

## 1: Seneca Falls and the origins of the women's rights movement /

*Ultimately, the suffrage movement provided political training for some of the early women pioneers in Congress, but its internal divisions foreshadowed the persistent disagreements among women in Congress and among women's rights activists after the passage of the 19th Amendment.*

That reform effort evolved during the 19th century, initially emphasizing a broad spectrum of goals before focusing solely on securing the franchise for women. They are holding a banner emblazoned with a quote from suffragist Susan B. Stanton and Susan B. Like many other women reformers of the era, they both had been active in the abolitionist movement. For much of the s they agitated against the denial of basic economic freedoms to women. Later they unsuccessfully lobbied Congress to include women in the provisions of the 14th and 15th Amendments extending citizenship rights and granting voting rights to African-American men, respectively. Capitol is in background. Stanton and Anthony created the National Woman Suffrage Association NWSA , which directed its efforts toward changing federal law and opposed the 15th Amendment on the basis that it excluded women. Eventually, the NWSA also shifted its efforts to the individual states where reformers hoped to start a ripple effect to win voting rights at the federal level. The AWSA was better funded and the larger of the two groups, but it had only a regional reach. The NWSA, which was based in New York, relied on its statewide network, but also drew recruits from around the nation largely on the basis of the extensive speaking circuits of Stanton and Anthony. Neither group attracted broad support from women or persuaded male politicians or voters to adopt its cause. For instance, suffrage movement leaders knew that this was a significant impediment to achieving their goal. Anthony and Ida H. The determination of these women to expand their sphere of activities further outside the home helped legitimize the suffrage movement and provided new momentum for the NWSA and the AWSA. Senate, poses at her desk in the Senate Office Building. For the next two decades the NAWSA worked as a nonpartisan organization focused on gaining the vote in states, although managerial problems and a lack of coordination initially limited its success. The first state to grant women complete voting rights was Wyoming in But before only these four states allowed women to vote. Some scholars suggest that the West proved to be more progressive in extending the vote to women, in part, because there were so few of them on the frontier. Granting women political rights was intended to bring more women westward and to boost the population. Others suggest that women had long played nontraditional roles on the hardscrabble frontier and were accorded a more equal status by men. Still others find that political expediency by territorial officials played a role. They do, however, agree that western women also organized themselves effectively to win the right. Between and , the NAWSA intensified its lobbying efforts and additional states extended the franchise to women: Washington, California, Arizona, Kansas, and Oregon. In Illinois, future Congresswoman Ruth Hanna McCormick of Illinois helped lead the fight for suffrage as a lobbyist in Springfield when the state legislature granted women the right to vote in This marked the first such victory for women in a state east of the Mississippi River. A year later Montana granted women the right to vote, thanks in part to the efforts of another future Congresswoman, Jeannette Rankin. Despite the new momentum, however, some reformers were impatient with the pace of change. Embracing a more confrontational style, Paul drew a younger generation of women to her movement, helped resuscitate the push for a federal equal rights amendment, and relentlessly attacked the Democratic administration of President Woodrow Wilson for obstructing the extension of the vote to women. Beginning in , President Wilson a convert to the suffrage cause urged Congress to pass a voting rights amendment. Elected two years after her state enfranchised women, Rankin became the first woman to serve in the national legislature. Unveiled in , the monument is featured prominently in the Rotunda of the U. Moreover, they insisted, the failure to extend the vote to women might impede their participation in the war effort just when they were most needed to play a greater role as workers and volunteers outside the home. Responding to these overtures, the House of Representatives initially passed a voting rights amendment on January 10, , but the Senate did not follow suit before the end of the 65th Congress. It was not until after the war, however, that the measure finally cleared Congress with the House again voting its approval by a wide margin on May 21, , and

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the Senate concurring on June 4, A year later, on August 18, , Tennessee became the 36th state to approve the 19th Amendment. Official ratification occurred on August 26, , when U. Secretary of State Bainbridge Colby certified the approval of the Tennessee state legislature. Banner, Elizabeth Cady Stanton: Cornell University Press, Rutgers University Press, Northeastern University Press, Office of the Historian:

