

Civil Rights – Women		Topic 1: Women before 1865		3.	
<u>Women’s Rights before the Civil War:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Woman's legal rights were incorporated into those of her husband when she married.• She was not recognized as having rights and obligations distinct from those of her husband.• One of the few legal advantages of marriage for a woman was that her husband was obligated to support her and be responsible for her debts		1.	<u>Political Participation:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The first female anti-Slavery convention dates from 1837.• The first convention to discuss female suffrage was held in Seneca Falls, New York, in 1848.• The main leaders in the Seneca Falls convention were: Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton.		
<u>A Married Women’s Rights:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• She could not control property that was hers before the marriage.• She could not keep or control the wages she earned.• She could not acquire property while married.• She could not transfer or sell property.• She could not bring any lawsuit.• She could not make a contract.			<u>Economic and Social Developments:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Urbanisation and new technology brought greater literacy and education for women before 1865.• A woman’s place was still seen as being at home.• More middle-class women did not work outside the home and therefore had more time to get involved in ‘causes’ - however these were a minority.• Most women struggles with day to day survival and were not interested in these ‘causes’.		4.
<u>Women in public affairs before the Civil War</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Women were often active in religious/church activities.• Women participated in the abolitionist movement.• Individuals like Harriet Tubman played a major role in rescuing and freeing slaves.• Women were active in the temperance movement.• Women were involved in organisations that helped the poor, children and mothers - they campaigned for better working conditions and property rights for women.• Women were concerned with movements for moral reform and opposition to prostitution.		2.	<u>Key Terms:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Doctrine of coverture: a woman's legal rights were incorporated into those of her husband when she married, and she was not recognized as having rights and obligations distinct from those of her husband.• Temperance: discouraging alcohol consumption.• Abolitionist: someone who is against the slave trade.• Urbanisation: villages becoming towns and later cities.		

1.

The impact of the Civil war:

- Harriet Beecher Stowe wrote her famous novel - ***Uncle Tom's Cabin*** in 1852.
- This book established a view of a brutal and degraded system of slavery.
- Women's Rights was linked with abolitionist movement, however abolitionist leaders did not want to lose support by making it appear that abolitionist were also **feminists**.
- After the Civil War (1861-5), the cause of African American rights and the cause of women's rights became separated.

2.

How did the Civil War affect women?

- The Civil war led to more participation by women.
- Women supported the war effort on both sides via charitable organisations and fund raising.
- Union forces marched through the South destroying crops and plantations in an effort to hit the economy of the Southern heartland - with men away women had to take on greater economic responsibility and take the brunt of this new type of economic warfare.
- The idea that women were unfit for anything apart from domestic activities was being challenged in the South.
- In the North more men were needed to fight so women had to take on more work.
- Many women did not want to return to pre-war domesticity and built on their wartime experience of working in the public sphere.

The End of the War:

- Few men supported political rights for women.
- The growth of industry and greater prosperity came the view that the women's place was inside the home, and men should work outside the home.
- The greatest female employments were in domestic service such as cleaning, or in low-paid manufacturing.
- Limited birth control meant larger family sizes.
- Creating and nurturing families took a great deal of women's energies.

Key Terms:

- ***Feminism (feminist)*** - The belief in establishing equal and political, economic, social and cultural rights for women.

Civil Rights – Women		Topic 2: Women between 1865 and WWI		4.
<u>Women in education:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Women did not have access to higher education before 1848.• Women wanted access to coeducation, where women would be taught the same courses as men, not a separate and unequal education• In 1870 only 0.7% of the female population went to college. This percentage rose slowly, by 1900 the rate was 2.8% and it was only 7.6% by 1920.• Harvard Medical School professor Dr. Edward Clarke asserted in his widely respected Sex and Education (1873) that intellectual work damaged women's reproductive organs.• There was a genuine fear that higher education would make a woman unfit for marriage and motherhood.• In fact, 50-60% of the first generation of college women never married, or waited until they were considerably older before they wed.	1.	<u>Women and work after 1865:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Where women worked in the rural USA or in factories, they suffered from lower pay.• 10% of free women held jobs in 1840, 15% in 1870 and 24% in 1924.• The biggest increase was in white-collar work and the professions.• The biggest change was the greater experience of paid work among both single and married women.• At the end of the Civil War, 60% of female workers were domestic servants and 1% worked in white-collar occupations. By 1920, these figures had changed to 18% servants and nearly 40% in clerical or professional positions.• Within professional employment, teaching and nursing predominated, followed by charity and welfare.• One development from larger numbers of women workers was a growth in union organisation. There were more strikes and demands for better wages and conditions - only 2% of trade unionists were women by 1914, even though 25% of female employment was in factories.• there was little change in the attitude that the home was the woman's major responsibility.		
		<u>Social Change 1865 - 1914.</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There were changes within the family. The average of five children per couple before 1861 had declined to three by 1920.• In 1870, more boys than girls were in school - by 1920 this had become more equal.• By 1890, there were more female high-school graduates than male and secondary education had expanded generally.• Women teachers increased from 60 to 86%.• Although the number of women with degrees doubled, only 30% of university degrees were awarded to women by 1920.• The growth in education and employment led to women being more confident in participating in public campaigns. It led to more cooperation and a considerable expansion of women's clubs.• Women writers became more numerous. In terms of equality of economic opportunity; rewards; ability to gain access to managerial positions, to enter traditional male professions, such as medicine and law, to make decisions or to gain political equality, there was much less progress.		
<u>Key Terms:</u> <p>Separate spheres: The idea that women led in private, domestic life whereas men dominated social, public life.</p>				

