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## Critical Analysis in Alice Walker's Meridian's Novel

Dr. Mugdad Abdulimam Abood  
University of Basrah- Iraq

Assi Lect. Muna Ali Abdulrahman  
Northern Technical University .Iraq

### Abstract

The study emphasizes the importance of closely examining Alice Walker's novel "*Meridian*." The study emphasizes how the Civil Rights Movement frequently served as a mirror for the iniquity of a man-centered, capitalist economy. While refocusing the movement, activists are still stifling unbridled individuality.

Numerous topics are discussed in critical analysis, such as racism, sexism, cruelty, rape, loneliness, and a disruption of traditional gender roles. The study illustrates Walker's activities from several millennia ago when she was ancestor-hunting. One slave craftswoman supported her family by buying the inventive works of art that adorn other people's houses, while another slave slowly starved to death in order to keep and raise her children. Through the narrative of slave women and storyteller Louvinie, Walker brings the history of the slaves to life. African-American women's creativity is used by the storyteller and slave artisans to ease Walker's.

Keywords: Meridian , Walker, Rights, double oppression , dark, movement

### Introduction:

Known for her poetry, essays, and novels, Alice Walker was born in the United States at the year of 1944. Walker has made a tremendous contribution to American literature, yet she genuinely belongs to Afro-American literature. Walker has always been involved in causes that benefit the impoverished and underprivileged. She has experienced in working with the poor or "social outcasts," and she is a committed reformer who has contributed to many initiatives and reforms on their behalf. She portrays "Black" culture and way of life authentically, which is only appropriate for an Afro-American novelist.

Walker's fiction frequently reference the "double oppression" that "whites" and "blacks" still experience. As a result, Alice Walker also

contributes significantly to "Black Feminism." Her use of the term "womanist" to denote Afro-American feminism is attributed. She explains the problems and challenges that African American women experience at work. Racism, misogyny, cruelty, rape, solitude, and a challenge to gender stereotypes are frequently major themes in her writings.

She has been persistent in her attempts to challenge these deeply embedded and long-standing gender-specific standards. Before deciding to write novels, Alice Walker began her literary career with a variety of poetry, short stories, and essays. Her first work, *The Third Life of Grange Copeland*, was published in 1970. Meridian, her second child, was born in 1976. However, it was the well-known and quarrelsome novel "*The Color Purple*" that actually launched her writing career in 1982. With the release of this book, Alice Walker established herself as a writer and rose to fame.

Walker demonstrates how parenting stands in opposition to all potential threats by referring to it as "a precious message of experiencing life" in Meridian. It emphasizes that having children is not only a typical situation or way of life. She says:

**"the novel calls attention to that the Civil Rights Movement frequently mirrored the abusiveness of man-centric private enterprise.."**

**(Stein 66)**

Meridian is the book's protagonist. In her dreams, her mother is released from the burden that has come with being a parent, this a result pushes Meridian to find out her personality and her own unique good core where she attempts to construct a zenith of being out of the initiatory events she encounters. Meridian, is the main character and a school teacher who struggles in real life to support black people in the South in order to advance political and social justice. Meridian continues ahead to look for the link between her own past and history in order to advance the methodology of social developments. As a female hero, Meridian breaks free of her dependent roles as a black woman, daughter, wife, and mother to become her own person.

Meridian resembles a handworker in that she has to engage in activities to expand her thinking. With her concept of an adoring enemy and method to managing the showdown, Meridian has inserted herself into the bloodless upheaval. Meridian focuses on empowering women. After giving birth to Eddie Jr., Meridian has a better understanding of what it means to be a mother and a woman, and more importantly, what it means to be a poor, black woman.. In spite of all, Meridian views her mother as a "willing ignoramus, a lady of numbness" (p. 17) who slavishly adheres to

tradition in its most revered form. European endowment of Christianity as a sedative to the black slave and a pleasant illusion who shaded the brutalities of abuse has profoundly misled her mother. She has given God complete responsibility for her own welfare, and she expects Meridian to do the same.

She looks for affirmation in the school to find out her own special way and character after experiencing parenthood in the foundational phases of her life. She is able to achieve, the most spectacular reason behind power, thriving, prosperity, etc., thanks to this improved approach for moving forward in life to uncover identity. In "The Self in Bloom; Alice Walker's Meridian," Deborah E. McDowell writes that after that, she develops "a fullness of being" (McDowell 262).