### 2: Women's Movements in Canada | The Canadian Encyclopedia

*Martin Pugh charts the Women's Movement's origins and growth*

This left the women at home in charge of their own little world. As the century moved on women got a little lonely at home and realized that they had some degree of impact in church areas. This excited them and they grew hungry for more say and influence. The clergy had a time trying to put that fire out, but at last the women further realized that they could do what men do: These ideas came full force during the Civil War. The men went off to fight, leaving the shops, offices, farms and mills to be tended to by the women. Education for women in the s was minimal during that period. Schooling was for the male gender, and if a woman wanted to go to school, she was looked down upon. In the home the women took care of the children and she was the one who set the atmosphere for her offspring. She was the one who would teach them or "train" them in their roles in life. Over time, many were starting to see that women needed some sort of education because they were the ones who raised the children in the home. As a result, many women began to educate themselves in order to better their lives and the lives of their offspring. This was the beginning of all female colleges. These colleges were created to educate the woman and to better themselves in the home environment. For example, women started to receive more education and to take part in reform movements like abolition, which involved them in politics. Slavery was not uncommon in the United States in the s, especially in the south. Slavery was a way of life for people of this time. However, it was a controversial subject. The treatment of slaves was harsh for trying to escape or for slacking off. It was encouraged for black women slaves to have many children so there will be more labor available for the owner. Slaves often had no rights at all, and they were not even considered human in many cases. It was during the s, however, when certain people, including women, stood up and voiced their opinions about the abuses and hardships slaves have to live with their whole lives. Voting rights As a result of their work in abolition, women started to ask why they were not also allowed to vote. Leaders of the movement believed that if women had the vote, they could use it to gain other rights. The suffragists faced strong opposition; The Society Women of Beacon Hill were among the list of oppositions. They saw politics as corrupt, and if women gained the right to vote, then the women themselves would also become corrupt. The Democratic Party was also against the NWSA and other suffrage groups mainly because they were afraid that if women gained the right to vote then soon the black women would follow. Many others who opposed the movement were the alcohol brewers, husbands and the media. The nineteenth amendment, which gave women the right to vote, was added to the constitution in May of 1920. Powered by Create your own unique website with customizable templates.

## 3: A Brief History of Women's Rights Movements | Scholastic

*But the Women's Rights Movement has clearly been successful in irrevocably changing the circumstances and hopes of women. The remaining injustices are being tackled daily in the courts and conference rooms, the homes and organizations, workplaces and playing fields of America.*

Colonial era[ edit ] A stamp honoring Virginia Dare , who in became the first English child born in what became the U. Colonial history of the United States The experiences of women during the colonial era varied from colony to colony, but there were some overall patterns. Most of the British settlers were from England and Wales, with smaller numbers from Scotland and Ireland. Groups of families settled together in New England, while families tended to settle independently in the Southern colonies. The American colonies absorbed several thousands of Dutch and Swedish settlers. After , most immigrants to Colonial America arrived as indentured servants â€”young unmarried men and women seeking a new life in a much richer environment. Food supplies were much more abundant than in Europe, and there was an abundance of fertile land that needed farm families. However, the disease environment was hostile in the malaria-ridden South, where a large portion of the arrivals died within five years. The American-born children were immune from the fatal forms of malaria. They believed a woman should dedicate herself to rearing God-fearing children to the best of her ability. There were ethnic differences in the treatment of women. Among Puritan settlers in New England, wives almost never worked in the fields with their husbands. In German communities in Pennsylvania, however, many women worked in fields and stables. German and Dutch immigrants granted women more control over property, which was not permitted in the local English law. Unlike English colonial wives, German and Dutch wives owned their own clothes and other items and were also given the ability to write wills disposing of the property brought into the marriage. The first English people to arrive in America were the members of the Roanoke Colony who came to North Carolina in July , with 17 women, 91 men, and 9 boys as the founding colonists. On August 18, , Virginia Dare was born; she was the first English child born in the territory of the United States. Women in 17th-century New England and History of New England The New England regional economy grew rapidly in the 17th century, thanks to heavy immigration, high birth rates, low death rates, and an abundance of inexpensive farmland. Between and , about 20, Puritans arrived, settling mostly near Boston; after fewer than fifty immigrants a year arrived. The average size of a completed family â€” was 7. About 27 percent of the population comprised men between 16 and 60 years old. The growing population led to shortages of good farm land on which young families could establish themselves; one result was to delay marriage, and another was to move to new lands further west. In the towns and cities, there was strong entrepreneurship, and a steady increase in the specialization of labor. Wages for men went up steadily before ; new occupations were opening for women, including weaving, teaching, and tailoring. The region bordered New France , which used Indian warriors to attack outlying villages. Women were sometimes captured. In the numerous French and Indian Wars the British government poured money in to purchase supplies, build roads and pay colonial soldiers. The coastal ports began to specialize in fishing, international trade and shipbuildingâ€”and after in whaling. Combined with a growing urban markets for farm products, these factors allowed the economy to flourish despite the lack of technological innovation. It was optional and some towns proved reluctant. Northampton, Massachusetts, for example, was a late adopter because it had many rich families who dominated the political and social structures and they did not want to pay taxes to aid poor families. Northampton assessed taxes on all households, rather than only on those with children, and used the funds to support a grammar school to prepare boys for college. Not until after did Northampton educate girls with public money. In contrast, the town of Sutton, Massachusetts, was diverse in terms of social leadership and religion at an early point in its history. Sutton paid for its schools by means of taxes on households with children only, thereby creating an active constituency in favor of universal education for both boys and girls. School taught both, but in places without schools reading was mainly taught to boys and also a few privileged girls. Men handled worldly affairs and needed to read and write. Girls only needed to read especially religious materials. This educational disparity between reading and writing explains why the