Civil Rights – Women	1	Topic 3: Campaigning for Political Rights	2.
<p><u>Prohibition:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The temperance movement was a major reason for the development of a suffrage movement. • Women’s Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) was founded in 1874 - initially the WCTU worked to ban alcoholic drinking to safeguard the family. • By 1880, the WCTU had grown to be a national organisation in 24 states with a membership of 27,000 women. By the 1880s, it had 168,000 members and membership reached 800,000 by 1920. • Under its leader, Frances Willard, the WCTU achieved its political aims when they persuaded local legislatures to ban alcohol. • The campaign involved political pressure with lobbying and mass meetings. • Much of the reforming energy of the pre-war women’s groups was channelled into temperance. • The prohibition of alcohol was pushed by the Christian church. 		<p><u>Rural and urban political involvement:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women were active in rural protests, including the Grange movement and the Farmers’ Alliance. • Greater food production of the 1870s meant falling prices and pressure on many farms in rural America. • Small- and medium-sized farms came under competition and needed a political voice to represent their interests. • Farmers were particularly concerned about the high costs and influence of the railway companies, and so they supported the <u>Populist Party</u>. • Elizabeth Lease (1850 - 1933) was a leading member and well-known orator for the Populist Party. She was bitterly opposed to big business. • In the cities, female public activity often centred around charities. • The Charity Organization Society became a major outlet for many urban women’s energies. • The experience of charity work led many cities and states to appoint women to administer public charities, giving them experience of influencing local government. • Women were effective in persuading many states to pass pension legislation in the 1900s, giving assistance to mothers, widows and wives whose husbands were unable to work through disability • Female graduates pioneered the settlement house movement in the late 1880s, establishing some 400 settlement houses in cities. These were where poorer people could find educational, recreational and cultural activities to relieve what were often bleak urban districts. 	
<p><u>Key Terms:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temperance movement: Campaigns for the prohibition of alcohol. • Prohibition: A ban on the creation, sale and consumption of alcohol, introduced in 1919. It was repealed in 1933 after crime increased as a result. • Populist Party: founded in 1891 - represented discontented Southern and Western farmers, hostile to big business and railway companies. 		<p><u>The break with abolitionism:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • American Equal Rights Association (AERA), founded in 1866, sought to remove restrictions on rights on both racial and gender grounds. <p>Existing legislation did little for women’s rights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Fourteenth Amendment guaranteed equal rights but penalised states which denied rights to ‘any of the male inhabitants of such state’. • The Fourteenth Amendment guaranteed equal rights but penalised states which denied rights to ‘any of the male inhabitants of such state’. <p>Abolitionists showed little support for women’s rights to make sure that African Americans were prioritised - this weakened the cause of female suffrage.</p>	3.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton (1815 - 1902)

1

Was influenced by leaders of the abolitionist movement in the 1840s and worked with Lucretia Mott against slavery. She was friendly with Susan B. Anthony, which led to the formation of the National Woman Suffrage Association in 1869, and helped to organise the Seneca Falls Convention of 1848. She campaigned for reform of divorce and property laws.

**Susan B. Anthony (1820–1906)**

A Quaker deeply opposed to slavery. With Elizabeth Cady Stanton she founded a temperance society in 1852. She was a joint founder of the NWSA in 1869 and led the united suffrage movement after 1890 as head of the new NAWSA. She gained notoriety for her arrest for attempting to vote in 1872.

**Lucy Stone (1818–93)**

3.

An ardent abolitionist and campaigner for women's rights. She urged equal pay, refused to pay taxes as she was not represented in Congress and pioneered wearing trousers ('bloomers'). She founded the AERA and broke with Elizabeth Cady Stanton, leaving the women's movement disunited until 1890.

