

Unheard Voices

Iraqi Women on War and Sanctions

by Bela Bhatia, Mary Kawar, Mariam Shahin
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Wars were made in the minds of men - but their impact was on women who have had no say in their making. They have neither been asked, nor given their consent to the war, or to the militarization of their country, which diverts resources. Then women bear the brunt of keeping society - not just families - going. For the effects of sanctions, of economic deprivation, of war damage, are never neutral; nor is grief, or seeking refuge, or the rebuilding of lives and community.

This contains both moving and personal testimonies from the unseen, unheard victims of war, but also the scientific evidence of the International Team. Available in March. Thinkbook VII £3.90.

Source: News from Change in 1992.
Change. P.O.Box 824, London SE 24 9JS, UK.

Both Right and Left Handed

Arab Women Talk about Their Lives

By Bouthaina Shaaban

Both Right and Left Handed consists of a set of interviews with Arab women of different classes from Syria, Lebanon, Palestine and Algeria. The idea for the interviews came to the author, Bouthaina Shaaban in 1982, a period characterized by intense military activities in the region. Hence, she soon noticed that these women defied every stereotype of the passive, compliant Arab woman. My purpose was to let all these women speak for themselves, and to reveal, if they would, their truest innermost feelings. I hoped by this means to enable other Arab women and Western women to hear for themselves the voices of these women - fighters

and professionals, politicians and peasants, devoted wives and faithful mothers of martyrs. (p.2). Shaaban also indicates that her book is not a sociological study and does not analyze the political, social or historical place of women in the Arab world. It is a personal book, an attempt to enable a number of women caught up in a burning moment of history to share their experiences with others.

Bouthaina Shaaban, **Both Right and Left Handed: Arab Women Talk About their lives.** London. Midland Books Edition. 1991. ISBN 0-253-35189-8