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colonial women often could read, but could not write so they used an "X" to sign their names. Gutierrez finds a high level of illegitimacy, especially among the Indians who were used as slaves. Depending on the perspective, she has been viewed as either the civilized princess or the destructive squaw. A highly favorable image has surrounded Pocahontas , the daughter of the Native American chief Powhatan in Virginia. She was taken hostage by the colonists in , when she was seventeen. She converted to Christianity and married planter John Rolfe in It was the first recorded interracial marriage in American history.

## 4: Women's Rights by Beth Feindt-Scott on Prezi

*Women's movement, diverse social movement, largely based in the United States, seeking equal rights and opportunities for women in their economic activities, their personal lives, and politics. It is recognized as the "second wave" of the larger feminist movement.*

History of feminism Feminism in the United States, Canada and a number of countries in western Europe has been divided into three waves by feminist scholars: De Beauvoir also argues that woman lack ambition because of how they are raised. Girls are told to follow the duties of their mothers, whereas boys are told to exceed the accomplishments of their fathers. This determined group of women wanted to turn these ideas into actions. Through actions the women were able to get few equal rights for example right to education, right to work, and right to vote. Thus, the women made a declaration known as Le Manifeste de which held signatures from women admitting to having had an illegal abortion. The group gained support upon the publication. Women received the right to abort with the passing of the Veil Law in In Crystal Eastman wrote an article published in the Birth Control Review, she contended that birth control is a fundamental right for women and must be available as an alternative if they are to participate fully in the modern world. However, men did up to 19 minutes more work per day than women in five out of the eighteen OECD countries surveyed: While differing during the progression of waves, it is a movement that has sought to challenge the political structure, power holders, and cultural beliefs or practices. Although antecedents to feminism may be found far back before the 18th century, the seeds of the modern feminist movement were planted during the late part of that century. Christine de Pizan , a late medieval writer, was possibly the earliest feminist in the western tradition. She is believed to be the first woman to make a living out of writing. The first scientific society for women was founded in Middelburg , a city in the south of the Dutch republic , in Journals for women that focused on issues like science became popular during this period as well. Initial developments for women, therefore, mainly benefited white women in the middle and upper classes. Feminism in China[ edit ] Main article: Feminism in China This section needs additional citations to secondary or tertiary sources such as review articles, monographs, or textbooks. Please add such references to provide context and establish the relevance of any primary research articles cited. Unsourced or poorly sourced material may be challenged and removed. October Learn how and when to remove this template message Prior to the 20th century, women in China were considered[ by whom? In order to further eliminate the legacy of the class society of patriarchal women drowning of infants, corset , footbinding , etc. Before the westernization movement and the reform movement, women had set off a wave of their own strength in the Taiping Heavenly Kingdom “ However, there are too many women from the bottom identities in the Taiping Heavenly Kingdom. It is difficult to get rid of the fate of being used. The feminist movement in China was mainly kickstarted and driven by male feminists prior to female feminists. In , Liang Qichao proposed banning of foot-binding and encouraged women to engage in the workforce, political environment and education. The foot-binding costume had long been established in China which was an act to display the beauty and social status of women by binding their feet into an extremely small shoe with good decorations and ornaments. He also proposed to reduce the number of female dependents in family and encouraged women to receive the rights of education and enter the workforce to be economic independent from men and finally help the nation to reach higher wealth and prosperity. For feminist Ma Junwu and Jin Tianhe, they both supported the equality between husbands and wives, women enjoy legitimate and equal rights and also rights to enter the political sphere. A key assertion from Jin Tianhe was women as the mother of the nation. These views from male feminists in early feminism in China represented the image of ideal women in the imagination of men. The female feminists in early China focused more on the methods or ways that women should behave and liberate themselves to achieve equal and deserved rights and independence. Besides, Li Zongsu proposed that women should strive for their legitimate rights which includes broader aspects than the male feminists: The view of the feminists were diverse: In the s, more female scholars were adapted to feminism in Western countries, and they promoted feminism and equal rights for women by publishing, translating and carrying out research on global feminism and made feminism