**Julia Ward Howe (1819–1910)**

4.

The daughter of a New York banker. An unhappy marriage was revealed in an intimate book of poems which made her a famous literary figure. She wrote the 'Battle Hymn of the Republic'. She travelled the USA and the world lecturing on women's rights and other reforms including world peace, prison improvement and education.



1.

- National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA)**

- ### Political Progress for Women:

4.

2.

- ### Victory Map
- 1919
-
- WASH. 1910
- OREG. 1912
- IDAHO 1896
- NEV. 1914
- CAL. 1911
- UTAH 1896
- ARIZ. 1912
- MONT. 1914
- WYO. 1869
- COL. 1893
- N.MEX.
- N. DAK. 1917
- S. DAK. 1918
- NEB. 1917
- KAN. 1912
- OKLA. 1918
- TEX. 1918
- MINN.
- WIS.
- IOWA
- MO.
- ARK. 1917
- LA.
- MISS.
- ALA.
- GA.
- FLA.
- N.Y. 1917
- MASS. 1917
- VER. 1917
- N.H. 1917
- ME. 1917
- CONN. 1917
- R.I. 1917
- DEL.
- PA. 1917
- OHIO 1917
- IND. 1917
- KY. 1917
- WVA. 1917
- MD. 1917
- VA. 1917
- N.C. 1917
- S.C. 1917
- TENN. 1917
- LEGEND:
- FULL SUFFRAGE
 - PRIMARY SUFFRAGE
 - PRESIDENTIAL SUFFRAGE
 - PRESIDENTIAL & MUNICIPAL SUFFRAGE
 - MUNICIPAL SUFFRAGE IN CHARTER CITIES
 - SCHOOL BOND or TAX
 - MUNICIPAL SUFFRAGE
 - NO SUFFRAGE

Suffrage: the right to vote in political elections.

The Voting Issue:

1.

- Susan B. Anthony and some 150 other women tried to vote in 1871 and 1872 - they were arrested and tried for electoral malpractice.
- In 1875, Virginia Minor sued the state of Missouri for preventing her from voting, the Supreme Court ruled that women were not allowed national voting rights, but states could give women the right to vote.
- In all, there were campaigns in 33 states to get votes on the issue, but only Colorado and Idaho voted in favour before 1912.
- Twenty states permitted only widows with school-age children to vote.
- Hostile crowds often prevented women from casting their votes.
- Many men saw votes for women as unnatural and a distraction from their domestic duties.

Opposition:

2.

- There were also groups of women opposed to suffrage. The National Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage (established in 1911) was one of the largest.
- The groups saw women’s rights as undermining the special place and respect for women in their work in the home, in raising children and working for good causes.
- Some immigrant Catholics saw suffrage reform as weakening the family.
- Southern Democrats disliked female suffrage, fearing that women in politics would introduce labour laws which might hurt the South,

How much progress had been made by 1900?

4.

By 1900, the suffragists had made little impact:

- Old splits in the organisations for greater rights for women had not entirely healed.
- The Southern organisations were unwilling to give African American women the vote.
- There was no complete agreement about which types of women should be eligible to vote.
- While progress had been made and groups had organised, opposition had been built up and was quite vociferous.
- The movement was distracted by other causes, like temperance.
- The links with temperance were seen by some as ‘too Protestant’.

Suffragettes:

This was the name given to the militant organisation, the Women’s Social and Political Union, formed in 1903 in Britain, which resorted to increasingly radical means to gain the parliamentary vote for women before 1914. Its campaigns included marches, interrupting meetings and breaking shop windows.





Key Terms:

Electoral malpractice: Misconduct during elections, for example, voting when not eligible to do so.

