

Discussion I - Patriarchy

I) Definition

Patriarchy (Agr: father-rule) is a societal system that grants men as a class power - legal, social or both - over women as a class and places the man specifically at the head of the (large or nuclear but commonly nuclear) family. Special control is exerted over female sexuality and reproduction for the sake of ensuring both sexual access and paternity, but every aspect of society is coloured by this system. Both girls and boys are raised into internalising male supremacy and its ideology along with their respective sexed roles, called gender. Within patriarchy, women are devalued, dehumanised and considered or treated as a sexual, reproductive and domestic resource. The specifics differ by time and place.

II) For A 13yo Girl

Patriarchy is a way that a society works that places men over women in (almost) everything. It says that men get to decide what women are supposed to be like and what we can or can't do. A mother always knows that a child is hers if it came from her body, but a man can't know whether he is the father like that, so men started controlling women to try and make sure only they can be the father, and most of society is based

around that. Every man is part of patriarchy because it isn't about individual people but about structures and bigger patterns, and every woman is affected by it. But it is societal, not innate, so it can be changed or done away with again, that's what feminists are working for.

III) Societal Understanding

Mainstream society seems to understand patriarchy as a nebulous autonomous entity that ascribes gender roles and harms men and women equally (and all the other supposed genders the most, anyway). This way the focus is shifted both away from men as the oppressing class, and onto men as an oppressed class via the very system that privileges them, effectively crippling feminist analysis.

Other parts of society view patriarchy as a natural, inevitable and correct social order that supposedly benefits women as well by providing them with supposed protection and dedicating them to house and children. This is especially common in father-god type religious communities.

PATRIARCHY = MALE DOMINATION
in various forms:
• throughout history
• for generations
• in different places
A SHAPE SHIFTER —
everchanging system of male domination

Patriarchy

"in its wider definition means the manifestation and institutionalisation of male dominance over women and children in the family and the extension of male dominance over women in society in general. It implies that men hold power in all the important institutions of society and that women are deprived of access to such power. It does not imply that either women are totally powerless or totally deprived of rights, influences and resources. One of the most challenging tasks of Women's History is to trace with precision the various forms and modes in which patriarchy appears historically, the shifts and changes in its structure and function, and the adaptations it makes to female pressure and demands."

(Gerda Lerner, The Creation of Patriarchy, definitions, page 239)

"Patriarchy is an institutionalized social system in which men dominate over others, but can also refer to dominance over women specifically; it can also extend to a variety of manifestations in which men have social privileges over others to cause exploitation or oppression, such as through male dominance of moral authority and control of property."

[...]
Patriarchy literally means "the rule of the father"[8][9] and comes from the Greek πατριάρχης (patriarkhēs),[10][11] "father or chief of a race",[12] which is a compound of πατριά (patria), "lineage, descent, family, fatherland"[13] (from πατήρ patrēr, "father")[14] and ἀρχή (arkhē), "domination, authority, sovereignty".[15]

Historically, the term patriarchy has been used to refer to autocratic rule by the male head of a family; however, since the late 20th century it has also been used to refer to social systems in which power is primarily held by adult men.

[...]
The sociologist Sylvia Walby defines patriarchy as 'a system of social structures and practices in which men dominate, oppress, and exploit women'."

(Wikipedia, 25.5.22)

1: social organization marked by the supremacy of the father in the clan or family, the legal dependence of wives and children, and the reckoning of descent and inheritance in the male line broadly : control by men of a disproportionately large share of power
2: a society or institution organized according to the principles or practices of patriarchy"

(Merriam Webster Dictionary)

"a society in which the oldest male is the leader of the family, or a society controlled by men in which they use their power to their own advantage"
"a form of social organization in which fathers or other males control the family, clan, tribe, or larger social unit, or a society organized in this way"

(Cambridge Dictionary)

SYLVIA WALBY

a system of social structures and practices, in which men dominate, oppress, and exploit women.
- SIX STRUCTURES OF PATRIARCHY

- PATERNOLOGICAL (inequalities within)
- HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTION (impact metaphor)
- CULTURE (changes with time & space)
- SEXUALITY
- VIOLENCE
- THE STATE(S) (still patriarchal, racist & capitalist)

↳ not a radical feminist term

everchanging

Patriarchy is a term used to a systemic problem in society. It was understood and analyzed by feminists to explain ~~how~~ the conditions of women in the world. It has been found out that at some point of history male people have started to gain more and more power in history and they still keep it in various ways.

