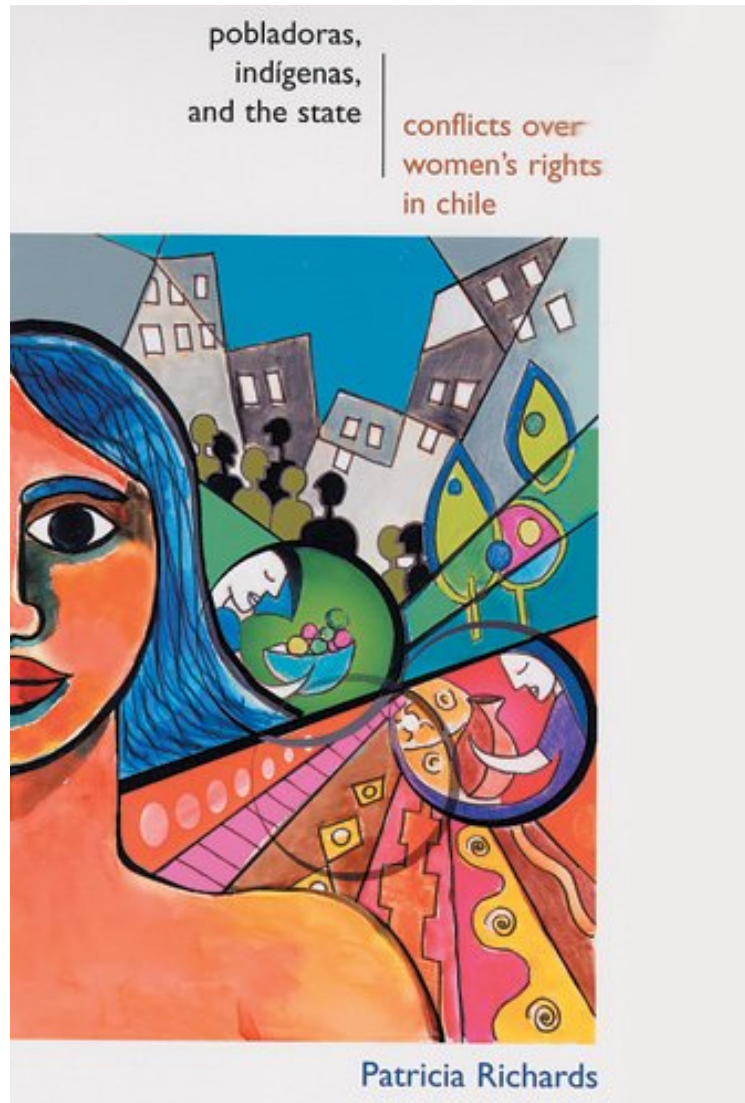


## Pobladoras, Indigenas, and the State: Conflicts Over Women's Rights in Chile

Patricia Richards

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**Patricia Richards : Pobladoras, Indigenas, and the State: Conflicts Over Women's Rights in Chile** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Pobladoras, Indigenas, and the State: Conflicts Over Women's Rights in Chile:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. more than gender divides Chilean womenBy W BoudvilleAn incisive look at the women's movement in Chile. The context is Chile's ending of Pinochet's dictatorship in 1990 and the subsequent gradual emergence of a pluralistic democracy. In this society, it has now become possible for many

groups to overtly assert their influence. Richards studies how various female social groups have fared. The problem is that there is no simple pure gender issue that most Chilean women might agree on. Richards shows the complexity of their society. Many divisions overlay. The concerns of educated, middle class women might not fully intersect those of struggling urban working class women. Ethnicity and race also intrude. Rural women might be indigenous, rather than of European descent. Richards especially devotes attention to the Mapuche and their dealings with the government. The Mapuche were the only South American tribe in the Spanish Empire that the Spanish never defeated. Richards interviewed many Mapuche female leaders to find their concerns, which she summarises and analyses for us.

Can laws, policies, and agencies that are designed to help women achieve equality with men accommodate differences among women themselves? In *Pobladoras, Indigenas, and the State*, Patricia Richards examines how Chilean state policy shapes the promotion of women's interests but at the same time limits the advancement of different classes and racial-ethnic groups in various ways. Chile has made a public commitment to equality between women and men through the creation of a National Women's Service, SERNAM. Yet, indigenous Mapuche women and working-class pobladora activists assert that they have been excluded from programs implemented by SERNAM. Decisions about what constitutes "women's interests" are usually made by middle class, educated, lighter-skinned women, and the priorities and concerns of poor, working-class, and indigenous women have not come to the fore. Through critical analysis of the role of the state, the diversity of women's movements, and the social and political position of indigenous peoples in Latin America, Richards provides an illuminating discussion of the ways in which the state defines women's interests and constructs women's citizenship. This book makes important contributions to feminist studies, theories of citizenship, and studies of the intersections of class, gender, and race.

"No other book on Latin American women's movements addresses the important topic of race/ethnic and class differences with such clarity and sensitivity. Patricia Richards' work will have important implications for theories of women's citizenship and gendered states." About the Author Patricia Richards is an assistant professor of sociology and women's studies at the University of Georgia. She received her Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Texas at Austin.