<div>Civil Rights – Women</div> <div>1.</div> <div>Impact of WWI: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increase economic activity meant that women’s contribution to the workforce was important. ● New York and Illinois enfranchised women in 1917; South Dakota, Michigan and Omaha in 1918. ● There had already been states which had enfranchised women before 1920. ● The NAWSA targeted anti-suffrage senators and some were defeated. ● By 1919, Congress was willing to pass the Nineteenth Amendment giving all American women the right to vote. This was effective from 1920. </div>	<div>Topic 5: WWI and the 19th Amendment</div> <div>3.</div> <div>Divided Women’s suffrage organisations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Splits within women’s organisations impeded progress. ● The NAWSA changed into the League of Women Voters (LWV), however only five to 10% of members of the NAWSA joined the new organisation. ● Women themselves did not flock to take advantage of the vote: turnout in the elections of 1920 was low. ● women continued to be active in church organisations, in groups promoting educational improvement and better working conditions, and in the continuing campaigns for temperance and moral uplift. ● Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, which urged federal action against increasing violence in the South against African Americans. </div>
<div>2.</div> <div>Was the 19th Amendment a turning point? <p>Women gaining the vote in 1920 could be seen as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● a reward for war work ● a symbolic extension of US democracy ● an extension of the movements towards giving women political rights, seen in some states before the war ● a major move towards using women’s particular interests and abilities on a national scale. <p>After years of struggle, the Nineteenth Amendment seemed to be confirmation that women were free and equal citizens. Yet they still faced discrimination in terms of wages, social attitudes and the ability to exercise their rights.</p> <p>Old ideas of women and wives still being submissive to men and their husband still prevailed.</p> </div>	<div>4.</div> <div>Continuing opposition to the suffrage movement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Female suffragists were seen as ‘unwomanly’; just as many women opposed the ‘flappers’ and more sexually emancipated women of the 1920s. ● Within suffrage organisations there were disagreements about eligibility and African American women were often excluded. </div> <div>Key Terms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● WWI: For America the First World War affected them from 1917 as they were not in the war until this date. ● Nineteenth Amendment to the US Constitution: prohibits the states and the federal government from denying the right to vote to citizens of the United States on the basis of sex. </div>

Civil Rights – Women	1.	Topic 5.1: WWI and the 19th Amendment	2.
<p><u>Continuity or change in the period 1865–1920?</u></p> <p>The pre-war pattern of women becoming more active in public life, but not entirely represented in legislatures, Congress, government or the judiciary, was not radically altered by the Nineteenth Amendment.</p> <p>Equality was far off, Inter-war campaigns included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A struggle for independent citizenship• The right to own land• The right to run for public office.• The right to register as voters in some states• The right to have access to all posts in the civil service.• The right to serve on juries. <p>The right to vote did, however, raise other issues. The vote depended on residence. This, in turn, depended on the power of the husband, who had the right to decide where his family lived and therefore voted.</p> <p>Some states, even by the 1960s, would not allow married women to sign contracts independently or run their own businesses without special permission. These inequalities remained in place even though the vote implied that women were equal citizens.</p> <p>Men continued to dominate public life. US society did not accept women’s social and economic equality to men, or that they should aspire to have the same political participation and opportunities for power as men.</p>	<p><u>The Equal Rights Amendment:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There was some fear that equal rights would remove some of the protection for women already gained, for example on working hours.• The first state regulation of women’s working hours was by Massachusetts in 1876, even though this was still ten hours.• By 1900, 36% of states had regulations about female working hours, ranging from eight to ten hours.• A decision by the Supreme Court in 1912 declared that state regulation was legal and by 1920 over 75% of states had passed regulations restricting women’s hours of work.• Some felt that if equal pay were introduced it would have a disastrous effect on women’s employment prospects as employers would not be able to afford to employ women workers and unemployment among women would rise.• Only Wisconsin passed equal rights legislation (in 1921).		
	<p><u>Problems whilst voting:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Old ideas remained strong (women submitting to men).• Married women faced hurdles when voting, such as residency requirements.• Some states were slow to amend legislation allowing women to be candidates for public office. Oklahoma prohibited this until 1942.• By 1933 there were 146 women in state legislatures and by 1945 there were 234. In the twenty years after the Nineteenth Amendment there were only two female governors of states – both standing in for their husbands.• Black codes and abuse prevented African American women from voting.	3.	
	<p><u>Key Terms:</u></p> <p>The Equal Rights Amendment is designed to guarantee equal legal rights for all American citizens regardless of sex. It seeks to end the legal distinctions between men and women in matters of divorce, property, employment, and other matters.</p>		

