

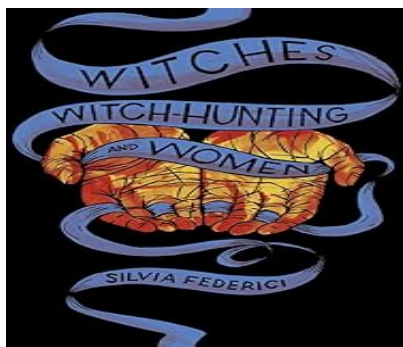
Witches, Witch-Hunting, and Women By Silvia Federici **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** Since it's comprised of shorter chapters/essays I expect that one would have to read Caliban and the Witch for a more complete understanding of witch-hunting as a tool of a capitalist ruling class.

**Witches witch hunting and women pdf** Feminism Politics History Silvia Federici is a long time activist on a range of human rights issues co-founder of the Wages for Housework movement and a radical Marxist feminist and scholar. **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** I've always learned from and been inspired by her work from Caliban and the Witch: Women the Body and Primitive Accumulation to Revolution at Point Zero: Housework Reproduction and Feminist Struggle and even her early work published under the nom-de-plume Guido Baldi. **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** Divided into a seven essays Federici first lays out her basic argument that the witch hunts across Europe from the 15th-18th centuries which led to the executions of 40-50 \*thousand\* people was intimately connected to the development of capitalism. **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** Why? Because it required the enclosure of lands previously held 'in common' (there is ample historical literature on the enclosure movement) leading to dispossession and needing to sell one's labor the criminalization of any behavior considered antithetical to the needs of capital (e.

**Witches witch hunting and women pdf** With this thesis in place the following essays touch on why it is important to revisit the witch-trials to understand some of what is taking place today including the continuance of witch-hunting in places like Ghana Kenya and Mozambique as well as Nepal and other countries. **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** She points out that perhaps because of fears of reinforcing stereotypes about Africa scholars and activists have largely ignored the human rights and women's rights crisis that is witch-hunting in these countries but which have in the past 30 years led to the deaths of tens of thousands of women (23000 from 1991-2001 alone). **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** It was indeed an education to read about the 'witch camps' in Ghana witch-hunters in Kenya and the scholarship being written by those 'on the ground' there such as Justus Ogembo. **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** Federici ties the witchhunts of Europe to those of Africa by showing how structural adjustment in Africa has led to the same dynamics--women are seen as agents of resistance to ending communal ways of life expanding the cash economy defending that which is beyond the reach of commodification. **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** The rise of violence against women in Africa but also in Latin America and India is linked to the process of dispossession wage slavery the diminished status of men as wage earners but the ever-present need to control women's bodies to ensure the continuance unabated of the workforce. **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** Overall a cogent analysis that while as Federici herself mentions is based on circumstantial and historical-contextual evidence makes compelling arguments and more importantly as usual gives passion to the cause of ending women's suffering. **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** Obviously there is misogyny and sexism entailed in witch-hunting but there equally is a hatred of woman not just as body but as symbol with looming implications for the capitalist project. **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** With the ascension of enclosure and private property there was a drive to establish hierarchy to cement woman's place in both the family and society - to establish male authority and production and capital accumulation as first priority of the state. **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** Fear of the feminine and the powers of the witch is redirected in efforts to turn woman against woman: to pursue sex for personal pleasure (not man's not for the purpose of producing more laborers) to engage in the healing arts to act in any way outside of prescribed roles set for woman or to even associate with women who fall into any of the above categories is to court the devil and risk damnation. **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** In this way the patriarchy the Church the very economy as defined in terms of a move towards rationality order conquest and plenitude become protectors welcoming 'good (subservient) women' into their arms. **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** I think it shows that any perceived threat to a power - be that power man or capital or a corporation or whatever - will be sought out with particularly vicious application and then snuffed out just as generously by whatever means available necessary or possible to skew as socially sanctioned. **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** the conclusion i take from this is that spooky

