

# UCLA

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### Title

*Domestic Enemies: Servants and Their Masters in Old Regime France.*  
By Cissie Fairchilds. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1984.  
Pp. vii + 325. Figures, tables, preface, notes, bibliography, index.  
\$32.50

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### Author

Scholz, Mark

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failure to unite with other "proletarians" and becoming the "general representatives" of Ghanaian society.

The problem of conceptualizing the process of proletarianization in economies which, like Ghana's, are based on the "coexistence" of both capitalist and non-capitalist production is of great concern to Africanists today. Unfortunately Crisp has only briefly touched upon this topic in his book, and then only at an empirical level.

*The Story of an African Working Class* is a well documented and well argued work which makes an extremely important contribution to the historiography of the African working class and the development of workers' consciousness. Crisp combines original sources and a keen insight to produce an excellent narrative; however his theoretical framework could have been strengthened by a more rigorous attempt at theorizing the process of proletarianization in relation to the development of class consciousness. The book is, nevertheless, valuable reading because it provides the careful reader with much of the data from which to understand these processes.

S. J. Lemelle,  
University of California, Los Angeles

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A profound shift occurred in the relationships between masters and servants in *Ancien Régime* France. Cissie Fairchilds has presented us with a carefully researched and analytically sound study of this shift and of the whole broad subject of domestic servitude before the Revolution. Drawing primarily upon the archival material in Paris, Bordeaux, and Toulouse, she sets up models of households for the years 1727-29 and 1787-89 to illustrate how the patriarchal household of the earlier period gave way to the modern nuclear family, and how the place—and function—of the servant changed along with this basic reorientation of familial relations. Fairchilds' book not only tells us much about servants and masters, but also offers a valuable supplement to Lawrence Stone's pioneering work on the family.

The first half of the book describes the life and *mentalité* of domestic servants. Fairchilds gives us a credible sense of what it must have been like to be subject to the slightest whim of the master classes. Servants had

an ambiguous status in Old Regime society and were often despised both by their masters and by the lower classes, who saw them as pawns of the propertied. Therefore, Fairchilds goes on to show, servants were not the agents of cultural transmission between the elite and those below them that some historians have postulated. The tension implicit in this situation eased during the latter half of the eighteenth century as servitude changed from an *état* to a *métier*, and as the spread of a market economy brought increased wages and rising social ambitions, which encouraged new tensions.

The second half of the book studies the relations between masters and servants. Fairchilds argues that attitudes toward the lower classes were formed in "the household 4which5 may have been . . . a school in which noble, officeholder, and rich bourgeois learned the attitudes and techniques of social dominance" (p. 150). "Patriarchal theory," which implied reciprocity, "was generally little more than an ideological veil drawn over the naked reality of a relationship based solely on power" (pp. 168-69).

Fairchilds balances structural analysis of servant life with a study of the evolution of the role of the domestic in the family. This is all done with impressive style and academic rigor. However, a critic may ask if a study of different cities, or a choice of different time periods, might show that the statistical shifts are less significant than she argues. Some readers may be put off by the speculative, impressionistic aspects of this work. Questions concerning the psychology of illiterate servants must be answered impressionistically, and although Fairchilds shows an ability to recreate the historical milieu, she does slip once. The chapter on sexual relations is overly speculative, lacks documentation, and is riddled with irrelevant remarks about male sexuality. These are, nonetheless, only minor flaws in an otherwise impressive and valuable addition to the social history of Old Regime France.

Mark Scholz  
University of Washington

*The Chilean Communist Party and the Road to Socialism.* By CARMELO FURCI. London: Zed Books Ltd, 1984. Pp. xiv + 204. Preface, introduction, tables, bibliography, index, appendices.

Although acknowledged as one of the largest and most influential Communist parties in Latin America, little has been written about the Chilean Communist Party (CCP). This lack of attention is due primarily to