10-13 year old.
TO STRIKE WITH

Discussion & Action
May 2022

How would you explain patriarchy to a 13 years old girl?

Wie würdest du einem 13jährigen Mädchen erklären, was Patriarchat ist?



She is at this special age where she has only one thing on her mind
 Sie ist in diesem besonderen Alter, in dem sie nur eines im Kopf hat.
 (Do not kill me
 Töte mich nicht)

Children?
 Kinder?

Smash patriarchy
 Das Patriarchat zerschlagen

At 13, she is in the middle of the patriarchal war.

If she responds as in the picture, she is probably one of the lucky girls. In this case, she can read feminist poems, crime novels, girls' books or even theories or start producing her own.

But many at this age have had the most violent period of their whole lives. In this case, the girl might be in the period of amnesia (which can last for decades, depending on the severity). Words, language, are certainly not the tool of choice in this period. What she needs, and may already be getting, are experiences of her body as powerful, vigorous, growing into adult size. She may be passionate about sports, be it martial arts or dancing or whatever. Some people do many other things with their bodies, not all of them healthy.

If I were facing this girl I don't know, I would approach her with questions. What particularly annoys her in her everyday life? What does she like to do? Maybe I would learn something about capitalist patriarchy in its current form. Or maybe we'd talk about sports, or how it feels to let off steam in your own physical strength.

society
 Patriarchy is thought to be
 an archaic form of society

What is your definition of patriarchy?

I have been thinking about what the many different forms of patriarchy have in common. So I came up with a minimal definition: Patriarchy means paternal principle, paternal beginning. This is in contrast to societies with a maternal principle, a maternal beginning.

Different societies have interpreted the patriarchal principle very differently: depending on whether the husband is unquestioningly and unproblematically considered the father of all the children that "his" wife gives birth to during the marriage - or whether the society, like the current European one, at least morally presupposes that the father is also the biological father. "Almost no father wishes to have a cuckoo child," I read on a legal advice site on paternity tests. The man is not allowed to test secretly. But if he does, it is up to him what he does in the event of an undesired result in the nuclear family.

As always organised, fatherhood is the appropriation of other people's labour. (Some say: first from women prisoners of war) It means first exploited labour, first private property, first class society. Common to all patriarchal societies is the problem that any man can claim to be the father. So the father needs some form of powerful registration, ritual, religious, state, church or whatever. And a class society needs a state anyway. Depending on the degree of claim on the woman's "fidelity", it needs varying degrees of control to terror against all the female beings in society. Women and girls also need to control and condemn each other - a heavy mortgage for any feminist movement.

I am not suggesting that women in maternalist societies have not been selective. In Sarah Blaffer Hrdy (Mother nature, 1999) I read the illusionless question: "Why be adorable? How does a baby manage to be accepted and nurtured?"

In the act of paternal recognition/appropriation, however, selection is necessarily implicit. It is well known (Gerda Lerner, The Emergence of Patriarchy?) that in the Roman Empire the newborn baby had to be placed on the ground. Only if the father picked it up was it allowed to be nurtured and raised. Otherwise death.

From Greek mythology we know the efforts to declare the sperm the only carrier of life and the woman an empty container. Right up to the infamous head birth.

So much for patriarchy in general. But what is capitalist patriarchy? Strategies can logically only be derived from the current form of society.

How do you think it is understood and defined in society? You might give examples you find worth mentioning.

In Western Europe: Here with us it doesn't exist. Not in Christianity. In backward Africa or the "Orient": yes. And with the Jews, with the Muslims: sure, we know.

I myself belonged to a state-registered, "backward" community of this kind from the age of nine. "Oh, your clan is here again," my playmates would say disappointedly when I wasn't allowed out. But the „Clan" was there every Sunday, or we were elsewhere. This was the small, regional get-together. On the important occasions - engagement, wedding, baptism, baptism, baptism, death - the clan came together from all over the country, that filled large halls.

The state produces the "backward" communities by waging war against them. If, as a result, they begin to close ranks, to shut themselves off from the outside world with suspicion, to obsessively worry about their own reproduction (because forced sterilisation is part of this war) and to control women and girls in an almost criminal manner, then these are the racial characteristics of this clan. That is why the state must wage war against them.