season ain't never over for us women Feminism Politics History I decided to read this short book before reading Caliban and the Witch and it has seriously whet my appetite for the more detailed exploration of the violent transformation from feudalism to capitalism achieved over the bodies of women. **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** A lot of my frustration came from the feeling that Federici was describing the manorial system as a communist utopia when the manorial system was based on indentured servitude to a single wealthy elite. **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** She also spends a lot of time blaming capitalism for things that were present before capitalism even became a Thing™ seemingly refusing to admit that those specific problems were perpetrated and encouraged by the Church. **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** Federici's approach towards the resurgence of witchcraft persecutions in countries she refers to as existing in the pre-civilization stage also relies on the outdated idea in Anthropology that societal development follows a clear path of progress something that was used to justify racialized violence and colonialism. **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** Maybe it's my own fault for assuming that a book analyzing the link between capitalism and witchcraft persecutions would look towards capitalism's focus on property over human life or the clear link between early capitalism and the Church's patriarchal systems. **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** Instead this is a piece that relies on old arguably racist theory systems in Anthropology with a flawed historical basis to look at a problem that has existed well before capitalism and will likely continue whether capitalism remains the dominant economic framework or not. **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** Feminism Politics History If you're tempted by but don't have time to read Caliban and the Witch this is a quick readable rundown of its arguments; if you have it also has updates that are worth a look. **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** She argues that this new war on women a mirror of witch hunts in 16th- and 17th-century Europe and the "New World" is a structural element of the new forms of capitalist accumulation. **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** Like at the dawn of capitalism the factors behind today's violence against women are processes of enclosure land dispossession and the remolding of women's reproductive activities and subjectivity:

### **Witches witch hunting and women pdf**



Really phenomenal introduction to Federici's work on witch-hunting and it's direct connection to primitive accumulation, **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** Witches Witch-Hunting and Women continues her keen social analysis. **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** For those who have already read Caliban many of the themes will be familiar: **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** For those who haven't it provides a solid synopsis of the major points. **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** Women--particularly older women--who expressed insubordination sexual 'deviance' and resistance in other forms were labelled witches. **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** Women's powers had to be subjected to the demands of capital because women's very bodies were needed to reproduce a pliant workforce. **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** Feminism Politics History First time reading Silvia Federici and I'm not sure how, **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** Caliban & the Witch has been on my 'to read' list for several years. **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** Apparently Witches Witch-Hunting & Women condenses a

lot of the former's arguments or at least provides an introduction to them: **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** Some of the essays seem to be laying groundwork for future publications: **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** Essentially Federici ties witch-hunting from both historical and modern times to the development of capitalism. **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** Among other things this meant setting boundaries on the female body and sexuality by defining sexual norms - and deviations, **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** It also meant dousing any flames that might grow to challenge the burgeoning order. **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** Women recognized within their communities as "healers" were viewed with superstitious fear: **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** Fear denotes an admission of power and the last thing growing authority wants is the idea of competing power on whatever plane spreading through society. **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** The mysteries of female sexuality were tied to notions of woman's 'magic': **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** Female sexuality and pleasure as an economic threat finds its demonization within the Church (itself engrained in patriarchy and the rise of capitalism), **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** Different tactics have grown out of this but it is particularly interesting to consider the pitting of woman against woman we see in today's political climate. **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** Federici goes on to explore a number of other topics and shades of the above, **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** She explores the evolution of the word 'gossip' in one essay illustrating the way language can be turned against women. **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** She touches on the frequency of lobotomies and commitment to insane asylums for women under shaky pretenses in the early 20th century, **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** She speaks of woman as nurturer a force holding together community a noncommercial source of vitality and social structures, **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** She talks about woman as cheap labor sex trafficking woman as object of violent male frustrations during times of economic hardship: **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** In fact the word 'witch' more than anything else figures into the arguments of these essays as a pejorative scandal-laced term for a scapegoat. **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** I'm currently reading The Second Sex and am struck by how well many of de Beauvoir's observations fit with Federici's albeit outside of the witch-hunting matrix. **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** I wasn't aware there were still witch hunts today but I'm not surprised, **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** while burning drowning or burying alive may no longer be in practice we see these things done on a daily basis symbolically: **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** Women are degraded silenced questioned and mocked - and held in the highest regard as long as they stay in line, **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** For all its posturing the world is as primitive as it ever was, **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** a feminist perspective on the creation and development of capitalism fundamental to complement marx and foucault's works and theses. **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** can't wait to deepen this subject through caliban and the witch: **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** The essay regarding the meaning and devaluation of the word gossip was interesting and tragic, **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** Feminism Politics History This is a small book consisting of a series of articles written by Silvia Federici, **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** She begins with a summary of her research into the 16th and 17th century witch hunts in Europe and America which killed and tortured thousands of women: **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** Her thesis is how witch hunts occurred in the context of the development of capitalism which she argues needs to be explored in the economic/political context of capital accumulation. **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** She then goes on to explore the current-day witch hunts occurring in Africa South America and India. **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** She argues that this new war on women is a structural element of the new forms of capitalist accumulation: **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** She highlights the connections between violence against women and processes of enclosure land dispossession, **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** and the remolding of women's reproductive activities and subjectivity: **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** Important work and analysis much needed by feminist movement in order to challenge