Her journey has taken her from the easiest starting point as the secondary school dropout to the self-illuminated person that has attained selfhood and understands what the purpose and mission of one's own life is. She needs to start off as a typical black to appreciate herself, she has expected to encounter innumerable preliminaries and tests to find the appropriate responses of her inquiries in her psyche.

Meridian needs to add some scale to her personal life. When she considers the Civil Rights Movement, she becomes more like herself. The time Meridian joined the Civil Rights Movement is the time when her marriage to Eddie ended. Meridian's mother disapproves of her extreme political activities.

Meridian finances social activism and obtains a permit for the Saxon school. As a volunteer in the Civil Rights Movement at the beginning of the development, Meridian defends herself with the value of affiliation and fundamental obligation. She disapproves of exchange volunteers who oppose the town's separate medical facility offices and values the chance to stroll to the church. She joins the Civil Rights Movement and discovers she has the power to speak up against loneliness. E. Deborah McDowell expounds that,

**in 'The Changing Same: Generational Connections and Black Women Novelists' says "Meridian difficulties her mom's unquestioning acknowledgment of her auxiliary citizenship" (Mc Dowell 267).**

People running forward and backwards crush her, and the police beat her down in the commotion. The sheriff grabs her by the hair and starts to kick and punch her in the back. She did not seem to scream when making the aside, as far as she could tell. The adverse conditions are not fazed her since she is known that she is being trapped and beaten.

Along with Meridian, Truman and Lynne have likewise incurred exorbitant costs for their occupations and their work in the development, and they have lost what are thought of being the three pillars of a private life: children, parents, and individual love.

Meridian disregards the incidents of her own history that once prevented her from living her own life more fully by her commitment to the development. Walker In a conversation with Claudia C. Tate, explores her concerns about “the amount of the past, particularly of our past, gets overlooked” (p.185).

Meridian's education aids her development as a strong woman role model. Through Wade Gaylein's initial guidance, she begins to consider potential outcomes of her own development. The Black Women in Toni Morrison and Alice Walker's Novels video : “Without the Movement and without the preparation, Meridian could have ended up resembling Mrs. Slant, a lady who acknowledges suffocation is all intentional,” (Ophr 58).

She is aware of the importance of training in making women confident and self-sufficient, and she recognizes that nothing can prevent her from achieving her objective. The college exercises have a huge impact on her life. Meridian consistently encounters the investigation. The struggle Meridian has with herself and with discovering who she is reminiscent of June Jordan's obligations as the women's activist:

**“I should attempt to adore myself and to regard myself just as my very life relies on self-esteem and dignity... ”. ( Hernton 58)**

Meridian notices that the black young women who departed and came back are strong professors and secretaries, and they have all had a same impact on them.:

**“They all had changed their appearance with the objective that they may look progressively like white women” (Hernton 111).**

Meridian begins looking into this subject in an effort to restore her recollection of the fascinating and inspiring history of black women. Meridian is aware of her own personal worldwide experiences and feels a sense of belonging among those who have commanded armies in battle, such as Harriet Tubman.

In order to uphold equity, Meridian must confront both her oppressors and her own particular people. By selecting the female network, Meridian highlights her obligation to respect and backs the women's dissident theory, which holds that she is aware that the political is personal.

**" neo-women's activist awareness' that enables her to see that the 'pride and estimation of an individual are to be found in the level of internal development accomplished, in sympathy, in the insistence'" (Koppelman Cornillon 186).**

Meridian is looking for a place where she can define herself as she sees suitable Meridian's fundamental objective is to understand a concept from the epistemology of women's activists. She is one of the 'awareness raising' . Walker must identify the individual using the Meridian who seeks character and the advantage of becoming free. Through American history, black people have fought for civil rights.

In light of the significant actions taken by Black people since Reconstruction, the change was made. Walker tries to illustrate Meridian's growth in this novel through a range of situations, such as the potential for vision and the lack of an untimely marriage.

Race, Ethnicity, and the Civic Culture, McDowell describes Meridian's persona as the book is a progression of initiatory events that Meridian has in order to discover her identity and find fulfillment to know who she is, following the tradition of Bildungsroman. Meridian is in a condition of decomposition at the beginning of the book.

Throughout the course of the narrative, Meridian goes through both growth and deterioration. It becomes clear to Meridian that, for women to advance, a solid political, economic, and social basis is required. Through the African Cultural Tradition and the Civil Rights Movement, Meridian moves closer to independence and establishes her identity. Meridian completes her journey of self-discovery and learns about herself, rather than a one-sided one, by setting behind her traumatic private experiences. Meridian is aware that in order to accomplish this, she will need to renounce her membership within the family as well as within the church,

two institutions that have traditionally supported and shielded women. She must rule out the possibility of "a woman's status" in order to do this.

