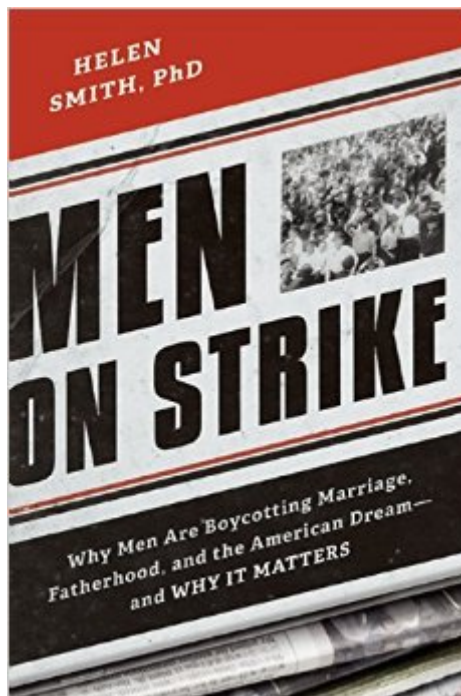


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# Men On Strike: Why Men Are Boycotting Marriage, Fatherhood, And The American Dream - And Why It Matters



## Synopsis

American society has become anti-male. Men are sensing the backlash and are consciously and unconsciously going on strike. • They are dropping out of college, leaving the workforce and avoiding marriage and fatherhood at alarming rates. The trend is so pronounced that a number of books have been written about this "man-child" phenomenon, concluding that men have taken a vacation from responsibility simply because they can. But why should men participate in a system that seems to be increasingly stacked against them? As *Men on Strike* demonstrates, men aren't dropping out because they are stuck in arrested development. They are instead acting rationally in response to the lack of incentives society offers them to be responsible fathers, husbands and providers. In addition, men are going on strike, either consciously or unconsciously, because they do not want to be injured by the myriad of laws, attitudes and hostility against them for the crime of happening to be male in the twenty-first century. Men are starting to fight back against the backlash. *Men on Strike* explains their battle cry.

## Book Information

Paperback: 240 pages

Publisher: Encounter Books; Reprint edition (December 9, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1594037620

ISBN-13: 978-1594037627

Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 6 x 8.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars • See all reviews (372 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #103,059 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #99 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Gender Studies > Men #174 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Sociology > Marriage & Family #179 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Gender Studies > General

## Customer Reviews

Dr. Smith concisely describes how American society has become anti-male. As a result, men are opting for non-participation. A stand-out chapter is "Why Does Dad Stay in the Basement?" (pages 95-118), which posits that too many women view men as "perverts, predators, and goofballs." This chapter brings to mind the TV and radio commercials with dumb husbands being put in their place by their rude, condescending wives. Usually a callow male says or does something stupid, and then

the wife sneers, "Slow down there, champ! Time to grow up and stop being a moron!" Imagine the outrage if the roles were reversed. In 2005 Harvard President Lawrence H. Summers spoke at a conference on women and other minorities in the science and engineering workforce. Summers said that POSSIBLE explanations for the underrepresentation of women in the upper echelons of these professions MIGHT include upbringing, genetics, and time spent on child rearing. He clearly stated that he made these comments to be provocative. Listening to the presentation, MIT biologist Nancy Hopkins said, "I felt I was going to be sick. My heart was pounding and my breath was shallow. I was extremely upset." She wasn't the only one. A firestorm of male and female outrage engulfed Harvard for months. Has any man out there ever felt sick when he saw a portrayal of us as perverts, predators, and goofballs? Have our hearts started pounding and our breathing become shallow? Now, just imagine if you could press a button and instantly change all those thousands of commercials from women calling their husbands idiots to men telling their wives to calm down, grow up, and stop being so stupid. Pause and think of the global hysteria.

This little book is an excellent introduction to a serious problem lurking in American society. Men have been discriminated against for more than 30 years. Unnoticed is the fact that the discrimination against women, which led to the efforts to favor women in law and society, ended decades ago. I teach medical students and am well aware that the majority are now female. When I attended medical school 50 years ago, admissions committees did discriminate against female applicants because the committees, almost all male, were concerned about the perceived doctor shortage and felt that women who completed a medical education would not practice full time or would stop their practice once they had children. Today, this concern is not apparent but, interestingly enough, female physicians do tend to limit their hours and a recent study by a physician recruitment firm noted that female physicians work significantly fewer hours per week than their male colleagues who also work fewer hours than my generation did. We are well past the era of discrimination against women but you would not know it from the newspapers or TV or academia. Dr Smith recounts her experience, not only from her practice as a clinical psychologist, but from interviewing men in the environs where they lurk and by e-mail and in comments on her blog. After reading her book, I would say, without getting into detail, that I see many examples from my own life. She begins with a chapter on why men seem to be avoiding marriage. Here she interviews young men who are members of several subsets, including "gamers" and men at gyms and in bars. A lot of this is related to the sexual revolution in which men can get sex without marriage. When I was a college student, that was rare and men and women tended to marry earlier in life.

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