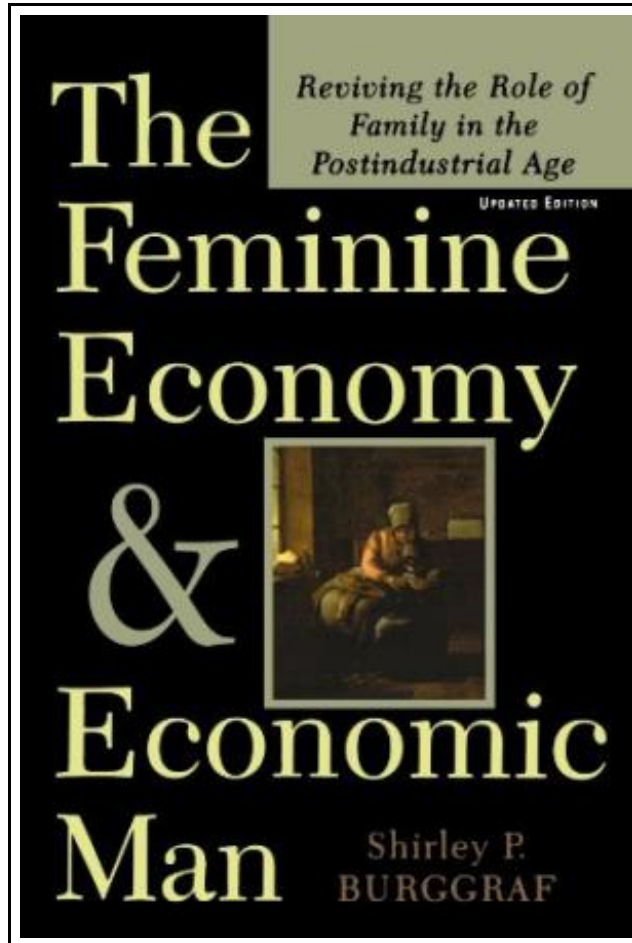


The Feminine Economy and Economic Man



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THE FEMININE ECONOMY AND ECONOMIC MAN



Basic Books (AZ). Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 304 pages. Dimensions: 9.0in. x 5.8in. x 0.7in. We hear much talk about family values, but what value do we actually place on the family itself? In Postindustrial America is the family merely a moral and sentimental worthy cause? Or is it in fact the focus of some of society's most important work—the development of productive workers and citizens—and thus one of the primary engines of economic growth? In *The Feminine Economy and Economic Man*, Shirley Burggraf sets the record straight about the true value and true cost of the family's work in nurturing and protecting society's human capital. With startling insight she also shows why we must replace our charity attitude toward family with something more appropriate, the same model we use for encouraging other, important economic entities—the model of investment and incentives. Economists have always referred to an inevitable next generation of workers who will expand the GNP, pay off the national debt, and support the social security system. Yet until now economic thinkers, predominantly male, have never factored into their equations the investment in time, labor, and opportunity cost actually required to rear those children into productive maturity. It was as if the next generation arose magically on its own when, in fact, the economically important work of caretaking was being performed all the while by an invisible, unpaid labor force called women. But now, with expanded opportunities available, women no longer volunteer to nurture and educate the young, or to take care of the sick and dying, for submarket wages or for no wages at all. A huge transfer of labor has taken place from the Feminine Economy of caregiving into the market-driven world of Economic Man, but economists, persisting in their blind spot, have yet to recognize the full impact of...



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