They have, in any event, contributed to a constricting confidence in the ideal female hobby and have offered comfort. Walker grossly oversimplifies a dark, ladylike character in her book Meridian. Walker carefully and demonstratively uses the text for our own, individual interest. Walker adds tissue to the work in response to the demands and queries that have their origins in this nation's past and still exist now. Meridian is successful in redefining herself and completing her self-discovery journey to the point where she can depict herself in her own special way. She is aware that in order to achieve this aim, she must leave her family and the congregation, both of which have historically supported and protected women

Meridian took steps to get a political outcome that was extremely beneficial. She violated the rights of the biological parents. As she broadens her thinking, she transforms into a mother with a more expansive perspective who is helped in defending all life. The reader watches as the book's main character, Meridian, grows. Walker has skillfully depicted her strong emotions, physical restrictions, and mental obstacles. Despite being a devout Christian, Meridian's mother has the fortitude to reject religion as a child. In school, Meridian can not total a talk since ' she realizes that there is no fact in the words she expresses (p. 121).

It is clear that throughout her uniqueness which is shown by her decision to volunteer for voter registration. Meridian's assertion that the wild child should be given a chance and later, a fitting memorial benefit, in spite of the professionals' denials, further exemplifies her talent: Meridian driving

She skillfully links herself to the Civil Rights Movement without letting the school know while doing so. She invites others to join the place, and the two of them walk from entrance to the entrance encouraging others to vote. Meridian is prepared to continue even if her relationship with Truman Held is failing. After fighting a real illness at the school and losing a child, her beloved, and her friend Anne-Marion, Meridian moves on to the next stage of her life.

That follows a few children drowning while swimming in a trench that floods into portable pools as a result of surges. The women look at their berating spouse who is unable to meet their eyes as they sit next to the mother of the missing child, glance over their own missing children, and

shake their heads as they do so. Throughout the entire book, Meridian is portrayed as having a positive opinion of herself as a black woman: powerful, independent, and brave. In order to enhance the conditions in their networks, she spends her time with Black people who are the poorest in the South, assimilating with them and taking them on quiet test drives. She welcomed the cops and was ready for an internal chuckle and a sense of opportunity, while other pupils feared it. She became aware that she had just been beaten into being obvious as she witnessed the clubs falling on her from above, but she was unaware of the damage done to her body .(p.230).

Walker mentioned Meridian as a Black woman for having these traits. The author also invents a wide range of trailblazing black mothers to show her affinity for black parenthood. Walker goes back in time to find Meridian's ancestors. One slave slowly starved to death in order to keep and nurture her children, while another slave craftswoman supports her family by purchasing the imaginative pieces of art that brighten other people's homes. Walker brings the history of the slaves to life through the testimony of the slave lady and storyteller Louvinie. The storyteller and the slave artisans use the inventiveness of the African-American women to lessen Walker's stress.

It is important to show that The Wild Child as a one of the most significant elements of Meridian's novel. The Wild Child is a recognizable character -Walker does not even name her or mention her name. Besides, that the residents of the slums neighboring Saxon College know a few information on a magical girl who seeks for food in trash cans and has not fully earned language. Meridian declined to help her and she has a big role in her death. The Wild Child can not be harmless .

Like The Wild Child, Meridian rules her life of independent effects material goods and physical advantages when she travels from one place to another within her society registering voters and battling racism .On the other hand , the tank of the town is also described in the novel . It sites in the square of the town in Chicokema, which is the place of Meridian's living as well as there is a statue of a Confederate soldier near the tank which indicates to the civil right's movement.

**Conclusion**

Walker has made a gigantic commitment to American writing, yet she truly has a place in Afro-American writing. Walker has forever been associated with causes that benefit the ruined and oppressed. She has experience working with poor people or "misfits," and she is a serious reformer who has added to numerous drives and changes for their benefit. She depicts "black" culture and lifestyle legitimately, which is just suitable for an Afro-American author.

Meridian is searching for a space where she can characterize herself as she sees fit. Meridian's essential goal is to comprehend an idea from the epistemology of ladies' activists, one of the 'mindfulness raising'. Walker should distinguish the singular utilizing the Meridian who looks for character and the benefit of turning out to be free. Through American history, individuals of colour have battled for social equality

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