patriarchal capitalism. **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** Feminism Politics History This was unbelievably good and I agree with you that this is a game changer: **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** In this book she makes the case of continued capitalist expansion in relation to ongoing oppression of women, **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** Starting with the witch hunts in 16th Century Europe to modern day witch hunts, **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** Feminism Politics History Some points were made that were worth considering but as a sociohistorical analysis of capitalism and witch hunts Silvia Federici left much to be desired. **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** As a historian and anthropologist that focused on early modern European crime including a course dedicated to witchcraft in the Atlantic this was a disappointing book. **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** Attempts at intersectionality were made but conflating the witch hunts with slavery indigenous genocide and the Holocaust were absolutely not the way to do that, **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** The commons that she describes at one point were owned by a wealthy land owner not the people: **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** There also seemed to be a huge disconnect with the reality of the Church and its role in medieval and early modern Europe, **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** There are countless specific examples used in the book's early chapters that were either objectively wrong or were portrayed in a misleading way to support her later arguments, **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** When the very foundation that your theory is based on is flawed it has trouble standing up to scrutiny: **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** This isn't the only example of Federici using outdated approaches in this recent summary of her own work. **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** An intersectional approach could look at these tied in with racial prejudices within those structures: **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** These problems she describes are a patriarchy problem and while yes capitalism is inherently a patriarchal system patriarchal systems can exist without capitalism and have for millenia, **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** Feminism Politics History I loved this book of essays! The bottom line is must crush capitalism and only grassroots women's organizations can fight this, **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** What I loved the most though is that Federici offers concrete forms of action to combat these systemic inequalities and violence. **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** the new violence against women is rooted in structural trends that are constitutive of capitalist development and state power in all times: **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** " — sure it sounds pretty obvious but it's good to read it every now and again, **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** Feminism Politics History The world is witnessing a new surge of interpersonal and institutional violence against women including new witch hunts: **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** This surge of violence has occurred alongside an expansion of capitalist social relation, **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** In this new work Silvia Federici examines the root causes of these developments and outlines the consequences for the women affected and their communities, **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** These processes are founded on the destruction of people's most basic means of reproduction: **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** Witches Witch-Hunting and Women Silvia Federici is an Italian and American scholar teacher and activist from the radical autonomist feminist Marxist and anarchist tradition, **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** She is a professor emerita and Teaching Fellow at Hofstra University where she was a social science professor, **Witches witch hunting and women pdf** She worked as a teacher in Nigeria for many years is also the co founder of the Committee for Academic Freedom in Africa and is a member of the Midnight Notes Collective. Still this is a great summary.g. vagrancy and so forth).Witches Witch-Hunting & Women is not a book about witches. It is not a history in that sense anyway. Even in the U.S. In Africa they are killed mercilessly. Feminism Politics History a fucking masterpiece. Recommended. Has enthused me to read more on this subject. Amazing. Silvia Federici is an academic and feminist activist. My mind is blown. Fascinating. There were no commons to lose to capitalist possession. There was no church and state. The church WAS the state there is no separating that.“..