

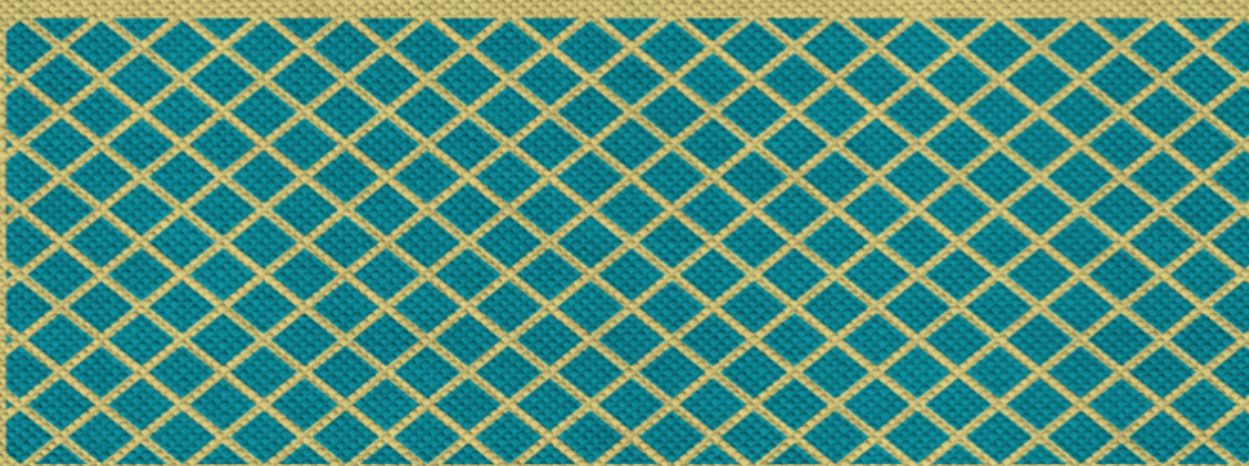
CAMILLE  
PAGLIA

AGAINST

CAITLIN  
MORAN

# ARE MEN OBSOLETE?

YOU DECIDE



HANNA  
ROSIN

FOR

MAUREEN  
DOWD

# CONTENTS

Cover

About the Book

About the Debaters

About the Editor

Title Page

Introduction by Rudyard Griffiths

Pre-Debate Interviews with Rudyard Griffiths

Interview with Caitlin Moran

Interview with Maureen Dowd

Interview with Hanna Rosin

Interview with Camille Paglia

Are Men Obsolete?

The Munk Debate on Gender

Post-Debate Commentary

Post-Debate Commentary by Christina Hoff Sommers

Post-Debate Commentary by Stephanie Coontz

About the Munk Debates

A Letter from Peter Munk

About the Interviews

About the Post-Debate Commentary

Acknowledgements

Copyright

## ABOUT THE BOOK

'Men are so last century. They seem to have stopped evolving. The Mad Men world is disappearing and the guys are struggling to figure out the altered parameters of manliness.'

Maureen Dowd

'Do women get anything from men being obsolete? Do we win by triumphing in work, education, the economy, politics and business, while retaining homemaking and child rearing? If that happened then we will be doing everything! Are men obsolete? No! I won't let you be you f\*\*\*\*\*s!'

Caitlin Moran

*Are Men Obsolete?* is an essential and entertaining read for anyone interested in what happens next in the great gender discussion. Maureen Dowd, Caitlin Moran, Camille Paglia and Hanna Roisin debate whether modern man is past his sell-by-date, and, if so, what does that mean for women?

## ABOUT THE DEBATERS

HANNA ROSIN is the author of *The End of Men*, the definitive book on the decline of men and maleness in modern society. She is a national correspondent at *The Atlantic*, where she writes broadly about American culture; a writer and editor for *Slate*; and a founder and editor of *DoubleX*, *Slate*'s site for women. She has written for *The New Yorker*, the *New York Times*, *GQ*, *The New Republic*, and the *Washington Post*. A National Magazine Award winner, her stories have been included in the anthologies *Best American Magazine Writing* and *Best American Crime Reporting*. Hanna Rosin lives in Washington, D.C., with her husband and their three children.

MAUREEN DOWD is the winner of a Pulitzer Prize for distinguished commentary and the author of *Are Men Necessary?* She has been a *New York Times* op-ed columnist since 1995, after serving as a correspondent in the paper's Washington bureau since 1996. She has covered four presidential campaigns for the *New York Times* and has served as White House correspondent. She is regularly ranked among the top hundred public intellectuals in America. Maureen Dowd lives in New York City.