in China as one part of their study to raise more concern and awareness for gender equality issues. Feminists are also often proponents of using gender-inclusive language, such as "humanity" instead of "mankind", or "they" in place of "he" where the gender is unknown. The advocacy of gender-neutral language reflects, at least, two different agendas: Gender-neutral language is sometimes described as non-sexist language by advocates and politically correct language by opponents. Emily Martin describes the concept of how metaphors are gendered and ingrained into everyday life. Metaphors are used in everyday language and have become a way that people describe the world. Martin explains that these metaphors structure how people think and in regards to science can shape what questions are being asked. If the right questions are not being asked then the answers are not going to be the right either. The outcome of looking at things in a new perspective can produce new information. Heterosexual relationships[ edit ] The increased entry of women into the workplace beginning in the 20th century has affected gender roles and the division of labor within households. Sociologist Arlie Russell Hochschild in *The Second Shift* and *The Time Bind* presents evidence that in two-career couples, men and women, on average, spend about equal amounts of time working, but women still spend more time on housework. Jeremy Greenwood, Ananth Seshadri and Mehmet Yorukoglu argue that the introduction of modern appliances into the home has allowed women to enter the work force. Several studies provide statistical evidence that the financial income of married men does not affect their rate of attending to household duties. She says that as childbearing out of wedlock has become more socially acceptable, young women, especially poor young women, while not bearing children at a higher rate than in the s, now see less of a reason to get married before having a child. Her explanation for this is that the economic prospects for poor men are slim, hence poor women have a low chance of finding a husband who will be able to provide reliable financial support due to the rise of unemployment from more workers on the market, from just men to women and men. However, a recent survey of U. The pattern of the relationship between husband and wife was that of the dominant male and submissive female A new era has since dawned However, there was very little that had developed to replace the old pattern; couples floundered Retrospectively, one could have expected that there would be a lot of chaos and a lot of fall-out. We are learning how a relationship based on genuine feelings of equality can operate practically.

### 5: History of women in the United States - Wikipedia

*The first women's rights convention is held in Seneca Falls, New York. After 2 days of discussion and debate, 68 women and 32 men sign a Declaration of Sentiments, which outlines grievances and sets the agenda for the women's rights movement.*

