JANUARY 27, 1975 / VOL. 207 NO. 4

WOMEN'S EVOLUTION: From Matriarchal Clan to Patriarchal Family. Evelyn Reed. Pathfinder Press, \$15; paper \$4.95

Over and above its vast and impressive scholarship, Evelyn Reed's book is notable for its refusal to harangue. Drawing on some of the best-known and most anthropological sources available, Reed's harvest of 20 years research has paid off handsomely in a fresh view of women's history that will be difficult for other scholars to refute. From a discussion of matriarchal society and the evolution of a new theory regarding the taboo against incest, through an analysis of kinship and the transition from matriarchy to patriarchy, Reed substantiates the apparent fact that women's "inferiority" did not originate in primitive society. Certain to become a classic text in women's history, her book is lucid and absorbing reading. Significantly the book appears on International Women's Day. Glossary, index, etc. [March 8]