Civil Rights – Women		Topic 6: The New Deal		2.
<u>Women and the New Deal:</u> In terms of employment, the New Deal provided opportunities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By February 1934, there were about 275,000 women working in the Civil Works Administration. • By 1935, there were about 204,000 women in the Work Division of the Federal Emergency Relief Administration. • The Works Progress Administration (1935–43) provided work relief which amounted to 409,954 employed in September 1938. • In March 1940, about 377,000 young women were enrolled in the National Youth Administration projects. • New Deal work relief had involved 743,000 women. • Eleanor Roosevelt, the first lady, pushed for more women in public office. The most significant appointment was Frances Perkins as Secretary for Labour and member of the cabinet. • Women were significantly represented in the expanded government agencies of the New Deal. 		1.	<u>Evidence against:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The federal agencies were largely run by men. • Having political rights did not translate into being able to achieve social justice in the New Deal legislation, which discriminated against mothers and married women in an effort to boost employment for men. • African American women also suffered from racial discrimination in social security in the South. • There was built-in inequality in pensions, as much New Deal social legislation rested on the assumption that men worked and women looked after them and the home. • There was no attempt in the labour legislation to secure equal wages. 	
<u>Eleanor and President Franklin D Roosevelt:</u>		<u>Progress between 1865 and the 1940:</u> By 1941, women were eligible to vote as a result of a constitutional amendment. They were members of Congress and local legislatures. and held office both locally and nationally, and there was a woman cabinet minister. By 1945, there was more evidence of women being involved in national politics and they were active, if not on an equal basis with men, in both parties. However the ability of women from ethnic minorities to participate in voting and office holding in the South had not changed greatly from the 1860s because of the ability of the Southern states to maintain restrictions on African American registration and voting, which were only ended in the 1960s.		3.
 		<u>Keywords:</u> New Deal: a series of programs, public work projects, financial reforms, and regulations enacted by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in the United States between 1933 and 1936. It responded to needs for relief, reform, and recovery from the Great Depression.		

Civil Rights – Women	1.	Topic 7: WWII and its impact on Women.	3.
<u>Impact of WWII:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The war saw an increase in women in state legislatures from 144 to 228. • There was some increase in women in Congress and women in public office • Women worked in more skilled jobs, rose to new challenges and may have increased in confidence and status. 		<u>Limitations to Women's Rights (continued):</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Because of the harsh treatment of the Japanese community after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941, life for Japanese American women became hard and there was confinement and discrimination. • Women remained with little real influence in the political parties. • Women remained divided. Even in wartime, conservative women's groups did not support greater help for working mothers or equality of opportunity, believing that the war should not erode traditional family values. 	
<u>Limitations to Women's Rights:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women were not involved in wartime decision-making either on the home front or about the aims and methods of war. • The New Deal practice of government agencies being dominated by men in top managerial positions continued. • Women were unable to secure the type of support for working women in the form of childcare and cheap restaurants or canteens that British working women achieved during the war. They were still expected to combine domestic responsibilities with the most tiring and demanding work. • Women had to accept unequal pay. • Despite having an organisation called the National Council of Negro Women, there was little consultation with African American women and little opportunity for them to join the armed forces or take on managerial roles. 	2.	<div data-bbox="1101 582 1671 1002" data-label="Image"> </div> <p><u>Key Terms:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total war: when war impacts all aspects of society. • Conservative: supportive of traditional ways of life. • Domestication: the process of making someone take part in home life and the tasks that it involves. • Stagnation: lack of progress. • Heavy industry: the manufacture of large, heavy articles and materials in bulk, e.g. steel factories; weapons factories. • Consumerism: focus on buying consumer goods. 	

Civil Rights – Women	Topic 7: WWII and its impact on Women (continued)	2.
<div data-bbox="19 64 386 107"><u>The results of the war:</u></div> <div data-bbox="19 149 821 349"> <p>The increased economic activity during the war led to a sustained period of prosperity. However, this, rather in the same way as early industrial and urban growth had before the Civil War, led to the greater domestication of women.</p> </div> <div data-bbox="19 392 821 635"> <p>The period of campaigning for rights seen in the progressive era from the 1870s to the 1900s seemed like another age when the growth of suburbs led to greater emphasis on women in the home, away from the public sphere and public issues.</p> </div> <div data-bbox="19 678 821 763"> <p>Great prosperity after the war led to a reduction of social issues which women campaigned for.</p> </div> <div data-bbox="19 806 821 1092"> <p>If women were rewarded for their war work in 1917–18 by the right to vote, the rewards for the huge efforts made in the war of 1941–5 were not political as such, women instead gained prosperity, labour-saving technology, and were entrusted with bringing up children to respect American values of prosperity and freedom.</p> </div> <div data-bbox="19 1135 821 1220"> <p>The post-war period can be seen as a period of stagnation, even regression.</p> </div>	<div data-bbox="869 64 1439 107"><u>Was more lost or won for women?</u></div> <div data-bbox="898 149 1903 1342"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By the end of 1946, 2 million women had been fired from heavy industry and 800,000 lost their jobs within two months of the end of the war against Japan in 1945. • Women workers did not all return home, but they did have to accept lower pay and lower status and exclusion from many key jobs which were now considered too heavy for them. • The gap between men’s pay and women’s pay increased in the period from 1945 to 1960. (this was worse for African American women). • Sexual exploitation increased. • women were also expected to combine work with domestic responsibilities. • There was still a concentration of women in the traditional caring roles of nursing, teaching and social work. • The situation for African American women in terms of wage differential was worse, but it was more expected that they would work, even if in low-paid work and domestic service. • Economic discrimination was even more linked in the South with political discrimination, as states did their utmost to prevent African Americans qualifying to vote and made them the subject of discriminatory laws going back to the 1890s. </div>	

1.

