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MEINERS AND BETH RICHIE eds.

# ABOLITION. FEMINISM. NOW.

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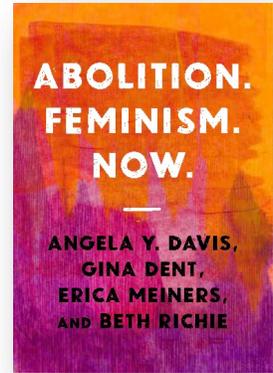
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As a politic and a practice, abolition increasingly shapes our political moment — halting the construction of new jails and propelling movements to divest from policing. Yet erased from this landscape are not only the central histories of feminist — usually queer, anti-capitalist, grassroots, and women of color — organizing that continue to cultivate abolition but a recognition of the stark reality: abolition is our best response to endemic forms of state and interpersonal gender and sexual violence.

Amplifying the analysis and the theories of change generated from vibrant community based organizing, *Abolition. Feminism. Now.* surfaces necessary historical genealogies, key internationalist learnings, and everyday practices to grow our collective and flourishing present and futures.

**ANGELA Y. DAVIS** is a political activist, scholar, author, and speaker. She is an outspoken advocate for the oppressed and exploited, writing on Black liberation, prison abolition, the intersections of race, gender, and class, and international solidarity with Palestine.

**GINA DENT** is an associate professor of feminist studies, history of consciousness, and legal studies; chair of the feminist studies department, and director of the Institute for Advanced Feminist Research at the University of California, Santa Cruz.

**ERICA MEINERS** is a Professor of Education and Women's and Gender Studies at Northeastern Illinois University and the author of several books, most recently *For the Children? Protecting Innocence in a Carceral State*. Beth E. Richie is Director of the Institute for Research on Race and

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Public Policy, Professor of African American Studies and Criminology, Law, and Justice at the University of Illinois at Chicago, and author of *Arrested Justice: Black Women, Violence, and America's Prison Nation*.

### **PRAISE FOR ABOLITION. FEMINISM. NOW:**

“This extraordinary book makes the most compelling case I’ve ever seen for the indivisibility of feminism and abolition, for the inseparability of gendered and state violence, domestic policing and militarism, the street, the home, and the world.” **Robin D. G. Kelley, author of *Freedom Dreams: The Black Radical Imagination***

“This little book is a massive offering on where we have been, where we are right now, and what we are imagining and organizing into being as abolition feminists. Breaking us out of every container and binary, *Abolition. Feminism. Now.* invites us to be in the complexity and contradictions of our humanity in the massive intersectional work of structural change. The ideas of abolition and feminism are rivers moving through us towards a liberated future which we can already feel existing within and between us. Invigorating and rooting, this text is instantly required reading, showing us how everything we have done and are doing is accumulating towards a post-punitive, transformative future—our lineage is bursting with brilliance! And we are prefiguring this possibility—wherever we are is a site of practice, a place where we are collectively becoming accountable to a justice infused with humanity, compassion and the belief that we can change. This book is a lineage of words and visuals, showing us the beauty of our efforts, and gently reminding us that we are not failing—we are learning, and we are changing.” **adrienne maree brown, author of *Emergent Strategy: Shaping Change, Changing Worlds* and *We Will Not Cancel Us and Other Dreams of Transformative Justice***

“In *Abolition. Feminism. Now.*, Angela Y. Davis, Gina Dent, Erica R. Meiners, and Beth E. Richie—four visionaries whose longstanding abolitionist work is inseparable from their feminist principles—brilliantly show how abolition feminism has always offered the radical tools we need for revolutionary change. Feminist approaches to the carceral regime reveal the connections between state violence and intimate violence, between prisons and family policing, and between local and global organizing. By illuminating the genealogy of anti-carceral feminism and its vital struggles against all carceral systems, the authors compel us to see the urgent necessity of abolition feminism now.” **Dorothy Roberts, author, *Torn Apart: How the Child Welfare System Destroys Black Families—and How Abolition Can Build A Safer World***

### **PRAISE FOR FREEDOM IS A CONSTANT STRUGGLE:**

“Angela Davis’s new book made me think of what Dear Nelson Mandela kept reminding us, that we must be willing to embrace that long walk to freedom. Understanding what it takes to really be free, to have no fear, is the first and most important step one has to make before undertaking this journey. Angela is the living proof that this arduous challenge can also be an exhilarating and beautiful one.” **Archbishop Desmond Tutu**

“Whether you’ve grown up with the courage and conscience of Angela Davis, or are discovering her for the first time, *Freedom Is a Constant Struggle* is a small book that will be a huge help in daily life

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and action, from exposing the ‘prison industrial complex’ that she named long ago to understanding that leaders are only leaders if they empower others. She herself exposes facts and makes connections, but also leads in the most important way by example.” **Gloria Steinem**

“This is vintage Angela: insightful, curious, observant, and brilliant, asking and answering questions about events in this new century that look surprisingly similar to the last century.” **Mumia Abu-Jamal**

“Here is someone worthy of the Ancestors who delivered her. Angela Davis has stood her ground on every issue important to the health of our people and the planet. It is impossible to read her words or hear her voice and not be moved to comprehension and gratitude for our incredible luck in having her with us.” **Alice Walker**

“Angela Davis once again offers us an incisive, urgent, and comprehensive understanding of systematic racism, the grounds for intersectional analysis and solidarity, and the importance of working together as equals to unmask and depose systems of injustice. This wide-ranging and brilliant set of essays includes a trenchant analysis of police violence against people of color, of the systematic incarceration of black people in America, the grounds of Palestinian solidarity for the Left, the affirmation of transgender inclusion, and the necessity of opposing the G4S corporation and its high-profit empire dedicated to the institutionalization of racism in the name of security. These essays take us back in history to the founders of revolutionary and anti-racist struggle, but they also take us toward the possibility of ongoing intersectional solidarity and struggle. Angela Davis gathers in her lucid words our luminous history and the most promising future of freedom.” **Judith Butler**

“She has eyes in the back of our head. With her we can survive and resist.” **John Berger**

“In this latest text of her magisterial corpus, Angela Davis puts forward her brilliant analyses and resilient witness here and abroad. In a clear and concise manner, she embodies and enacts ‘intersectionality’ a structural intellectual and political response to the dynamics of violence, White Supremacy, patriarchy, state power, capitalist markets, and imperial policies.” **Dr. Cornel West**, from the Foreword