CAITLIN MORAN is a British broadcaster, TV critic, and writer for *The Times* of London. Named Columnist of the Year in 2010 and both Critic and Interviewer of the Year in 2011 by the British Awards, she is the author of the global bestseller *How To Be a Woman*. The *New York Times* called the book a "glorious, timely stand against sexism so ingrained we barely notice it ... a book that needed to be written." It has been published in twenty-three languages.

Caitlin Moran lives on Twitter with her husband and two children.

CAMILLE PAGLIA is recognized as one of the world's top hundred public intellectuals by *Foreign Policy* and *Prospect*. She is currently a professor of humanities and media studies at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia. Her book *Sexual Personae: Art and Decadence from Nefertiti to Emily Dickinson* is considered an iconic work of literary criticism. Her other books include *Sex, Art, and American Culture*; *Break, Blow, Burn*; and *Glittering Images: A Journey Through Art from Egypt to Star Wars*. She was a co-founding contributor and columnist for *Salon* and has written numerous articles on art, literature, popular culture, feminism, politics, and religion for publications around the world. Camille Paglia lives in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

## ABOUT THE EDITOR

RUDYARD GRIFFITHS is the organizer and moderator of the Munk Debates. In 2006 he was named one of Canada's "Top 40 under 40" by the *Globe and Mail*. He is the editor of thirteen books on history, politics, and international affairs and author of *Who We Are: A Citizen's Manifesto*, which was a *Globe and Mail* Best Book of 2009 and a finalist for the Shaughnessy Cohen Prize for Political Writing. He lives in Toronto with his wife and two children.

# ARE MEN OBSOLETE?

CAMILLE PAGLIA & CAITLIN MORAN

VS.

HANNA ROSIN & MAUREEN DOWD

**THE MUNK DEBATE ON GENDER**

EDITED BY RUDYARD GRIFFITHS



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## INTRODUCTION BY RUDYARD GRIFFITHS

The Munk Debate on Gender took place in Toronto on November 15, 2013, in front of a sold-out audience of 3,000 people. The packed concert hall was treated to a remarkable debate, one that ranged from the profound to the uproarious to the profane. Fuelling the hour-and-a-half-long discussion was the debate's contentious resolution, "Be it resolved: men are obsolete." On the surface the motion seems fantastical. Men obsolete, really? If this is indeed the case, what about the 97 percent of Fortune 500 companies with male CEOs? How about the continued dominance of men in politics and a slew of powerful (and high-paying) white-collar professions from medicine to law to finance? And where but in a handful of nations have voters actually elected female heads of state?

These are all important markers of male influence in the early twenty-first century, but the ambit of the Munk Debate on Gender was purposely larger than the power relationship between men and women today. Instead, the debate tackled the surge of female performance relative to men in the home, the workplace, our schools, and society, and addressed the implication of this trend for our collective future.

The rise of women is fast emerging as one of the most important socioeconomic phenomena of our era. In Canada and the United States women make up almost half of the workforce — a threefold increase since the early 1970s. In higher education women now receive 60 percent of the undergraduate and graduate degrees conferred each year,



including in previously all-male disciplines such as the sciences, commerce, law, and medicine. At home, modern woman's contribution to child-rearing is off the charts: four out of five single-parent families in the United States are headed by women. More amazing still, women today constitute the single or primary breadwinner in 40 percent of all American families with children under eighteen — a fourfold increase since the 1960s. The dominance of women in child-rearing and family life, their skyrocketing graduation rates at all educational levels, and the reality that they make up an ever-larger portion of the workforce — in both blue- and white-collar professions — all beg the question: What is happening to men?

The decline in performance of men relative to women — a complex and fascinating issue — was the crux of the Munk Debate on Gender. Specifically, are post-industrial nations witnessing a fundamental shift in the status and power of men vis-à-vis women, one that will fundamentally change not just women's place in society but our collective expectations of the role of men in the economy, in family life, and in once traditionally male bastions such as politics? Or are the power structures — economic, cultural, and political — created by men for men, over millennia, still firmly in place, suggesting that men and "maleness" are anything but a spent societal force? To find out, the Munk Debates invited four outstanding women, each of whom has distinguished herself as an original and influential thinker on today's fast-evolving attitudes about gender, to give their analysis of where male/female relations are headed in the twenty-first century.

Arguing for the motion that men are obsolete was the powerhouse duo of Maureen Dowd and Hanna Rosin. Ms. Dowd is the pugnacious and powerful *New York Times* op-ed columnist whose hard-hitting essays and reporting on American politics and culture won her a Pulitzer Prize for journalism. She is also the author of the bestselling book on