In these conditions girls are brought up who "at this particular age have only one thing on their minds: Children". Because even a girl (at first) does not want her community to be wiped out, no matter how broken it is.

If somebody is interested, I can tell more about my "clan".

rapist, no repentance. If not, no discarded net.

Women, in those bad old days, were chattel. That is, women were property, owned objects, to be bought, sold, used, and stolen—that is, raped. A woman belonged first to her father who was her patriarch, her master, her lord. The very derivation of the word *patriarchy* is instructive. *Pater* means owner, possessor, or master. The basic social unit of patriarchy is the family. The word *family* comes from the Oscan *famel*, which means servant, slave, or possession. *Pater-familias* means owner of slaves. The rapist who abducted a woman took the place of her father as her owner, possessor, or master.

The Rape Atrocity and the Boy Next Door.
 Our Blood - A. Dworkin

Many think
 Feudalism is more patriarchal. ?
 or more trad. societies / the colonised people's / places

↓ Patriarchy was present since its "CREATION" in different forms.
 That's not a linear progression from worse to better.
 (feudal) for example the change of patriarchal rules in the process of feudalism → capitalism.

Männerherrschaft

Structure of # male dominance → Gerda Lerner - Patriarchy

Man Patriarchy as a consequence of patriarchy.

So many different patriarchal forms but always paternal principle of a paternal beginning - the father is the beginning of life and the woman is the container.

- PATRIARCHY'S CRITIC - Kerstin ...
Sturtevant Freston → da technological.
Is the problem of patriarchy a biological one?

ora so sid
Patriarchie is not male domination.
presence of men are not the cause of patriarchy.
Lesbian origins → Susan Klein

Society? Patriarchy is understood. (Patriarchy)
ancient & less developed cultures still do.
Tommaso Aquinas by law → automatically w/ PATRIARCHY.

Patriarchy is not existing here.

Lib. Pan autonomy: external force.

There's also the idea from next fight + man that patriarchy works for women.

Patriarchy & Gender / Patriarchy & Doermerist - old/ancient

natural effects man & woman

Kate Millett → thought to be, natural.

HISTORICAL EXAMINATION
to 13 year old. Mies

Education
It can be also for compliance.
Imagine the dead father has written down for me proper to go on.
is an idea that men are more powerful than women & all the good things to claim the world.
women out there. Site dumb, medication, only to give birth.
What if the father says submit to it.
Imagine the same happens town, city, country.
Fraternity? this is but old style
Imagine the father decides everything... no discussion... If father's god still decides.
when he's dead the rule stays. there's another one continues.
it's like thought that contribute by the father.

Carole Pateman

To tell the story of the sexual contract a good deal of reconstruction has to be done. The amazing powers of Sir Robert Filmer's father have to be given their due, Freud's stories of political origins have to be considered alongside the more famous social contract stories and the story of the primal scene has to be told. Before I turn to these tasks, fraternity, the term that is usually missing in discussions of the social contract and civil society, must be restored to its rightful place. Attention is almost always directed to liberty and equality, but the revolutionary values are liberty, equality and fraternity. The revolution in which the slogan 'liberté, égalité, fraternité' was proclaimed began in 1789, but the alliance between the three elements was forged much earlier. Modern patriarchy is fraternal in form and the original contract is a fraternal pact.
Most commentaries on the classic social contract theorists refer

1. A rare exception can be found in the work of Maria Mies (Mies, 1986: 37-8 and passim). Mies' preferred term for what she refers to as "the system of male dominance under which women suffer today in most societies" is "capitalist patriarchy" (p.37)—"capitalist" because "capitalism constitutes the most recent and most universal manifestation ... [of] patriarchal civilization as a system" (p.13), and "patriarchy" because it is "less open to biologicistic interpretations" than "the concept of 'male dominance'" (p.37). I prefer to use the term male domination (or male supremacy) to designate the social problem challenged by feminism. Because it is so difficult to place the social arrangements of male domination on the public agenda, male domination needs to be named as clearly, as unequivocally and as often as possible. I do not agree that it has "biologicistic" connotations, although it does tend to be interpreted individualistically, a tendency which can be countered by insisting that what is at issue is a social system of meanings and values, and not a set of male personality characteristics. Capitalism itself is, moreover, a form of male domination, both because it exploits women differently from the ways in which it exploits men, and because the capitalist accumulation process appears to be intimately connected with maleness, as Mies herself so ably demonstrates, both in the text cited above and in her earlier book (Mies,

PATRIARCHY

I.C. Delphy
(dictionnaire critique de féminisme)

father - ruling & archaïque & monarchique
for anti-Greece
patriarchy = authority (otherwise)



in LAW → PATER.
was used for men who had authority over a family and property.

