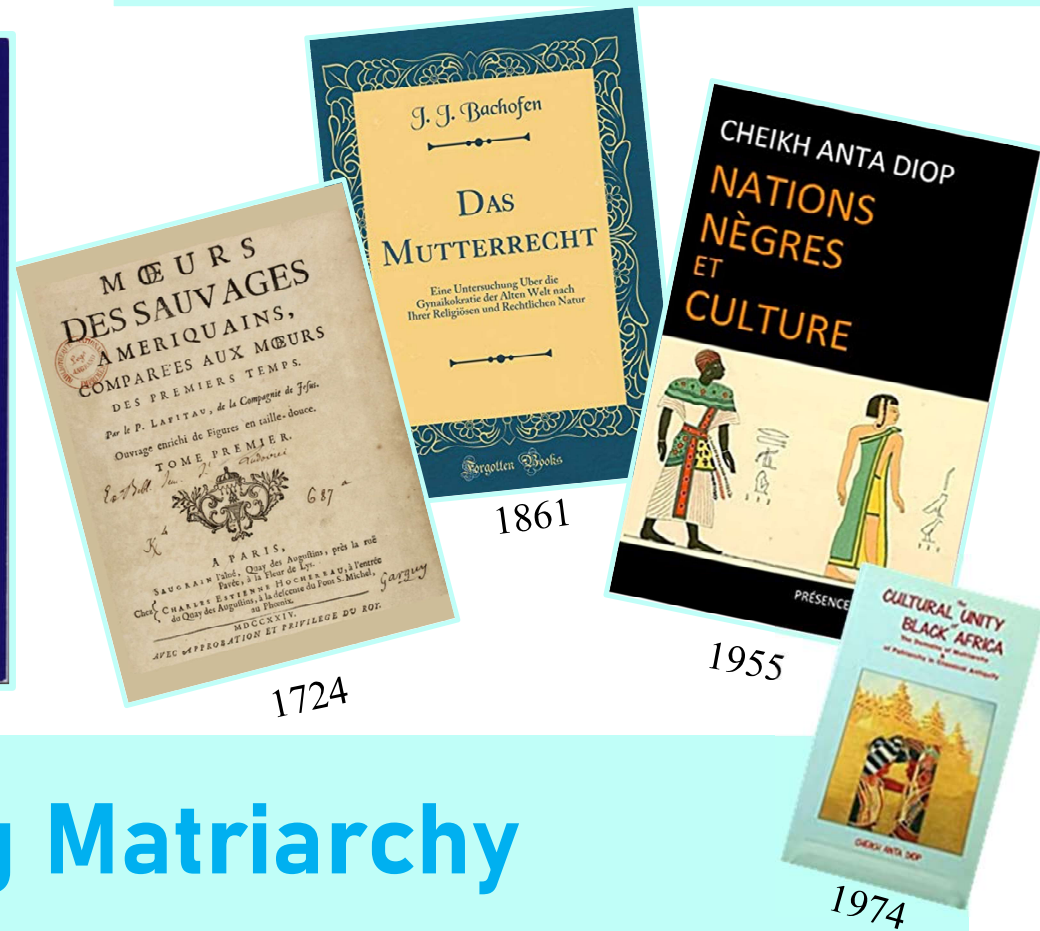
## The Hatchet Job

Dr. Heide Goettner-Abendroth

Matriarchy on the Academic Map



2012



Recovering Matriarchy

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## Matriarchal Studies

Barbara Alice Mann, Heide Goettner-Abendroth

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### Introduction and Definition

Evidence of matriarchy had always existed in Western chronicles, albeit scattered or hidden amid other ethnographic tidbits, all of them filtered heavily through the androcentric lens of Christian missionaries or European travelers. Most of these old European sources were either puzzled or horrified by women-led cultures, having had nothing to attach them to but scary stories from Herodotus about the ferocious Amazons as "men-slayers" or the Christian theological depictions of sinful Eve, resulting in the "burning times" (witch hunts). Moving out from Europe in the 15th and 16th centuries, especially into Africa and the Americas, home to many matriarchal cultures, was very unsettling to the patriarchal paradigm of Europe. Until quite recently, this culture shock combined with colonialism to ensure that scholarship on matriarchy was crafted exclusively by elite, Western scholars, nearly all of them male and coming from nothing remotely resembling a

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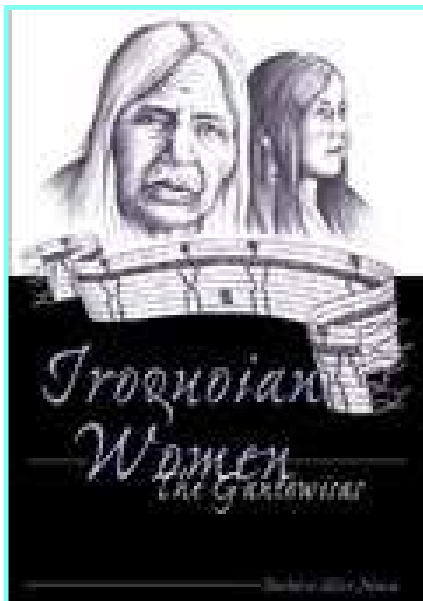
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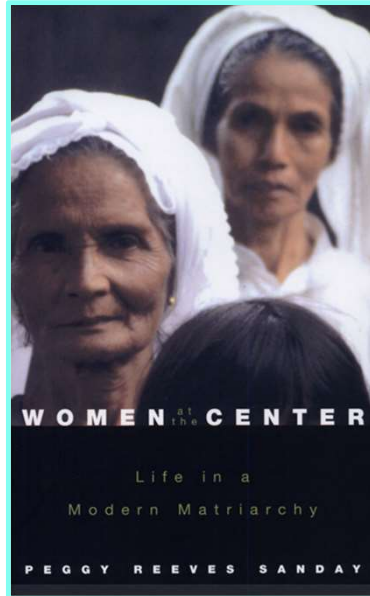
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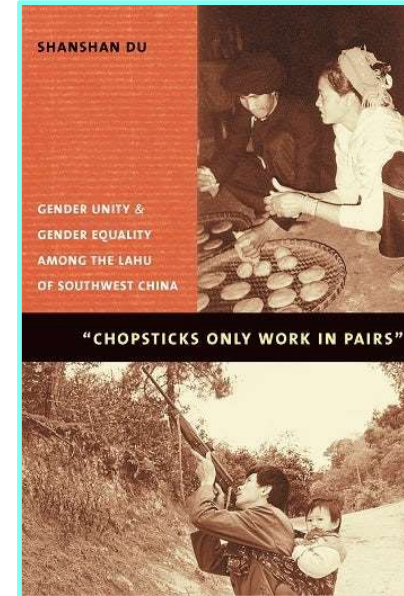
Igbo (2000)  
Amadiume



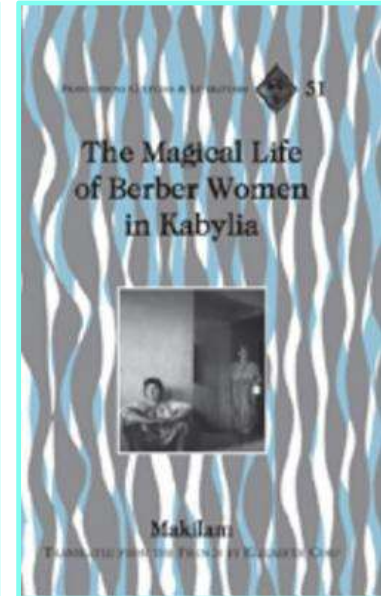
Iroquois, 2000  
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Presentation

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