Why did second-wave feminism begin?

Suburban culture:

- The renewed domesticity of women in the post-war period was characterised by the rise of the suburbs and suburban culture.
- By the 1970s, 40% of the American population lived in the suburbs and these areas developed a particular culture in which a divide in the roles of the sexes was encouraged (housewife vs male breadwinner).
- As a result of unprecedented economic growth in America, the middle-class women of the suburbs did not need to work (their husbands had enough wealth to support them) and were encouraged to focus on the family and the home rather than paid work.



2.

John F. Kennedy's 1963 'Report on American Women':

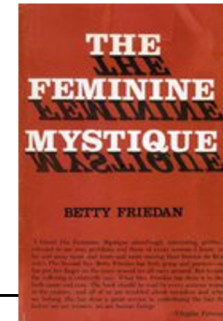
several highly educated women worked on this survey and the statistics of unequal pay, opportunities and status that it produced alarmed many within the elite.



4.

***The Feminine Mystique*: Betty Friedan**

- Friedan highlighted "the problem that has no name"—the widespread unhappiness of women in the 1950s and early 1960s.
- It discusses the lives of several housewives from around the United States who were unhappy despite living in material comfort and being married with children.
- Furthermore, Friedan questioned the women's magazine, women's education system and advertisers for creating this widespread image of women.
- The detrimental effect induced by this image was that it narrowed women into the domestic sphere and led many women to lose their own identities.



Contraception:

In 1960 the Food and Drug Administration approved the combined oral contraceptive pill, which was made available in 1961. This gave many women control over their own reproductive rights for the first time.



Key Terms:

- **Feminism:** the advocacy (promotion) of women's rights on the grounds of the equality of the sexes.
- **Ideology:** a system of ideas and ideals, especially one which forms the basis of economic or political theory and policy.

<div>Civil Rights – Women</div> <div>1.</div> <div> <div>Political Developments (NOW):</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Organization for Women (NOW) formed in 1966 - . Its aim was ‘full participation in the mainstream of American society’ and ‘a truly equal relationship with men’. NOW emerged through: a new kind of feminism, which challenged the basis of women’s role in society and President Kennedy’s, ‘Report on American Women’. NOW brought legal actions against employers who broke the 1967 executive order against sex discrimination by companies with federal contracts. </div>	<div>Topic 9 & 10: The ERA</div> <div>3.</div> <div> <div>The Evolution of the ERA:</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In February 1970, supporters picketed Congress and disrupted a congressional committee considering lowering the voting age in order to raise the equality issue. In August 1972, there was a strike of 20,000 women calling for full equality. In 1972, a resolution introduced by Martha Griffiths calling for an Equal Rights Amendment passed the House of Representatives - however opposition remained remarkably effective. </div>
<div>2.</div> <div> <div>The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA):</div> <p>It went back to 1923 and was a natural follow-on from the right to vote. The wording was simple:</p> <p><i>“Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.”</i></p> <p>Every year from 1923 to 1970, a proposal to pass the amendment had been made but only in 1972, as a result of increased pressure from NOW and other women’s groups, did it get to the stage of being debated by both houses of Congress.</p> <p>It had been passed in 1950 and 1953 with an amendment which said women could keep their existing and future special protections that men did not have - this was not fully supported by members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Equal pay act passed in 1963.</u> </div>	<div>4.</div> <div> <div>Opposition to the ERA:</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Phyllis Schlafly</i>, a Republican, led the opposition. The rational arguments were that women might find themselves liable for military service; that they would lose protection rights and, most significantly for older women, alimony (financial support) would be threatened. There was a fear that traditional suburban values of women being looked after by men and taking care of the home would be lost. There was also the danger that women would not gain custody so easily of children in divorce cases, undermining a widespread belief that children needed to be raised by their mother, Ronald Reagan brought back conservatism, backed with religious values sought to turn back the clock - Republican support for ERA diminished. Future attempts sought to revive the amendment but to no end. By 1992 there was no success. <div> <div>Key Terms:</div> <p>The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) is a proposed amendment to the United States Constitution designed to guarantee equal legal rights for all American citizens regardless of sex. On March 22, 1972, the Senate passed the Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution, which proposed banning discrimination based on sex. The E.R.A. was sent to the states for ratification, but it would fall short of the three-fourths approval needed.</p> </div> </div>

1.