THIS PUNDS US THE CONCEPT DOES NOT MEAN BIO-BOND.

2nd → Morgan & Bachofen
Mutterrecht.

they say the law of the fathers took over the law of the mothers.

↓
this was followed by Engels.

1st meaning

BEFORE THESE "socialist criticisms" it was often 'positively' used referring to traditional rural families.

3rd → the feminist meaning.

1981 - Sexual Politics - Kate Millet was told to be the founder of

This continuity is not accepted by all feminists. / evolutionary explanations.

Feminists say → Father = husband.

Some people who oppose the word offer "viriarcat" → virilis = erkek.
But Delphy says the meaning today refers not only to fathers but men.

The 'system' women stand against for ~~women~~ liberation. 1960s.

≅ male dominance
≅ subordination of women oppression

When we use it it defines a system, not personal relationships or a way of thinking

Some find patriarchy too general to use. It is said it universalises a certain male domination form at one time & place or it may be "anthro- & cogrographically" but doesn't have to be like that as long as it is strictly definitive & to explain.

→ HELPS us to analyze the systems of male dominations we experience.

& the historical analysis and exploration of patriarchy helps feminists to create bonds and find out similarities & continuities.



Is it the same everywhere?
OR
it exists
no

DeWise Thompson - RadFem Today

the rule of the father over the son
patriarchy in this sense is an affair between men.

Beginne 25.5.2022
Appendix: some notes

In the sense of materialist patriarchal analysis, I am interested in biological facts, prehistory and early history.

- ♀ Kirsten Armbruster (Patriarchatskritik 2021), for example, contrasts the patriarchal myths about biological processes that have persisted until today with the biological facts. I have not read the book.
- ♀ On parthenogenesis I noted:
- 2002 USA and Japan: "Doctors have developed an artificial womb in which embryos grow outside the mother's body. Researchers see this as a breakthrough for treating childless women." Robin McKie of the British newspaper The Observer reports that "The prototype for the artificial womb was made from cells taken from women's endometrium (layer of cells lining the womb)." Hung-Ching Liu from Cornell University's Centre for Reproductive Medicine and Infertility was able to grow embryos in it for six days. The embryo nested in the uterus and grew larger. After six days, the experiment had to be stopped due to the regulations for in-vitro fertilisation (IVF). The two research groups (this one and another in Japan) believe that in a few years artificial wombs will be able to sustain embryos for nine months.
(Robin McKie | pte.monitor in <http://www.innovations-report.de/html/berichte/medizin-gesundheit/bericht-7653.html>)
- 2007 USA: Scientists succeed in inducing human parthenogenesis.
(David Cyranoski, *Activated Eggs Offer Route to Stem Cells*, *Nature* 448.7150 (2007): 116. ProQuest Medical Library. Web. 30 Apr. 2012.
<http://search.proquest.com/docview/204569501?accountid=14699>)
- ♀ I personally find exciting: Susan Cavin, "Lesbian Origins: An Historical and Cross-Cultural Analysis of Sex Ratios, Female Sexuality and Homosexual Segregation versus Heterosexual Integration Patterns in Relation to the Liberation of Women". One of her theses, which she examines with various methods and in the end rates as highly probable: In pre-patriarchal societies, men would have made up a very minority part (up to women's societies with 90-100% women), in transitional societies to patriarchy a majority (up to over 70%) and only in mature, established patriarchies would the ratio be 50/50%. (Even Engels expresses himself in the sense of her thesis.) Until the 19th century, she writes, ethnologists had found women's societies (90-100% women) above all in the Three Continents. Problems such as work overload, rape/terror etc. logically take on very different degrees of severity or disappear altogether depending on the quota: high women's quota = protection for women (and even for men!).

