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Non Fiction



VORTEX: THE CRISIS OF PATRIARCHY

Susan Hawthorne

Do we want to live in a world without birdsong? The pesticides, the coal mines, the clear-felling forestry industry, the industrial farmers are destroying the earth with their insistence on profit. But what point is profit on a dead and silent planet?

In this enlightening yet devastating book, Susan Hawthorne writes with clarity and incisiveness on how patriarchy is wreaking destruction on the planet and on communities. The twin mantras of globalisation and growth expounded by the neoliberalism that has hijacked the planet are revealed in all their shabby deception.

Backed by meticulous research, the author shows how so-called advances in technology are, like a Trojan horse, used to mask sinister political agendas that sacrifice the common good for the shallow profiteering of corporations and mega-rich individuals.

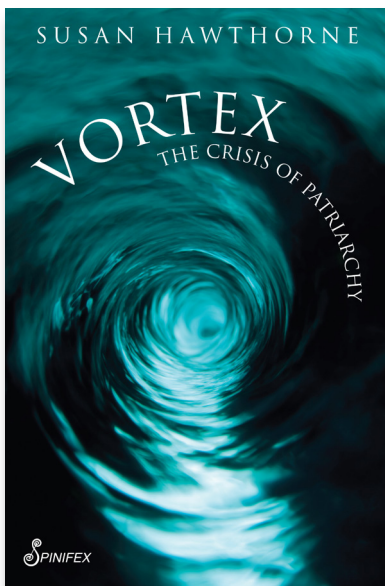
Susan Hawthorne details how women, lesbians, people with disabilities, Indigenous peoples, the poor, refugees and the very earth itself are being damaged by the crisis of patriarchy that is sucking everyone into its vortex. Importantly, this precise and insightful volume also shows what is needed to get ourselves out of this spiral of destruction

The book shows a way out of the vortex: it is now up to the collective imagination and action of people everywhere to take up the challenges Susan Hawthorne pinpoints.

This is a vital book for a world in crisis.

About the author

Susan Hawthorne is the author/editor of 26 books published in five languages across 20 territories. Her non-fiction books include *In Defence of Separatism* (2019), *Biodiversity* (2014), *Wild Politics* (2002), and *The Spinifex Quiz Book* (1993). She has been active in the women's liberation movement since 1973, was involved in Melbourne's Rape Crisis Centre and performed as an aerialist in two women's circuses. She has taught English to Arabic-speaking women, worked in Aboriginal education and has taught across a number of subject areas in universities. She is Adjunct Professor in the School of Humanities at James Cook University, Townsville. She was the winner of the 2017 Penguin Random House Best Achievement in Writing in the Inspire Awards for her work increasing people's awareness of epilepsy and the politics of disability. She has won awards for her contribution to the gay and lesbian community and to publishing.



VORTEX

The Crisis of Patriarchy

Susan Hawthorne

From the Introduction

This book has been developed in the years following my book *Wild Politics* (2002). It has been a period of war, growth of patriotism, global financial crisis and deepening violence against women, against majority peoples whose needs have been violated and of growing crises for displaced peoples and refugees. It has also been a time of environmental vandalism and the triumph of the economy over the social, one of the consequences of which is the global pandemic.

The vortex that is the subject of this book seems to be getting ever deeper, swirling ever faster and wider, ever more out of control. The speed of the vortex has been made visible by Covid-19. The vortex of patriarchy encompasses the deep deceptions of capitalism at its worst where entitlement, consumerism and celebrity culture are held up as cues for happiness, while the world's majority live in dire poverty and where the environment continues to be plundered.

The vortex is particularly destructive to those who are caught in its empty centre, as are people with disabilities, Indigenous and poverty stricken peoples, the landless and refugees. Among all these groups are women who bear an unreasonable load of poverty and violence against them. Wars fought over resources and ideologies continue to attract young men as fighters for old men's dreams. The majority who are killed and maimed are women and children: they are collateral casualties.

The global structures are not just affecting humans: the planet, its animals and plants, glaciers, wetlands, seas and mountains, deserts and farmlands, forests and rivers are all feeling the effect of the vortex. Climate change, increasing rates of extinction and pollution of all kinds are among the environmental disasters of capitalism without compassion or conscience.

These constitute the crimes of neoliberal capitalist patriarchy. They are wars against all who live on the planet. We are at a crisis point.

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