

Half the Sky



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著者:Nicholas D. Kristof

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From The Washington Post

From The Washington Post's Book World/washingtonpost.com Reviewed by Carolyn See "Half the Sky" is either one of the most important books I have ever reviewed, or it is reportage about a will-o'-the-wisp movement destined to end up in the footnotes of history. Frankly, I'm too stunned by the density of information and the high quality of the prose here to know for sure which it is. You'll have to judge for yourselves. Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn have been journalists for years. As a married couple, they covered the Tiananmen massacre and were appalled by the dramatic loss of human life. But as they continued their work in developing countries, they discovered that the most dreadful suffering happened in the daily lives of poor, mostly village women. Keep reading! This book isn't a sermon, and neither is this review. These Pulitzer Prize-winning authors see the treatment of women in developing countries as the great story of this century, a moral issue, sure, but also as an economic one. What if by oppressing half their population, countries in Africa, Asia and the Middle East have been shooting themselves in their collective foot? "Women hold up half the sky," the Chinese saying goes, and in fact -- the authors argue -- one of the reasons China has

emerged as such an impressive power in the past decades may be because of the "Girl Effect," the millions of girls who have flocked to factories, sparking a revolution in that country. (Yes, those factories are no picnic, but they're better than the alternative: hobbling about on bound feet, as WuDunn's grandmother did.) But in other countries, women may be gang-raped if they leave the house; they're beaten daily, sold into brothels or married off as little children. They're stoned to death in the Middle East for infringements on the family honor or burned to death in India over dowry spats. Acid is thrown in their faces; they endure genital cutting and ghastly fistulas or internal ruptures from botched births. The authors handle this grim material by telling us just a handful of horrible stories at a time, based on their own extensive interviews. Then they leaven these sad tales with profiles of women who have endured rape, beatings or medical afflictions but have managed to found a school or a hospital or a small business that lifted them and those around them out of poverty and despair. These stories are electrifying and have the effect of breaking down this enormous problem into segments the reader can focus on. Suddenly, these horrendous problems begin to seem solvable. There's the story of the lowly Pakistani girl who was raped by men from a higher caste. They expected her to go home and kill herself, as was the custom in her village, but she applied for redress and caught the attention of then-President Pervez Musharraf, who sent her \$8,300 in compensation. Instead of being eternally grateful and shutting up, she started a school, learning to read and write along with her students. The attention she brought to the issue of rape in Pakistan sent Musharraf into conniption fits, and she was hounded mercilessly by the government. But Musharraf is gone now, and the school still thrives. Kristof and WuDunn also tell of a girl in Ethiopia who suffered a fistula during her first pregnancy. She made her way to the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital, got sewn up so she was no longer a "modern-day leper," and then stayed around to make beds and assist the surgeon. Eventually, she learned to do fistula operations herself. She's still learning to read and write, but elite surgeons now learn medical techniques from her. Big governments and big charities -- with the exception of CARE, which has recently focused its attention on girls and women -- are seen only faintly in these pages. The authors tend to focus instead on individual Westerners who had an "aha" moment, from distinguished public health physicians to high school girls who learned something about the situation and felt they had to help. The authors call them "social entrepreneurs" and admire them greatly. But they chide American feminists for being more interested in Title IX sports programs and inappropriate office touching than the plight of their sisters in the developing world. And they acknowledge that women are often implicated in institutionalized oppression, too. Again, this book is not a sermon about victims. Its range is wide, and sometimes it's even funny. In a wonderful, mordantly amusing chapter about big groups trying to impose their views on cultures they don't understand, the authors describe fundamentalist Christians trying as hard as they can to prevent contraception, and secular elites trying as hard as they can to advance it. But, as Kristof and WuDunn remind us, if you're down-and-out in a Congolese jungle, the Christian missionaries will be the ones there to provide you with food and medication. "Half the Sky" is a call to arms, a call for help, a call for contributions, but also a call for volunteers. It asks us to open our eyes to this enormous humanitarian issue. It does so with exquisitely crafted prose and sensationally interesting material. It provides us with a list of individual hospitals, schools and small charities so that we can contribute to, or at least inform ourselves about, this largely unknown world. I really do think this is one of the most important books I have ever reviewed. I may be wrong, but I don't think so.

