

[Ebook free] Intellectual Women and Victorian Patriarchy: Harriet Martineau, Elizabeth Barrett Browning, George Eliot

Intellectual Women and Victorian Patriarchy: Harriet Martineau, Elizabeth Barrett Browning, George Eliot

Deirdre David

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Deirdre David : Intellectual Women and Victorian Patriarchy: Harriet Martineau, Elizabeth Barrett Browning, George Eliot before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Intellectual Women and Victorian Patriarchy: Harriet Martineau, Elizabeth Barrett Browning, George Eliot:

Examines the works of three Victorian writers, looks at the ways they subverted and affirmed their society, and discusses women's higher education in nineteenth century England.

From Library JournalViewing Victorian culture as intractably patriarchal, David laboriously concludes that her three writers both complicitly reinforced and subverted its values. Antonio Gramsci's theories on the social function of intellectuals suggest to David that Barrett Browning and Eliot mythologized themselves into "traditional" intellectuals left unmolested by contemporary forces even as they remained much aware of them. Meanwhile, Martineau functioned as one of Gramsci's "organic" intellectuals, legitimizing through her journalism the ruling class's political and social control. While a vitiating equation of the true "intellectual" with the merely cultured person damages the

argument, women's studies collections should add this title. Barbara J. Dunlap, City Coll. Lib., CUNY Copyright 1987
Reed Business Information, Inc. From the Back Cover This challenging book explores with great insight the literary
and social possibilities open to Victorian women intellectuals. Along with her close textual analysis of selected works
by her three subjects, she probes the nature and implications of women's higher education and intellectual life in the
nineteenth century.