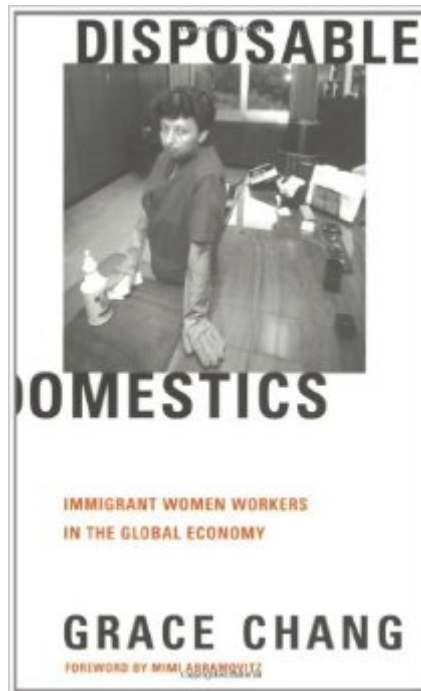


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# Disposable Domestics: Immigrant Women Workers In The Global Economy



## Synopsis

Contents Introduction Breeding Ignorance, Breeding Hatred Chapter 1: Undocumented Latinas: The New Employable Mother Chapter 2: The Nanny Visa: The Bracero Program Revisited Chapter 3: Immigrants and Workfare Workers: Employable but "Not Employed" Chapter 4: The Global Trade in Filipina Workers Conclusion: Gatekeeping and Housekeeping An Excerpt: Breeding Ignorance, Breeding Hatred

In 1994, during one of the worst, but certainly not unprecedented, systematic attacks on immigrants to the United States, immigrants and their allies began sporting T-shirts bearing the face of an indigenous man and the slogan, "Who are you calling illegal, Pilgrim?" reflecting indignation at the ignorant and malicious anti-immigrant sentiments of the day. Specifically, this was in direct response to a campaign that had been brewing for years in policy circles and "citizen" groups, culminating in California state's Proposition 187. The initiative proposed to bar undocumented children from public schools and turn away undocumented students from state colleges and universities. It also proposed to deny the undocumented an array of public benefits and social services, including prenatal and preventive care such as immunizations. While the overt purpose of this voter initiative was to curtail immigration, ostensibly by restricting the use of public benefits and social services by undocumented immigrants, the real agenda behind it was to criminalize immigrants for presumably entering the country "illegally" and stealing resources from "true" United States citizens. More to the point, Proposition 187 came out of and was aimed at perpetuating the myth that all immigrants are "illegal" at worst and, at best, the cause of our society's and economy's ills. Throughout US history, immigration has been viewed and intentionally constructed as plague, infection or infestation and immigrants as disease (social and physical), varmints or invaders. If we look at contemporary popular films, few themes seem to tap the fears or thrill the American imagination more than that of the timeless space alien invading the United States, and statespeople have snatched up this popular image to rouse public support for

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## Customer Reviews

In *Disposable Domesticity: Immigrant Women Workers in the Global Economy*, writer and activist Grace Chang persuasively counters arguments in favor of curbing immigration and eliminating access to education, health care, and welfare as she exposes the racism and misogyny directed against female immigrant workers in American society. Chang also highlights the unrewarded work immigrant women perform as caregivers, cleaners, and servers, showing how these women are actively resisting the exploitation they face. *Disposable Domesticity* is highly informative, recommended reading for feminists, unionists, immigration policy makers, and the non-specialist general reader with an interest in immigration issues, economics, women's rights, and fair labor practices.

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If only every person in public office today could read this book, and take it to heart... The authors waste no words arguing about an unseen traffic in women's labor that barely sustains them, and their families.

This is an important and very readable book which clearly illustrates the economic and political systems that converge to make immigrant women into an exploitable labor class in the global

economy. Chang gives a very persuasive argument about the macro-level structures and policies that drive global capitalism while centering the voices and activism of immigrant women and other women of color. I use this book to teach Intro to women's and gender studies every year.

Chang does nothing but rave angrily, sometimes supplementing her rage with biased studies and liberal "logic." She finds fault in the United States in every way possible and holds no one else accountable for the situation immigrant women are in. The book is poorly written and is hardly debatable as the amount of left-wing propoganda is insurmountable.

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