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From Bookmarks Magazine

Critics, universally inspired by Half the Sky, used their reviews as an opportunity to take up its message. They praised not only Kristof and WuDunn's clear moral stance and explanation of the issues but also the way they combined individual women's stories and practical advice to give the book an optimistic tone. Reviewers pointed out some flaws, particularly the authors' focus on individual action (such as providing a list of hospitals and schools to direct charity to) while neglecting to criticize the policies of Western governments. As more than one reviewer pointed out, Saudi Arabia, a country with one of the worst records of oppressing women, is a U.S. ally. Nevertheless, critics encouraged readers to pick up Half the Sky, which, according to the Seattle Times, "will ignite a grass-roots revolution like the one that eliminated slavery."

作者介绍:

Nicholas Donabet Kristof is an American journalist, author, op-ed columnist, and a winner of two Pulitzer Prizes. He has written an op-ed column for The New York Times since November 2001 and is widely known for bringing to light human rights abuses in Asia and Africa, such as human trafficking and the Darfur conflict. He has lived on four continents, reported on six, and traveled to 150 countries and all 50 states. According to his blog, during his travels he has had "unpleasant experiences with malaria, wars, an Indonesian mob carrying heads on pikes, and an African airplane crash".

Sheryl WuDunn is a Chinese American business executive, author, and lecturer who was the first Asian-American to win a Pulitzer Prize.

A senior banker focusing on growth companies in technology, new media and the emerging markets, WuDunn also works with double bottom line firms, alternative energy issues, and women entrepreneurs. She has also been a private wealth adviser with Goldman Sachs and was previously a journalist and business executive for The New York Times. She is now senior managing director at Mid-Market Securities [1], a boutique investment banking firm in New York serving small and medium companies.

At the Times, WuDunn ran coverage of global energy, global markets, foreign technology and foreign industry. She oversaw international business topics ranging from China's economic growth to technology in Japan, from oil and gas in Russia to alternative energy in Brazil. She was also anchor of The New York Times Page One, a nightly program of the next day's stories in the Times. She also worked in the Times's Strategic Planning Department and in the Circulation Department, where she ran the effort to build the next generation of readers for the newspaper. She was one of the few people at The Times who went back and forth between the news and business sides of the organization.

She earlier was a foreign correspondent in The New York Times Beijing and Tokyo bureaus, and speaks Chinese and Japanese. While in Asia, she also reported from other areas, including North Korea, Australia, Burma and the Philippines. WuDunn, recipient of an honorary doctorate from Middlebury College, will be a senior lecturer at Yale University's Jackson Institute for Global Affairs in the fall of 2011. She is a commentator on China and global affairs on television and radio shows, including NPR, Colbert Report and Charlie Rose.

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中英对照才得见全貌

看了英文版的，非常好读，中文版肯定会有删节。虽然要庆幸我们生活在一个不需要裹脚可以上学工作自由恋爱的时代，但这世界上还是有很多不平等的存在。去努力吧！

整个campaign/movement做得还是很好的

书评

一年一度的毕业季来临，“宁要武大郎，不要穆桂英”这个话题的横空出世引起了不小的关注，终于有媒体开始系统性地报道男女生在就业时遇到的性别歧视了。由于女性在社会分工上约定俗成地被认定为要多负起照顾家庭、生儿育女的责任，企业在选人的时候自然愿意选择将更多精力放在...

《天空的另一半》书写下了一系列第三世界女性的恶劣遭遇与不放弃的奋斗挣扎，这些女性之所以遭到奴役与暴力，有其十分复杂的文化、权力结构与政治经济因素。例如基于性别偏好而堕掉女胎、全球化运作的性贩运、阴蒂切除、荣誉谋杀、荣誉强暴，或者，将羞辱家庭的荣誉强暴扩展到...

古希腊神话里说，人类原本是男女同体的，由于神灵的惩罚才将人类分成了两性。自那以后，男人和女人都在茫茫人海里寻找着自己的另一半，试图与那一半重新汇合。当我们严肃的对待这个传说的时候，多半会一脸无奈的说，唉，人类何苦为难人类。这就是天空的一半对另一半的真实状...

