

of the book notes, "for women the 'end of history' is little more than a clever phrase." Under the universally present regimes of patriarchy, whether traditional or (post)modern, women continue to struggle against gender relations constituted by national, ethnic, tribal, and religious particularisms.

RAPE: A CRIME OF WAR

Shelley Saywell, Dir. Montreal: National Film Board of Canada, 1997.

SCHOOL FOR RAPE : THE BURMESE MILITARY AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Betsy Apple. U.S.A.: Earthrights International, 1998

BY PAM McDERMID

The video, "Rape: A War Crime" and the publication, *School for Rape: The Burmese Military and Sexual Violence* are two examples of the efforts of women worldwide, to expose, and publicize sexual abuse as one systemic expression of two societies misogynist philosophies. In these cases, the perpetrators are the military, employees of the state, and the abuses are part of national military strategy.

The two resources share a tacit understanding that rape is an act of violence using sexual means, not a violent act of sex. It is a form of violence usually, but not exclusively, directed toward women and girls. Apple points out that rape is often overlooked as a tool of psychological warfare and that this surprise element increases its destructive power. In Burma, the *Tatmadaw* (military) routinely use rape as a method to

spread political terror and increase political control. The video emphasizes that, in Serbia and Croatia as elsewhere, rape is not incidental to war but is part of a strategy to win a war.

Apple presents a comprehensive explication of the cultural context of rape in Burma and the structural factors contributing to its continuance. The condensed social and political history included is very helpful in understanding the current situation. Apple describes the military's use of the anti-women aspects of the culture in the training of its soldiers. There are quotations from women interviewed during the preparation of the report, which give a more personal feel to a somewhat formal text. Recommendations and strategies for change are also included.

Rape, A Crime of War, uses several "local tour guides" to take viewers through the experience of women in Bosnia Herzegovina. The personal accounts of the Muslim and Serbian women about their horrific treatment at the hands of the military are frequently given in calm, almost dispassionate voices. The contrast between the information and the delivery of it increases the power and poignancy of the testimony.

The experiences of these women illustrate the contemporary situation of women; these acts are being perpetrated in the 1990s. The prisoner of war camp inmates in the film look almost identical to the survivors of the death camps in Nazi Germany. It is a sharp reminder of how far we have not come in our development as civilized societies.

The video emphasizes the point that rape is no longer acceptable as a war strategy. It is now considered as a war crime or crime against humanity and will be prosecuted. There is considerable legal information featuring lawyers from South Africa, Canada, and the United States, related historical data, and comparisons with situations in other countries such as Rwanda. The breaking of the silence and the first instance of

prosecution at the world court in the Hague is encouraging. However the difficulty of conducting the prosecution is dishearteningly familiar to anyone who has worked in the field of abuses against women.

Both resources are excellent for those interested in women's situation in contemporary wars in various parts of the world. They are a reflection of women's continued subservient status in society but changes are occurring. The impact of the video is stronger: the women's voices convey the horror, spark anger, and demand debate of the issues in a way that the book does not. There is a greater feeling of involvement and intimacy. However, the book is a rich source of information on Burma (Myanmar) and, though it is "slow" in some places, the analysis is enlightening.

GENDER TRANSFORMATIONS

Sylvia Walby. London: Routledge, 1997.

BY PATRICIA BAKER

Sylvia Walby's *Gender Transformations* is an ambitious project. Her intent is to describe and analyze "[f]undamental transformations of gender relations in the contemporary Western world." These transformations have occurred, Walby argues, as a consequence of several factors, in particular recent increases in women's education and paid employment, as well as the development of new forms for the political representation of women's interests. Moreover, Walby argues that gender transformations occur variably across time and space, and have wide ranging implications for economic, class, social, ethnic/racial, national, and political relations, and changes both within and across nation states.

The basic, though complex and