Combining the disciplines of literary theory and psychologyâ€¦ Prologue to a social movement In the aftermath of World War II , the lives of women in developed countries changed dramatically. Household technology eased the burdens of homemaking, life expectancies increased dramatically, and the growth of the service sector opened up thousands of jobs not dependent on physical strength. It became a worldwide best seller and raised feminist consciousness by stressing that liberation for women was liberation for men too. Women who had been told that they had it allâ€”nice houses, lovely children, responsible husbandsâ€”were deadened by domesticity, she said, and they were too socially conditioned to recognize their own desperation. The *Feminine Mystique* was an immediate best seller. Friedan had struck a chord. By June , they had concluded that polite requests were insufficient. The organization was not an instant success. By the end of its second year, NOW had just 1, members and was racked by ideological divisions. Two other measures stirred enormous controversy: Constitution to ensure equality of rights, regardless of sex , and the other demanded the liberalization of contraception and abortion. When some NOW members called for repeal of all abortion laws, other members left the fledgling organization, convinced that this latest action would undermine their struggles against economic and legal discrimination. Ironically, sexist attitudes had pervaded s radical politics, with some women being exploited or treated unequally within those movements. It had no officers, no mailing address, no printed agenda. What it did have was attitude. The Redstockings also held speak-outs on rape to focus national attention on the problem of violence against women. NOW leaders were looking for reform; the more radical women were plotting a revolution. With the eventual backing of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission , women gained access to jobs in every corner of the U. Record numbers of women ran forâ€”and started winningâ€”political office. In , Congress passed Title IX of the Higher Education Act, which prohibited discrimination on the basis of sex in any educational program receiving federal funds and thereby forced all-male schools to open their doors to women and athletic programs to sponsor and finance female sports teams. And in , in its controversial ruling on *Roe v. Wade* , the United States Supreme Court legalized abortion. But its ratification by the states became a rallying point for the backlash against feminism. Antifeminists such as Phyllis Schlafly organized a crusade against the amendment, warningâ€”correctly or notâ€”that it would, among other things, invalidate state sodomy laws, outlaw single sex bathrooms in public places, legalize same-sex marriage , and make taxpayer-funded abortion a constitutional right. Needing 38 states to ratify within 10 years of its passage by Congress, the amendment fell three states short. Steinem, GloriaGloria Steinem, Congressional debateThe reintroduction of the Equal Rights Amendment in Congress spurred intense debate in The role of women in the armed forces became a point of contention as some hoisted the standard of equality while others protested that mothers should not be sent off to war. By the s, a movement that was once defined by its radical pitch had taken on new tonesâ€”some of them conservative. That divide deepened when, in , Norma McCorvey , the plaintiff in *Roe v. Wade*, declared her opposition to abortion on demand. With a growing number of young children spending their early years in institutional day care, debates erupted over whether women were abdicating their maternal responsibilities and whether federal policies that gave tax breaks to working mothers were encouraging a further deterioration of the family unit. Feminists were further targeted as the primary culprits behind the many by-products of the sexual revolution, from the increased rate of teen pregnancy to the spread of AIDS.

### 6: Seneca Falls and the origins of the women's rights movement in SearchWorks catalog

*"The Women's Movement begins, " explaining that "the first decade after Seneca Falls Stanton, Eighty Years and More, Stanton, Elizabeth Cady, Susan B. Anthony, Matilda Joslyn Gage, and Ida Husted Harper.*

Women of all ages and classes demonstrated on a massive scale; the demonstrators were jailed, locked out of their meeting places, and thrown down the steps of Parliament. The ensuing mobilization by the WSPU of thousands of its members for voluntary participation in the war industries and support services was a highly influential factor in overcoming government resistance to WSPU aims. In the voting age was lowered to The ensuing campaign attracted many educated, wealthy, and influential women to the cause, with resultant political professionalism, increased funding, and the development of massive parades and demonstrations in the major cities. Such groups supported various types of liberal reforms related to the rights of both men and women. Three related conferencesâ€”in Mexico City ; Copenhagen ; and Nairobi, Kenya â€”did the same. That conference endorsed a nonbinding "Platform for Action. During the s a militant feminist trend emerged in the United States. More significantly, feminist political organizations arose that developed into a full feminist movement by the s. The ERA was approved by the U. House of Representatives in and by the Senate in On June 30, , however, ratification of the ERA fell three states short of the 38 needed by that deadline. Later congressional efforts to reintroduce the measure have failed, although a number of states have added equal-rights clauses to their constitutions. Women continue to make advances in the political field. Although she was defeated in the primaries by Sen. Women have made considerable gains in the other political arenas. In , there were 2 women serving in the U. Senate and 28 in the U. Following the elections 17 female senators and 75 female representatives were serving, including 3 nonvoting delegates. In January , Rep. She was chosen House minority leader after the Republican party won control of the House in Also, 6 women were governors in In January , Hillary Clinton succeeded Rice as secretary of state. How to Cite This Article:

*To begin with, the Women's Movement evolved out of social reform groups such as the Abolition of Slavery, the Social Purity and Temperance movements. Women began to realise that in order to transform society they would need their own organisations to do so.*

