

Abstract

The aim of my thesis is to establish a link between culinary habits and sexual crimes against women in American society. The correlation of patriarchy and meat consumption, and femininity and vegetarianism form the basis of committing gross atrocities against women. The cultural politics highlighting the politics of power, food and female objectivity will be discussed in this research. Gender roles, women's allegiance to tenderness and men's allegiance to virility promote sexual exploitation of women in meat consuming dominant societies. The more the men consume meat, the more they commit sexual crimes against women (rapes, abuse etc.). Meat eating practices were common among men than women throughout the history. The 19th and 20th century, the periods of industrial revolution, saw the rise in meat consumption in America. This gave rise to the women's oppression at the hands of meat eating virile men.

The works of Zora Neale Hurston and Alice Walker have made many contributions to highlight the history of abuse of women, especially of African American women. They strived to portray the realities of women's suffering with the touch of fiction. In 19th and 20th century, the blacks' slavery era doubly oppressed the women. The obsession with the female bodies was linked with the sexual objectification of women, where they were thought to be mere objects of sexual consumption in much the same way as animals are objects of meat consumption in meat eating societies.

The texts I have chosen investigate the politics of culture, race, sexuality and food in the context of African American culture. The interrelationship of meat and sexuality serves as a vehicle for understanding the way in which these women writers have presented culinary, cultural, racial and sexual politics in America and in African American communities.