A question that we did not clarify in the discussion: why is it important that women have pain? (It's even in the Bible...) What does pain (or the threat of it) do to women and girls? The way I see it, they are part of the terror necessary for the daily reproduction of patriarchy. So is rape and feminicide. I'm sure there are different opinions on that.

Anhang: einige Anmerkungen

Im Sinn materialistischer Patriarchatsanalyse interessiere ich mich für biologische Fakten, Vor- und Frühgeschichte.

- ♀ Den patriarchalen Mythen, die sich bis heute über biologische Vorgänge gehalten haben stelle z.B. Kirsten Armbruster (Patriarchatskritik 2021) die biologischen Fakten gegenüber. Ich habe das Buch nicht gelesen.
- ♀ Zu Parthenogenese habe ich mir notiert:
- 2002 USA und Japan: »Ärzte haben eine künstliche Gebärmutter entwickelt, in der Embryonen außerhalb des Körpers der Mutter wachsen. Die Forscher sehen das als einen Durchbruch für die Behandlung von kinderlosen Frauen.« Dies berichtet Robin McKie von der britischen Zeitung »The Observer«. »Der Prototyp für die künstliche Gebärmutter wurde aus Zellen hergestellt, die Frauen aus dem Endometrium (Zellschicht, welche die Gebärmutter auskleidet) entnommen worden waren.« Hung-Ching Liu vom »Cornell University's Centre for Reproductive Medicine and Infertility« sei es gelungen Embryonen sechs Tage lang darin wachsen zu lassen. Der Embryo habe sich in der Gebärmutter eingenistet und sei größer geworden. Nach sechs Tagen musste das Experiment auf Grund der Bestimmungen für in-vitro Fertilisation (IVF) abgebrochen werden. Die beiden Forschungsgruppen (diese und eine weitere in Japan) glauben, dass in ein paar Jahren künstliche Gebärmüttern fähig sind, Embryonen für neun Monate zu versorgen.
(Robin McKie | pte.monitor in <http://www.innovations-report.de/html/berichte/medizin-gesundheit/bericht-7653.html>)
- 2007 USA: WissenschaftlerInnen gelingt es, menschliche Parthenogenese einzuleiten.
(David Cyranoski, *Activated Eggs Offer Route to Stem Cells*, *Nature* 448.7150 (2007): 116. ProQuest Medical Library. Web. 30 Apr. 2012.
<http://search.proquest.com/docview/204569501?accountid=14699>)
- ♀ Ich persönlich finde spannend: Susan Cavin, »Lesbian Origins: An Historical and Cross-Cultural Analysis of Sex Ratios, Female Sexuality and Homosexual Segregation versus Heterosexual Integration Patterns in Relation to the Liberation of Women«. Eine ihrer Thesen, die sie mit verschiedenen Methoden untersucht und am Ende als hoch wahrscheinlich wertet: In vorpatriarchalen Gesellschaften hätten Männer einen sehr minderheitlichen Teil ausgemacht (bis hin zu Frauengesellschaften mit 90-100% Frauen), in Übergangsgesellschaften zum Patriarchat einen mehrheitlichen (bis über 70%) und erst in reifen, etablierten Patriarchaten liege die Quote bei 50/50%. (Sogar Engels äußere sich im Sinn ihrer These.) Bis ins 19. Jahrhundert, so schreibt sie, hätten Ethnologen vor allem in den Drei Kontinenten Frauengesellschaften gefunden (90-100% Frauen). Probleme wie Arbeitsüberlastung, Vergewaltigung/ Terror usw. nehmen logischerweise je nach Quote sehr unterschiedliche Schärfegrade an oder verschwinden ganz: hohe Frauenquote = Schutz für die Frauen (und sogar für die Männer!).

Eine Frage, die wir in der Diskussion nicht geklärt haben: Warum ist es wichtig, dass Frauen Schmerzen haben? (Es steht sogar in der Bibel...) Was machen die Schmerzen (oder die Drohung damit) mit den Frauen und Mädchen? Ich sehe es so, dass sie Teil des Terrors sind, der für die tägliche Reproduktion des Patriarchats notwendig ist. Ebenso wie Vergewaltigung und Feminizid. Da gibt es sicher verschiedene Meinungen.