Share via Email Sylvia Plath died in 1962. The problem with no name, wrote Betty Friedan in her bestseller, *The Feminine Mystique*, and the symptoms were legion. They included creeping fatigue, tranquiliser and alcohol abuse, bleeding blisters that appeared suddenly on their arms, which doctors attributed not to the cleaning fluids they used constantly, but a deeper malaise. That icon of femininity, Marilyn Monroe, had died of an overdose the year before, and Sylvia Plath "just as outwardly feminine, but with a hidden, crackling rage" killed herself in London in 1962. Her death came not long after she published her novel, *The Bell Jar*. A desperate, exaggerated femininity was being held up as an ideal for all women. In January 1963, Gloria Steinem, then a freelance journalist, packed her leotard in a hat box and auditioned to become a Playboy Bunny in an undercover assignment for *Show* magazine. Steinem exposed the low pay, sexual harassment and racism "black women were sniggeringly referred to as "chocolate bunnies" and later, when she had become a feminist leader, wrote that all women were treated as bunnies. It was an age of early marriage in Britain, and larger families. The average age of first marriage for women in 1963 was 20. In her memoir, *Promise of a Dream*, Rowbotham writes that as a student in the early 1960s, "not only were we all ignorant about contraception, but we had no idea who we could ask for advice. Abortion, an inconceivable horror of gin and screams, was still illegal. The economic debate sharpened suddenly in 1968, when women at the Ford plant in Dagenham went on strike for equal pay. But with only 4. The proportion of female MPs actually came in below 4. *The Feminine Mystique* by Betty Friedan. The world had opened up for women, but like the suffrage movement half a century earlier, the triumph was brilliant but partial. This article contains affiliate links, which means we may earn a small commission if a reader clicks through and makes a purchase. All our journalism is independent and is in no way influenced by any advertiser or commercial initiative. The links are powered by Skimlinks. By clicking on an affiliate link, you accept that Skimlinks cookies will be set.

### 8: Library Resource Finder: Staff View for: Seneca falls and the origins of the wome

*Women's Rights Movement Begins. The campaign for women's suffrage began in earnest in the decades before the Civil War. During the 20s and 30s, most states had extended the franchise to all.*

Her insight has been borne out time and again throughout the development of this country of ours. Being allowed to live life in an atmosphere of religious freedom, having a voice in the government you support with your taxes, living free of lifelong enslavement by another person. These beliefs about how life should and must be lived were once considered outlandish by many. But these beliefs were fervently held by visionaries whose steadfast work brought about changed minds and attitudes. Now these beliefs are commonly shared across U. Another initially outlandish idea that has come to pass: United States citizenship for women. Over the past seven generations, dramatic social and legal changes have been accomplished that are now so accepted that they go unnoticed by people whose lives they have utterly changed. Many people who have lived through the recent decades of this process have come to accept blithely what has transpired. And younger people, for the most part, can hardly believe life was ever otherwise. They take the changes completely in stride, as how life has always been. The staggering changes for women that have come about over those seven generations in family life, in religion, in government, in employment, in education – these changes did not just happen spontaneously. Women themselves made these changes happen, very deliberately. Women have not been the passive recipients of miraculous changes in laws and human nature. Seven generations of women have come together to affect these changes in the most democratic ways: They have worked very deliberately to create a better world, and they have succeeded hugely. On that sweltering summer day in upstate New York, a young housewife and mother, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, was invited to tea with four women friends. Surely the new republic would benefit from having its women play more active roles throughout society. This was definitely not the first small group of women to have such a conversation, but it was the first to plan and carry out a specific, large-scale program. Today we are living the legacy of this afternoon conversation among women friends. Within two days of their afternoon tea together, this small group had picked a date for their convention, found a suitable location, and placed a small announcement in the Seneca County Courier. In the history of western civilization, no similar public meeting had ever been called. They saw their mission as helping the republic keep its promise of better, more egalitarian lives for its citizens. The same familiar words framed their arguments: To prove this, let facts be submitted to a candid world. This was just seventy years after the Revolutionary War. But this Declaration of Sentiments spelled out what was the status quo for European-American women in America, while it was even worse for enslaved Black women. That women should be allowed to vote in elections was almost inconceivable to many. Even the heartfelt pleas of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, a refined and educated woman of the time, did not move the assembly. Not until Frederick Douglass, the noted Black abolitionist and rich orator, started to speak, did the uproar subside. Woman, like the slave, he argued, had the right to liberty. The Declaration of Sentiments ended on a note of complete realism: We shall employ agents, circulate tracts, petition the State and national Legislatures, and endeavor to enlist the pulpit and the press in our behalf. We hope this Convention will be followed by a series of Conventions, embracing every part of the country. In ridicule, the entire text of the Declaration of Sentiments was often published, with the names of the signers frequently included. Just as ridicule today often has a squelching effect on new ideas, this attack in the press caused many people from the Convention to rethink their positions. Many of the women who had attended the convention were so embarrassed by the publicity that they actually withdrew their signatures from the Declaration. But most stood firm. And something the editors had not anticipated happened: Some drew such large crowds that people actually had to be turned away for lack of sufficient meeting space! Elizabeth Cady Stanton and women like Susan B. Anthony, Lucy Stone, and Sojourner Truth traveled the country lecturing and organizing for the next forty years. Eventually, winning the right to vote emerged as the central issue, since the vote would provide the means to achieve the other reforms. All told, the campaign for woman suffrage met such staunch opposition that it took 72 years for the women and their male supporters to be successful. As you might