What was the impact of Radical Feminism on American society?

The proliferation of feminist groups, many with different focuses ensured that feminist campaigns were often fragmented and achievements limited. For example:

- The **Feminists** group of women in N.Y. called for the abolition of marriage.
- Whereas the **Radicalesbians** claimed that women could only be liberated through lesbianism.
- In 1973 the Supreme Court established a woman's right to abortion in the case of **Roe v. Wade**.
- The abortion issue galvanised the opposition of women who maintained traditional values of home and family.
- The first issue of Ms. was published and quickly established a circulation of 200,000 copies by the end of the year.
- In 1968, 65% of girls between the ages of 15 and 19 years wanted to be housewives by the age of 35, however by 1978 this dropped to 25%.
- The introduction of the contraceptive pill encouraged women to marry later and take advantage of educational and career opportunities.
- However some opposed this as they felt that it would encourage promiscuity.
- In 1980, 40% of women in higher education had their sights set on a career compared with just 21% a decade earlier.
- By 1986, 56% of women in the USA considered themselves feminists.
- More women realised that they had the rights to make choices.

The fall of Radical Feminism:

- In 1970 only 37% of white American women and 60% of African American women supported the efforts of feminists to improve the status of women - by 1985 this had grown to 72% and 78%.
- Some radical feminist ideas were seen as too extreme and they lost support. In 1972 33% of men supported gender equality and by 1990 this had risen by only 7% - this is significant as Congress and State Legislatures were still male dominated.
- Feminist propaganda appealed more to middle-class women and not working class of whom were the majority,
- Some radical feminist groups operated at grass roots level by responding to local priorities e.g. by setting up rape centres and self-defence classes which limited the focus on nationwide changes.
- America's ethnic diversity (African Americans, Mexican American and Asian American) divided priorities as each sought to campaign for issues close to home, e.g. equality in work and pay.
- For some women there was already existing legislation that protected them.
- Some women still clung to traditional values associated with home and family and felt that radical feminism devalued the role of mother and homemaker.

Key Terms:

- **Patriarchy** - a system of society or government in which men hold the power and women are largely excluded from it.
- **Radical Feminism** - calls for a radical reordering of society in which male supremacy is eliminated in all social and economic contexts, while recognizing that women's experiences are also affected by other social divisions such as in race, class, and sexual orientation.

1.

Case Study: Roe v. Wade:

This guaranteed the woman's legal right to abortion during the first 6 months of pregnancy and most specifically, her right to make the decision independently.

Earlier campaigns to legalise abortion had focused on the pain and misery that was caused when women were forced, from desperation, into having an illegal, 'back street' abortion.

Organisations such as: the New Women Lawyers, the National Abortion Action Coalition and the Women's Health and Abortion Project filed numerous lawsuits. The fundamental argument was:

- Women who had unwanted pregnancies or became pregnant as a result of rape were discriminated against since they were forced by law to share their bodies with another living organism against their will.

In the majority of states, abortion was illegal except in the case where the life of the mother was threatened.



The Case:

In 1970, **Norma McCorvey** sued the Dallas County District Attorney, **Henry Wade**, under the name Jane Roe, for the right to have an abortion - until this point in time, it had been the responsibility of the state legislatures to rule on these types of cases.

Although Norma's life was not in danger, she argued that she did not want to bring another child into the world that she could not afford to raise.

Roe's lawyers argued that the abortion laws in Texas violated Norma's rights under the U.S. Constitution - the judge decided in her favour but only as a one-off case. However this did not satisfy Roe's legal team who appealed to the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court first heard the case in 1971 and voted in Roe's favour in January 1973. The judge concluded that Roe's right to privacy was protected by the terms of the 14th Amendment and that this encompassed a woman's decision to have an abortion.

Reaction to the Ruling:

3.

- There was a lot of opposition regarding its legality and morality.
- The Supreme Court responded by granting states the right to impose some restrictions on the availability of abortion - such as providing counselling and determining where abortions take place.
- The **1976 Hyde Amendment** banned federal funding for abortion.
- Some religious sects opposed (Christian and Jewish).
- The threat of life of the mother remained the main argument against.
- Attacks on abortion clinics, violence and murder towards abortion doctors showed the depth of opposition in some sectors of the public.

Civil Rights – Women

Topic 13: Main developments 1865-1992

1.

