

# Our Time Is Now

Sex, Race, Class, and Caring for People and Planet

Selma James

Foreword by Margaret Prescod • Edited by Nina Lopez

For over sixty years, Selma James has been organizing from the perspective of unwaged women who, through childbirth and care, reproduce the whole human race. This work goes on almost unnoticed everywhere on the planet and in every culture. When this work is not economically prioritized, politically protected, or socially supported there are dire consequences for the whole of humanity, beginning with women and children.

This much-anticipated follow-up to her first anthology, *Sex, Race, and Class*, compiles several decades of James's work with a focus on her more recent writings, including a groundbreaking analysis of C.L.R. James's two masterpieces, *The Black Jacobins* and *Beyond a Boundary*, and an account of her formative partnership with him over three decades. Her experience with the Caribbean movement for independence and federation is reflected in her introduction to Ujamaa, the extraordinary work of Tanzanians to bypass capitalism, and much more.

Emerging from the need for a "practical movement," as Marx urged, James recounts the unusual history of how autonomous organizations formed within the International Wages for Housework Campaign and reshaped it: women of color, queer women, sex workers, women with disabilities—each independent but mutually accountable (including to the men's network with whom they work) as they confront sexism, racism, deportation, rape, and other violence.

James makes the powerful argument that the climate justice movement can draw on all the movements people have formed to refuse their particular exploitation and end the capitalist hierarchy that is destroying the world. Our time is now.

## ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

**Selma James** is a women's rights and antiracist campaigner and author. From 1958 to 1962 she worked with C.L.R. James in the movement for West Indian federation and independence. In 1972 she cofounded the International Wages for Housework Campaign, and in 2000 helped launch the Global Women's Strike whose strategy for change is "Invest in Caring, Not Killing." She coined the word "unwaged," which has since entered the English language. In the 1970s she was the first spokeswoman of the English Collective of Prostitutes. She is a founding member of the International Jewish Anti-Zionist Network. She coauthored the classic *The Power of Women and the Subversion of the Community*, which launched the "domestic labour debate."

**Margaret Prescod**, author of *Black Women Bringing It All Back Home*, is coordinator of Women of Color in the Global Women's Strike and an award-winning, nationally syndicated journalist on Pacifica Radio. She is the founder of the Black Coalition Fighting Back Serial Murders and cofounder of Every Mother Is a Working Mother Network. She is originally from Barbados.

**Nina López** is the joint coordinator of the Global Women's Strike. Her writings and edited volumes include: *Prostitute Women and AIDS: Resisting the Virus of Repression*; *Some Mother's Daughter: The Hidden Movement of Prostitute Women against Violence*; *The Milk of Human Kindness*; and *Creating a Caring Economy: Nora Castañeda and the Women's Development Bank of Venezuela*.

## ACCOLADES

"One of the most important figures in the new way of thinking in the 1970s and 1980s was Selma James. James's Marx and Feminism deserves to be considered one of the great feminist contributions to Marxist thought."

—*Monthly Review*



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