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REED, EVELYN. *Woman's Evolution: From Matriarchal Clan to Patriarchal Family.* NY: Pathfinder, 1975. xviii+491 pp. \$15.00; \$4.95 (paper). 74-26236. ISBN 0-87348-421-5; 0-87348-422-3 (paper). Glossary; Index.

SH-C-P★★ Evelyn Reed views our present patriarchal family structure as one stage in the evolution of humankind's social organization which began in the Paleolithic Era with maternal clans. In *Woman's Evolution*, she details a controversial theory in which family structure began with maternal clans or hordes, developed into complex tribes with matrilineal descent, then into the matriarchal family and eventually evolved into the patriarchal family (as the concept of private property developed). She suggests that motherhood and its associated instincts led our ancestors into a form of cooperative and equalitarian social relationships which insured our survival as a species. Her careful description of the manner in which these relationships changed (because of internal conflicts and changing economies), is admittedly based on some conjecture. The premises on which the theory rests are found in Engel's ideas about labor and private property and a work by Briffault entitled *The Mothers*. Although her conclusions may not be accepted by all anthropologists, she makes some important points. She validly illustrates some of the difficulties with anthropological data produced by males using male informants and interpreted through the blinders of our patriarchal society. She does not objectively present data to support both sides of a particular issue, but she does use extensive anthropological research to illustrate her views. This is a fascinating and scholarly book: useful in sociology and anthropology courses and to any woman needing encouragement about the contributions of her sex to history.—*Margaret Human*

Explanation of Symbols Accompanying Annotations

APPRAISAL

- ★★ Highly recommended
- ★ Recommended
- Ac Acceptable (no serious errors or deficiencies)
- NR Not recommended

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

- K Kindergarten or preschool
- EP Elementary, grades 1 & 2
- EI Elementary, grades 3 & 4
- EA Elementary, grades 5 & 6
- JH Junior High, grades 7-9
- SH Senior High, grades 10-12
- C First two years of college (Non-specialist adult is covered by SH or C)
- P Professional