Women and work after 1865:

- 10% of free women held jobs in 1840, 15% in 1870 and 24% in 1924.
- At the end of the Civil War, 60% of female workers were domestic servants and 1% worked in white-collar roles. By 1920, these changed to 18% servants and nearly 40% in clerical or professional positions.
- African American women, who continued to be employed in factory work or domestic service.
- only 2% of trade unionists were women by 1914, even though 25% of female employment was in factories.
- There was little change in the attitude that the home was the woman's major responsibility.

2.

Social change 1865-1914:

- The average of five children per couple before 1861 had declined to three by 1920.
- By 1920 the proportion of white boys and girls in school was almost equal.
- The percentage of African American girls attending school grew from 10 to 30% from 1870 to 1914.
- The proportion of women teachers increased from 60 to 86% in the same period.
- The growth in education and employment led to women being more confident in participating in public campaigns.

3.

Impact of WWI:

- 3 million more women were working than in 1865.
- The diversity of female employment also increased, with more women working in heavy industry and transport.
- Around 30,000 women worked directly for the armed forces – however this work centred around domestic service, such as laundry or nursing.

Impact of WWI: (continued)

- 20,000 women travelled overseas in support of the armed forces, as members of the YMCA, Red Cross and Salvation Army.
- Women were under pressure to give up their jobs to men returning from the war.
- Although wages rose, there was not equality between male and female labour,

4.

The 'flapper' era (1920s):

- Women wore less restricting clothes; they had shorter hair; they smoked; they were more ostentatious about their sexuality, with shorter skirts and more 'daring' behaviour.
- It has been suggested that there were a million illegal abortions a year before 1973.
- The birth-control pill was not available until the late 1950s, and not until 1973 was abortion legalised.

Women and work:

- The single woman looking for work by 1930 was overwhelmingly likely to be a secretary, a clerk, a saleswoman, a waitress or a hairdresser. Better-educated women would be teachers or nurses.
- Women still worked mainly as domestics or in textiles and were predominantly African Americans or immigrants.
- Most of the 12% of wives who worked in the 1920s did so because they needed to support their families, not as a means of independence.

5.

The Great Depression and New Deal:

- The number of women workers increased in the 1930s from 11.7% to 15.2% of the total workforce.
- The Depression put pressure on wages, and this hit African American women hard.
- Although progressive legislation made more equal pay levels mandatory, the problems in enforcing this were considerable.
- Unions put the interests of their male members first.

6.

Civil Rights – Women	1.	Topic 13: Main developments 1865-1992 (continued)	4.
<u>WWII:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100,000 women served in the armed forces in the Women’s Army Corps, the Navy and the Women’s Air Force. Jobs included flying and testing planes, as well as the inevitable typing, sewing,cooking and nursing. In 1944, the average woman’s salary was \$31.21 a week for manufacturing work, even though the men that still remained made \$54.65 a week. Six million women entered the workforce - although most of these positions were only meant to last until the war ended. 	1.	<u>The abortion issue: (Roe v. Wade) - Continued</u> <p>The case reached the Supreme Court in 1973 and resulted in a historic decision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> During the first three months of pregnancy, states could not prohibit abortions. In the second and third trimesters they could not enact any ban where a woman’s health was concerned. After six months, states could protect the unborn foetus, but not if an abortion was considered necessary to protect the health of the mother. <p>There was a massive backlash of opposition which showed how strongly the counter-view was held.</p>	4.
<u>WWII and social change:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 37,000 women were killed in accidents in ammunition factories. The Cold War encouraged a social conservatism; the extended period of prosperity and the growth of suburban America tended to reinforce traditional attitudes, and changes in rights tended to be focused on African Americans rather than on women. More women were going into higher education, more into the professions; more had taken a leading part in civil rights movements, more were using birth control. 	2.	<u>The New Feminism:</u> <p>With the failure to pass a consolidated Equal Opportunities Amendment, the feminist movement in the 1980s focused on key social issues such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Domestic violence and providing shelters for women; issues of sexual abuse Within and outside marriage Protecting women from sexual harassment in the workplace Education for women in their history and rights Protecting women from conservative attempts to restrict abortion and access to contraception Funding for education for young women and many social issues. <p>- By 1990, there were still only two women senators.</p> <p>- By 1993 there were seven female senators in Congress</p> <p>- Divisions in women’s groups prevented some progress.</p> <p>- Technology and a much greater willingness by men to be part of the home and child-raising had meant a change in family life undreamed of in 1865.</p>	5.
<u>The abortion issue: (Roe v. Wade)</u> <p>Norma McCorvey (Jane Roe) against the state of Texas in the person of Attorney General Wade - 1970.</p> <p>they claimed that a woman’s rights over her own body fell into ‘a zone of privacy’ and that privacy was protected under the Ninth Amendment of the constitution.</p>	3.		