

Eleanor Burke Leacock's Introd. to Engels' ORIGIN OF THE FAMILY
PVT. PROP. & THE STATE, 1P.ed./3rd
printing, 1975 (1st. 1972)

Ancient Soc. by Lewis Henry Morgan, 1877; Engels' 1884. E. focused

on 3 topics: (1) developmental stages of mankind's his., (2) nature of primitive society with regard to prop., rank, family forms & descent systems, & (3) emergence of commodity prod., economically based masses & the state.

p. 9, Morgan wk'd. ~~with~~ through to a theory of sequential stages in marriage p. 10 Morgan had remained dubious about the hypothesis of human evolution until he met & talked with Darwin.....

p. 12: "It used to be commonplace in Am. anthropology, follow the anti-evolutionary empiricism with the name of Franz Boas, to ques. Morgan's sequence of stages... However, Morgan knew the limits of his scheme."

That's where Leacock is good, she brings up the latest anthropological finds and relates both Morgan's study & Engels' interpretation, and shows where the basic truth or concept remains & where it doesn't.

p. 15: "Engels sharpened the implication of the comparison Morgan drew bet. primitive communal & class society, using it as an argument for socialism. Therefore both Morgan's & Engels' work have had checked careers..." Begun to take up seriously by Russian scholars, Soviet Studies in His. (1966)

Historical" (Boas). "functionalism" (Eng.) & synchronic" Archeological studies threw still newer light, made explicit by British scholar, V/Gordon Childe, Barbarism, savagery, (hunters) & civilization, Ancient East, p. 17. ff. 3. "Contemporary terminologists generally refer instead to major productive techniques, such as "food gathering" ("savagery") & "food producing" (barbarism....."

Primitive Communism section is pp. 29-43 THE EMERGENCE OF MORGAN & SUBJUGATION OF WOMEN

p. 35: "It soon became clear that matriarchy in the sense of power held by women over men comparable to that later held by men over women, had NEVER existed. However, questions about the significance that matrilineal descent held for the status of women in primitive societies remained." Cf. p. 37 re THE MOTHERS by Briffault & women's high role, "however the data are lifted out of context..."

Need for study BEFORE DEV. OF MALE DOMINANCE THAT ACCOMPANIED EUROPEAN COLONIAL EXPLOITATION, p. 39

p. 40 Re low status of women (not due either to childbearing or decline of importance of food prod. when moved into agric., etc.) "However what was basic was that these transitions occurred in the context of developing exploitative relations whereby communal ownership was being undermined, the communal kin group broken up & THE INDIV. FAMILY SEPARATED OUT AS AN ISOLATED & VULNERABLE UNIT, economically separated for the maintenance of its members & for the rearing of the new generation. THE SUBJUGATION OF THE FEMALE SEX WAS

Good fact
more to
was
inferred
Archeology
to H. H. Morgan
Barbarism
Savagery
Civilization
Jan 17
"Women's
Civilization"
No, not
Archeology
but expected

Based on the TRANSFORMATION OF THEIR SOCIALLY NECESSARY LABOR INTO A PRIVATE SERVICE THROUGH the separation of the family from the clan. It was in this context that women's domestic & other wk. came out to be performed under conditions of virtual slavery..... monogamous marriage were social expressions of developing pvt. prop. She then Q E (p.223) "The distinction of rich & poor appears besides that of freemen & slaves--with the new div. of labor, a new cleavage of society into classes..." But she then returns to an earlier section in Engels where he speaks of the formation of the family as eco. unit affirmed by the overthrow of mother right which Engels emphasizes is "world historical defeat of the female sex" (p.120)

But does not q the par. by MARX which preceded it, Man's innate casuistry! (custom of giving name of father's gens to child & thus have him inherit, rd) To change things by changing their names! And to find loopholes for violating tradition while maintaining tradition, when direct interest supplied sufficient impulse."

& after Morgan's description of new social organism whose head ruled over wife & children & no. of slaves with rt. of life & death over them arriving with ironclad family system of Latin tribes, Marx adds:

"THE MODERN FAMILY CONTAIN IN GERM NOT ONLY SLAVERY (servitus) but also serfdom since from the beginning it is related to agric. services. It contains in miniature all the contradictions which later extend through society & its state."

76 p. 120, "with the patriarchal family we enter the world history."

where she shows more empiric data is needed than Engels gives & points to the fact that he jumps from Medieval to cap. society too fast, but instead of filling it out author goes to p.43-

"Pol. Ramifications of Engels' Argument on Women Subjugation"

but in fact what Leacock is doing is that in criticism of those women's groups "radicals" who think subjugation is all due to childbearing & playing up against that, (not a total phil., but just that ordinary women asking for different schools, hsg., welfare as being "more rev.," calls "middle class radical women's groups" "confusing & diversionary." (p.45) Indeed, she practically comes up with some variation of "4 class bloc"

The final section "Problems of Theory & Method," pp. 57-67 hardly lives up to its title. She asks questions of women's special oppression but doesn't answer, though she does try to answer critics of Marx as anthropologist. & p. 59, ftn. 28 ~~in the~~ Yale U. 1930s project on Human Relations we dealt with in the 1940s. And when it comes to abstract answers, she does know how to answer the materialist anti-dialectician Harris: p. 62: Apparently Harris is addressing himself to the casual or conversational usages of the terms of contradiction negation.... "listing Harris decryig "Marx's Hegelian infatuation with 'contradiction.'" & off to landing a man on the moon!

p. 129: FE: "The 1st class opp. that appears in his. coincides with the dev. of the antagonism bet. man & woman in monogamous marriage. The 1st class oppression coincides with that of the female sex by the Marx whom FE quotes, both in preceding & in following

*best families
mean
domestic
work
is the
basis*

*best families
9/2*

*FE always
mentions
is
the
basis*

04071

stresses individual self dev. thus in CAP: "These ancient social org
ganisms of prod. are, compared with bourgeois society, extremely
simple and transparent. But they are founded either on the
immature dev. of man INDIVIDUALLY, who has not yet severed the
umbilical cord that unites him with his fellow men in a
primitive tribal community, OR UPON DIRECT RELATIONS OF
OF DOMINATION AND SUBJECTION." (p.79, IP ed.)

14549