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*Selma James*

## Who is Selma James ?

Selma James was born in Brooklyn, New York in 1930. The wife of the internationally renowned West Indian historian and political philosopher C.L.R. James, she lived in Trinidad from 1958 to 1962, and was a protagonist in her own right in the struggle for independence and federation in the West Indies. Subsequently making her home in Britain, she became a leading activist in the movement for the rights of immigrants and Black people. A high-school graduate and former factory worker, she is the mother of two grown sons. In addition to being a housewife, she now earns her living as a typist in London.

Selma James is the author of several works which embrace the international dimensions of the women's movement -- among them *A Woman's Place; Sex, Race and Class; The Perspective of Winning; Wageless of the World; Women, the Unions and Work; Sexual Politics in the Work of Wilhelm Reich; The American Family: Decay and Rebirth*. She is a co-editor of *Sharpening the Mother Tongue, The New Feminist English Dictionary*.

Selma James is co-author of the contemporary classic which, since its landmark publication in 1972, has shaped the entire international debate on the nature and value of women's work in the home, *The Power of Women and the Subversion of the Community*.

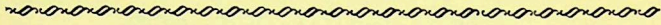
Selma James has lectured on the women's movement at colleges and universities throughout Europe and North America -- including Oxford, Cambridge and the London School of Economics; the Sorbonne; the Technical University in Berlin; Radcliffe, Oberlin, Columbia, U.C.L.A., Chicago and the New School. In 1973 she was the keynote speaker at Sir George William University, in the first feminist symposium ever held in Montreal; and in 1977 she opened Women's Week in Montreal at Concordia University.

Selma James is the founder of the International Wages for Housework Campaign.

## The Culture of Class

*A Series of Lectures by Selma James  
Spring 1978*

- ☞ Mozart -- Notes on Sisterhood and Class
- ☞ The Third World of the Kitchen
- ☞ Immigration and Population Control
- ☞ Housework is Rape (W.A.R. in Britain)
- ☞ Jane Austen: Vice, Virtue and Money
- ☞ Sex, Race and Class
- ☞ Welfare: the Great Women's Movement of the 60's
- ☞ Motherhood and Custody
- ☞ Women and Capital (with a little help from Marx)
- ☞ Just Women Gossiping:  
The International Wages for Housework Campaign



The life-style unique to themselves which a people develop, once they are enmeshed by capitalism, in response to and in rebellion against it, cannot be understood at all except as the totality of their capitalist lives. To delimit culture is to reduce it to a decoration of daily life. Culture is plays and poetry about the exploited; ceasing to wear mini-skirts and taking to trousers instead; the clash between the soul of Black Baptism and the guilt and sin of white Protestantism. Culture is also the shrill of the alarm clock that rings at 6 a.m. when a Black woman in London wakes her children to get them ready for the baby minder. Culture is how cold she feels at the bus stop and then how hot in the crowded bus. Culture is how you feel on Monday morning at eight when you clock in wishing it was Friday, wishing your life away. Culture is the speed of the line or the weight and smell of dirty hospital sheets, and you meanwhile thinking what to make for tea that night. Culture is making the tea while your man watches the news on the telly.

*Selma James*