Imagine, any year campaign includes thousands of political strategists, capable organizers, administrators, activists and lobbyists. Among these women are several activists whose names and accomplishments should become as familiar to Americans as those of Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Martin Luther King, Jr. Elizabeth Cady Stanton, of course. Esther Morris, the first woman to hold a judicial position, who led the first successful state campaign for woman suffrage, in Wyoming in 1830. Abigail Scott Duniway, the leader of the successful fight in Oregon and Washington in the early 1850s. Wells-Barnett and Mary Church Terrell, organizers of thousands of African-American women who worked for suffrage for all women. Anna Howard Shaw and Carrie Chapman Catt, leaders of the National American Woman Suffrage Association in the early years of the 20th century, who brought the campaign to its final success. I applaud the bravery and resilience of those who helped all of us "you and me" to be here today. In 1917, as the suffrage victory drew near, the National American Woman Suffrage Association reconfigured itself into the League of Women Voters to ensure that women would take their hard-won vote seriously and use it wisely. Many suffragists became actively involved with lobbying for legislation to protect women workers from abuse and unsafe conditions. This movement not only endorsed educating women about existing birth control methods. It also spread the conviction that meaningful freedom for modern women meant they must be able to decide for themselves whether they would become mothers, and when. For decades, Margaret Sanger and her supporters faced down at every turn the zealously enforced laws denying women this right. In 1965, a Supreme Court decision declassified birth control information as obscene. Still, it was not until 1972 that married couples in all states could obtain contraceptives legally. What occurred in the 1960s was actually a second wave of activism that washed into the public consciousness, fueled by several seemingly independent events of that turbulent decade. Each of these events brought a different segment of the population into the movement. The report issued by that commission in 1961 documented discrimination against women in virtually every area of American life. State and local governments quickly followed suit and established their own commissions for women, to research conditions and recommend changes that could be initiated. The Feminine Mystique evolved out of a survey she had conducted for her year college reunion. In it she documented the emotional and intellectual oppression that middle-class educated women were experiencing because of limited life options. The book became an immediate bestseller, and inspired thousands of women to look for fulfillment beyond the role of homemaker. Title VII of the Civil Rights Act was passed, prohibiting employment discrimination on the basis of sex as well as race, religion, and national origin. But it passed, nevertheless. With its passage, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission was established to investigate discrimination complaints. But it was quickly obvious that the commission was not very interested in pursuing these complaints. Betty Friedan, the chairs of the various state Commissions on the Status of Women, and other feminists agreed to form a civil rights organization for women similar to the NAACP. In 1966, the National Organization for Women was organized, soon to be followed by an array of other mass-membership organizations addressing the needs of specific groups of women, including Blacks, Latinas, Asians-Americans, lesbians, welfare recipients, business owners, aspiring politicians, and tradeswomen and professional women of every sort. During this same time, thousands of young women on college campuses were playing active roles within the anti-war and civil rights movement. At least, that was their intention. They came together to form child care centers so women could work outside their homes for pay. These clinics provided a safe place to discuss a wide range of health concerns and experiment with alternative forms of treatment. With the inclusion of Title IX in the Education Codes of 1972, equal access to higher education and to professional schools became the law. One in twenty-seven high school girls played sports 25 years ago; one in three do today. The whole world saw how much American women athletes could achieve during the last few Olympic Games, measured in their astonishing numbers of gold, silver, and bronze medals. This was another very visible result of Title IX. The average age of women when they first marry has moved from twenty to twenty-four during that same period. Do you realize that just 25 years ago married women were not issued credit cards in their own name? That most women could not get a bank loan without a male co-signer? That women working full time earned fifty-nine cents to every dollar earned by men? The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ruled this illegal in 1972, but since the EEOC had little enforcement power, most newspapers ignored the requirement for years. The National Organization

