

versations between academics and activists, and to forge coalitions amongst various social and environmental movements, is particularly important to this historical moment. The essays collected in *Ecofeminism: Women, Animals, Nature* are a stimulating and welcome addition to this burgeoning body of critical thought.

BREAKING THE BOUNDARIES: TOWARDS A FEMINIST GREEN SOCIALISM

Mary Mellor. London: Virago Press. 1992.

by Kim Hume

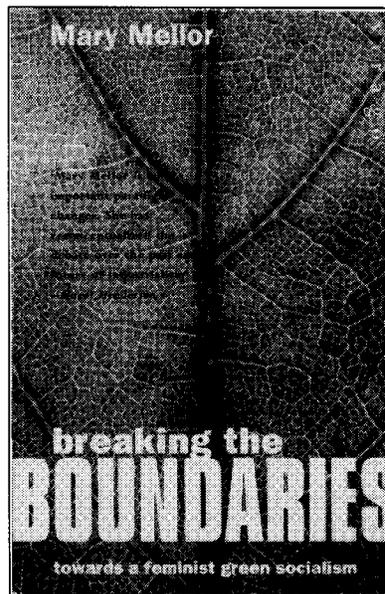
Our world is on a fast track towards self destruction. Women continue to be marginalized. The gaps between rich and poor are widening. The rape of our environment threatens individual lives and our collective existence. "We are linked into a destructive connectedness that is putting boundaries between people, but no boundary on our destruction of the planet."

In *Breaking the Boundaries*, Mary Mellor draws on feminist, green, and socialist thought in a convincing argument for the necessary integration of these three movements "if we are to achieve a sustainable future for both humanity and the planet."

Mellor's compelling enthusiasm for the future is the main strength of this book. Her conviction that her vision can address our global problems despite their magnitude and extent, is a testament both to her ideas and her writing.

She begins by asserting that capitalism, sexism, racism, industrialism, and militarism are male centred dominations that threaten our world. Citing historians, ecofeminists, and anthropologists, Mellor chronicles the emergence of patriarchy and male domination. She gains her point by contrasting the traditional male view of history with the more recent female-centred theories such as ecofeminism.

One of Mellor's stark examples illus-



trating the skewed priorities of a world run by men is the commitment of resources to military expenditure, which has meant that "nuclear missiles can go from Europe to Moscow in minutes, while a woman in Africa must walk several hours a day to fetch water."

Mellor does not believe that modifications of existing mechanisms are enough to arrest our self destruction: a new ideology is needed. While she admits there may be room for capitalism to "go green" in the long run, she points out with good reason that "in the long run we are all dead."

Ultimately, the boundaries that Mellor seeks to break are those that can be recognized at the global level, dividing race, culture, ethnicity and sex. Boundaries also exist between the feminist, green and socialist movements, which she illustrates both theoretically and from personal experience: as a feminist and a socialist, Mellor's original inspiration for this book arose out of her disillusionment with a male-oriented socialism "preoccupied with industrial and economic systems."

Breaking the boundaries between these movements makes sense, as they share a common interest in the future of our people and our planet. Feminism links socialism with green thought through women's connection to the earth. By breaking the boundaries between them, these movements will also gain a collective strength.

Breaking the Boundaries is an academic work with a popular focus; Mellor's argu-

ments are drawn from and supported by a large body of feminist, green, and socialist thought. As such, it can be heavy reading. It's made easier though, by the organization of the material. Subheadings divide each chapter into digestible pieces, and are listed in the table of contents for easy reference. Quotations from other writers intersperse and break up the text with succinct nuggets. A comprehensive bibliography and detailed index strengthen and substantiate Mellor's work.

Mellor doesn't make any policy recommendations, but clearly states that this was not her intention. Rather, she seeks a sustainable, egalitarian society. In broad terms, she is convincing in suggesting that this requires a paradigm shift "from men to women, from rich to poor, from North to South, from nature exploitation to nature stewardship." The world Mellor seeks and tangibly depicts is one worth striving for. This work provides the arguments and the inspiration inciting us to try. Our problems are significant, but they needn't overwhelm.

Breaking the Boundaries will find a wide audience in feminists, greens, and socialists who are concerned about our future as a planet. I'm not convinced that Mellor's vision of a feminist green socialism is the only path to a sustainable future, but she certainly goes far towards proving that the elements within her vision will be part of the solution.

RADICAL ECOLOGY: THE SEARCH FOR A LIVABLE WORLD

Carolyn Merchant. New York: Routledge, 1992.

by Jan Clarke

In *Radical Ecology*, Carolyn Merchant carefully follows the threads of environmental politics to trace the historical, social, and ecological roots which shape contemporary radical ecology movements. While she discusses each branch of radical ecology in some detail, her particular