前几天在朋友圈分享过一篇文章叫“[生为女人，我很抱歉”。]最近发生了太多叫人跌破眼镜的事情，包括让女性医务人员吃黄体酮、剃光头上前线、累到流产还要歌颂牺牲.....

作为88年的独生女，从小到大从未感受过生为女人的差别，也更没有过月经羞耻，所以看到这些感觉像天方夜谭，...

女人是人吗？如果是，我们会被当成商品放在货柜里从泰国运送到纽约的妓院吗？.....我们的阴部会被切掉好“净化”我们吗？.....女人什么时候才能变成人？什么时候？——凯瑟琳·麦金农，《女人是人吗？》
如果不看这本【天空的另一半】，你永远不知道除了战争，除了难民，除...

本篇列出专门援助发展中国家妇女的一些组织，但也有许多出色的救援组织团体没有列入，比如国际救援委员会（International Rescue Committee），联合国儿童基金会（UNICEF）、救助儿童会（Save the Children）及美慈组织（Mercy Corps），因为妇女不是他们唯一的帮助对象。这份...

想必我们都不会忘记去年让全世界人民都为之共愤的新德里事件。一名23岁的女生在回家的路上登上了一辆私人公交车，被轮奸后又被直接丢到下水道里。实际上，在南亚及伊斯兰教社会等发展中国家和地区，年轻的女性遭受性暴力，被贩卖充当性奴，遭阉割虐待等骇人听闻的事件屡...

之前我就閱讀過許多與落後國家福利政策有關的書籍，但這還是頭一次閱讀以女性為主題的報導文學。雖然台灣也有婦女受虐的新聞，不過跟這本書提到的內容比根本是小事一椿，而國內推動婦女人權運動的廣告也不是太積極。
我想，兩性平權的教育還是有必要持續下去，並且在世界各地...

首先要肯定本书的确是一本好书。无论是写作手法、逻辑、故事性上说，都属上层。我对作者收集到如此多的材料，撰写此书，报以非常尊重的态度。
但是我说的可能有些刺耳。
整本书唯一的弱点就是站在了一个西方强权的意识形态上来讲故事。虽然很多章节强调了本地妇女自发的努力...

在中国，虽然“男女平等”被写进国策，但人人都知道在这里男女并不平等。小时候常听说，女婴被遗弃在大街的垃圾桶旁边；某某家因为女方生不了男孩导致婆媳关系紧张。现在这些例子少了，但是仍然存在。男女不平等已经从旧时简单粗暴的方式慢慢转变成了沉默的规则，并向社会生活...

看完这本书，心情很沉重。不仅是对外国女性的遭遇，还有对国内日渐恶化歧视女性的现象。早在毛泽东时期妇女能顶半边天，可近些年，很多男性不仅不认同女性在工作方面的能力，还把失业甚至独身归咎于女性，以至于有一种趋势要把女人“赶回家”。我很同意书里说的，女人争取的不...

我的老家在贵州，一个提起来关键词便少不了“贫困”的省份，2015的数据显示，全省88个县区中就有50个是国家重点扶贫县。大概十几二十年前，我还没有出来读大学，报纸上读到一则新闻，印象特别深刻，说影星吕良伟去贵州考察，冬天，气温接近零度，他看到一个小孩光着脚，纳闷地...

这是一场旷日持久的废奴运动，不是一个种族奴役另一个，不是一个国家压迫另一个，而是两性共同虐待女性。《天空的另一半》作者展示了一副惊心动魄的图景，来自二十余年走访亚非拉国家所看到的性别歧视、性暴力、家庭暴力等女性生存现状。当我们换一种方式计算时...

翻译完一天的定量之后我会看一些中文书，言几又的空调很冷，在书店里坐到下午错过一顿午饭的饥饿比起全年中有52%的日子里没有食物来源尼日利亚妇女们的饥饿只有望尘莫及。这本书使得我在书店这样的公开场合又哭又笑，卢旺达遭遇种族主义者的图西族少女克劳丁与姐姐被关进强奸...

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