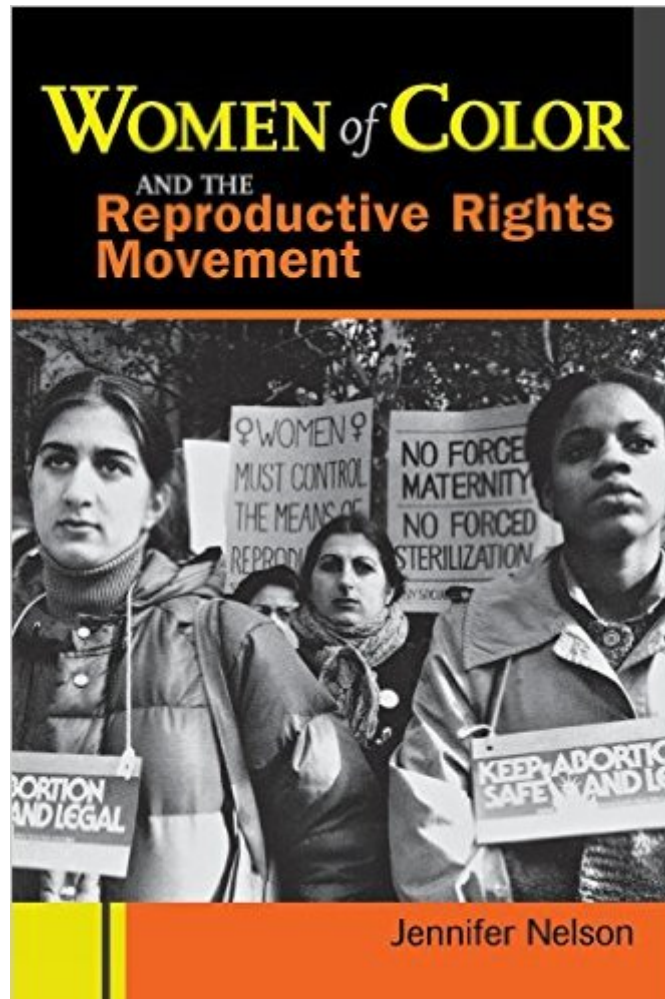


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# Women Of Color And The Reproductive Rights Movement



## Synopsis

While most people believe that the movement to secure voluntary reproductive control for women centered solely on abortion rights, for many women abortion was not the only, or even primary, focus. Jennifer Nelson tells the story of the feminist struggle for legal abortion and reproductive rights in the 1960s, 1970s, and early 1980s through the particular contributions of women of color. She explores the relationship between second-wave feminists, who were concerned with a woman's right to choose, Black and Puerto Rican Nationalists, who were concerned that Black and Puerto Rican women have as many children as possible "for the revolution," and women of color themselves, who negotiated between them. Contrary to popular belief, Nelson shows that women of color were able to successfully remake the mainstream women's liberation and abortion rights movements by appropriating select aspects of Black Nationalist politics—including addressing sterilization abuse, access to affordable childcare and healthcare, and ways to raise children out of poverty—for feminist discourse.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I learned a great deal from this book. It does not offer a re-hash of the debate over legalized abortion; rather it sets forth findings from original research, explaining a variety of perspectives that developed among women of color. The book offers a fascinating history of forced or coerced sterilization, and also traces the evolution of feminism in the black and Puerto Rican communities, along with the conflicts that developed within each group. Dr. Nelson consistently ties in national

legislative and judicial developments, showing the effect of those changes on the activist politics of the day. Overall a carefully researched, tightly written book--will take its place as an academic page-turner, for anyone interested in gender politics of the twentieth century.

Definitely a great read! This book addresses the politics and agency of women of color in the reproductive rights movement.

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