for Women NOW , had to argue the issue all the way to the Supreme Court to make it possible for a woman today to hold any job for which she is qualified. And so now we see women in literally thousands of occupations which would have been almost unthinkable just one generation ago: The Equal Rights Amendment Is Re-Introduced Then, in , the Equal Rights Amendment, which had languished in Congress for almost fifty years, was finally passed and sent to the states for ratification. The wording of the ERA was simple: Unlike so many other issues which were battled-out in Congress or through the courts, this issue came to each state to decide individually. Marches were staged in key states that brought out hundreds of thousands of supporters. House meetings, walk-a-thons, door-to-door canvassing, and events of every imaginable kind were held by ordinary women, many of whom had never done anything political in their lives before. But Elizabeth Cady Stanton proved prophetic once again. Opponents of the Equal Rights Amendment, organized by Phyllis Schlafly, feared that a statement like the ERA in the Constitution would give the government too much control over our personal lives. They charged that passage of the ERA would lead to men abandoning their families, unisex toilets, gay marriages, and women being drafted. And the media, purportedly in the interest of balanced reporting, gave equal weight to these deceptive arguments just as they had when the possibility of women winning voting rights was being debated. And, just like had happened with woman suffrage, there were still very few women in state legislatures to vote their support, so male legislators once again had it in their power to decide if women should have equal rights. When the deadline for ratification came in , the ERA was just three states short of the 38 needed to write it into the U. Despite polls consistently showing a large majority of the population supporting the ERA, it was considered by many politicians to be just too controversial.

### 9: Women's History | American National Biography

*Amelia Jenks Bloomer launches the dress reform movement with a costume bearing her name. The Bloomer costume was later abandoned by many suffragists who feared it detracted attention from more serious women's rights issues.*

One Hundred Years toward Suffrage: An Overview Compiled by E. Susan Barber Abigail Adams writes to her husband, John, who is attending the Continental Congress in Philadelphia, asking that he and the other men--who were at work on the Declaration of Independence--"Remember the Ladies. Historians would later term this phenomenon "The Cult of Domesticity. In , Oberlin awards the first academic degrees to three women. Early graduates include Lucy Stone and Antoinette Brown. She is eventually silenced by male abolitionists who consider her public speaking a liability. Eighty-one delegates from twelve states attend. Holyoke was followed by Vassar in , and Wellesley and Smith Colleges, both in This was one of the first permanent labor associations for working women in the United States. Over the next ten years she leads many slaves to freedom by the Underground Railroad. The birth rate in the United States continues its downward, century-long spiral. By the late s, women will raise an average of only two to three children, in contrast to the five or six children they raised at the beginning of the century. During this same period, newly emancipated Southern black women form thousands of organizations aimed at "uplifting the race. Anthony form the American Equal Rights Association, an organization for white and black women and men dedicated to the goal of universal suffrage. This Amendment was the first to define "citizens" and "voters" as "male. Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. In this same year, the Wyoming territory is organized with a woman suffrage provision. In , Wyoming was admitted to the Union with its suffrage provision intact. NWSA refuses to work for its ratification, arguing, instead, that it be "scrapped" in favor of a Sixteenth Amendment providing universal suffrage. They all are unsuccessful. Anthony is arrested and brought to trial in Rochester, New York, for attempting to vote for Ulysses S. Grant in the presidential election. At the same time, Sojourner Truth appears at a polling booth in Battle Creek, Michigan, demanding a ballot; she is turned away. The wording is unchanged in , when the amendment finally passes both houses. Within one year, there are more than a hundred settlement houses--largely operated by women--throughout the United States. The settlement house movement and the Progressive campaign of which it was a part propelled thousands of college-educated white women and a number of women of color into lifetime careers in social work. It also made women an important voice to be reckoned with in American politics. Wells launches her nation-wide anti-lynching campaign after the murder of three black businessmen in Memphis, Tennessee. In that same year, Colorado becomes the first state to adopt a state amendment enfranchising women. After its publication, NAWSA moves to distance itself from this venerable suffrage pioneer because many conservative suffragists considered her to be too radical and, thus, potentially damaging to the suffrage campaign. In addition to the distillers and brewers, who worked largely behind the scenes, the "antis" also drew support from urban political machines, Southern congressmen, and corporate capitalists--like railroad magnates and meatpackers--who supported the "antis" by contributing to their "war chests. August 26, The Nineteenth Amendment is ratified. It has never been ratified. Chafe, *The American Woman: Evans, Born for Liberty: We Are Your Sisters: Black Women in the Nineteenth Century*. Zophy, Angela Howard and Frances M.

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