

Feminism

American Women in 1960

- * No women were Supreme Court justices, federal appeals court justices, governors, cabinet officers, or ambassadors.
- * Only 2 of 100 senators, 15 of 435 representatives, 2 of 307 federal district judges, and 234 of 7700 state legislators were women.
- * Only 3.5% of lawyers, 10% of scientists, 2% of leading business executives were women.

- ✱ Many companies had separate pay scales for men and women, and women on average earned 60% of what men earned.
- ✱ In Alabama, Mississippi, and South Carolina women could not sit on juries.
- ✱ Many states restricted women's rights to make contracts, sell property, control their own earnings, or make wills.

- ✱ Six states gave fathers preference in child custody cases.
- ✱ Many civic organizations, clubs, and bars were male only.
- ✱ In almost every state men had the legal right to have intercourse with their wives whenever they chose to do so.

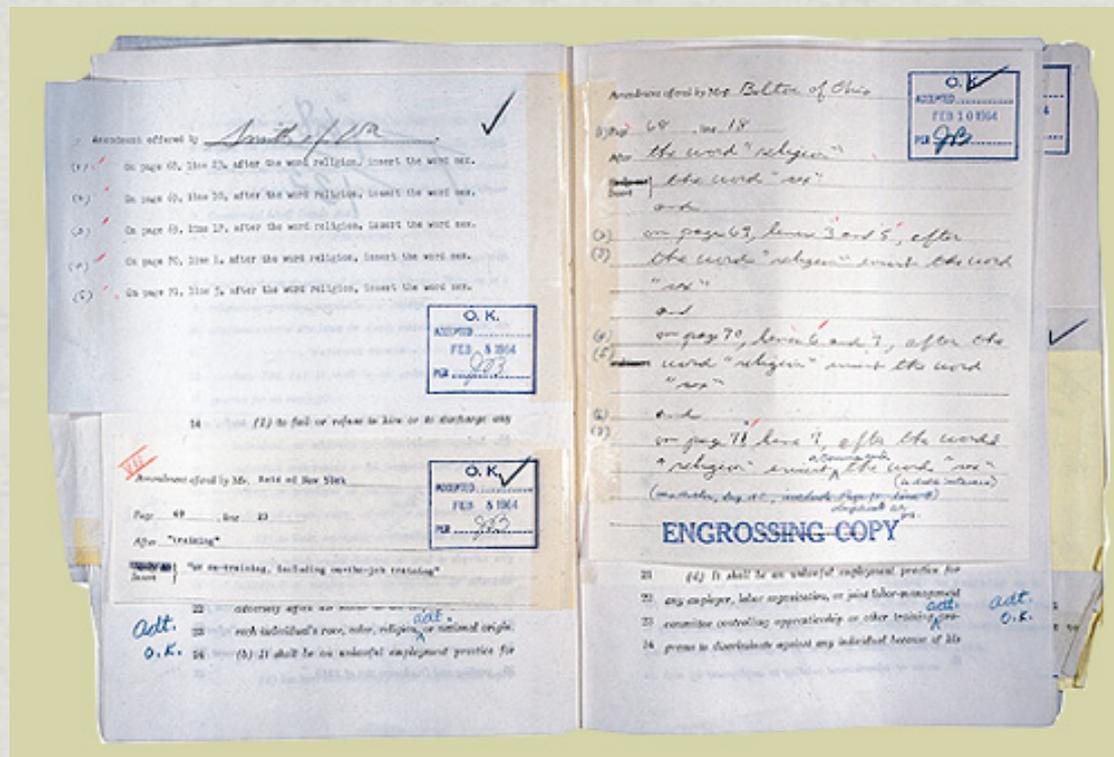
- ✱ Betty Friedan's 1962 publication *The Feminine Mystique* rejected the idea that women could only be fulfilled through child rearing and homemaking. Many see it as marking the beginning of Second Wave feminism, which emphasized *de facto* (in fact) equality more than concentrating on *de jure* (legally mandated) rights such as suffrage.



Title VII

- ✱ The 1963 Equal Pay Act required equal pay for people performing the same job under equal conditions.
- ✱ In 1963 President Kennedy Proposed a Civil Rights Bill that mirrored the Civil Rights Act of 1875, legislation that had been ruled unconstitutional in the in 1896 case *Plessy v. Ferguson*
- ✱ After Kennedy's assassination President Johnson pushed for the legislation's passage.
- ✱ The bill was strengthened by adding provision against discrimination in employment

- * Representative Howard Smith of Virginia offered an amendments to Title VII of the act that added the word “sex” to the list of prohibited discriminations in employment (race, color, religion, sex, or national origin). Historians have debated his motivation, but the act passed with the amended language.



- ✱ Equal Opportunity Employment Commission founded to enforce Title VII.
- ✱ In 1986 the Supreme Court ruled in *Meritor Savings Bank v. Vinson* that sexual harassment was covered under Title VII.

- ✱ In 1966, 28 women, including Betty Friedan, founded the National Organization for Women (NOW). One of its earliest purposes was to pressure the EEOC to enforce the Equal Pay Act.
- ✱ In 1966, the phrase “women’s liberation” appeared in print for the first time.

- ✱ President Johnson's 1967 Executive Order 11375 expanded his affirmative action policy to include discrimination based on sex.
- ✱ In 1968 the EEOC ruled that separate want ads for men and women were illegal.
- ✱ In 1968 Shirley Chisholm became the first black Congresswoman. In 1972 she ran for the Democratic nomination for President.



- ✱ Radical women's groups protest the 1968 Miss American pageant.
- ✱ During 1968-1970 many radical women's organizations were founded: WITCH (Women's International Terrorist Conspiracy fro Hell), Bread and Roses, Redstockings, Feminists, Radical Feminists, and Cell 16.



- ✱ In 1969, Carol Hanisch, who had been one of the leaders of the 1968 Miss American protest, coined the phrase “the personal is political” in an essay of that title.
- ✱ In 1969, California became the first state to adopt “no fault” divorce laws that allowed couples to divorce by mutual consent. By 1985, every state had such laws.

- ✱ Many prestigious schools that had been all-male admitted women: Princeton, Yale, Georgetown (1969); Boston College (1970); Skidmore, Brown (1971); Dartmouth, Notre Dame, Harvard, Rutgers (1972)
- ✱ In subsequent years state supported all-female schools such as Mississippi University for Women were forced to admit men.

- ✿ *Ms.*, a feminist magazine, founded in 1971 by Gloria Steinem, was widely popular in the 1970s.
- ✿ Its title was suggested as an appropriate honorific for women by Sheila Michaels and eventually became widely accepted as increasing numbers of women refused to be defined by their marital status



Title IX

- ✦ Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 now known as the Patsy T. Mink Equal opportunity in Education Act in honor of its principal author, but more commonly known as Title IX, is a 37-word law enacted on June 23, 1972: “No person in the United States shall, on the basis of gender, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.”



Congresswoman Patsy Mink

- ✱ The primary impact of Title IX has been on college athletics. The number of women participating in college athletics has increased from about 30,000 to over 150,000 since 1972. Meanwhile, over 400 college men's teams have been disbanded.
- ✱ The law also made it illegal for high schools to suspend or discriminate against students who were pregnant.

Political Feminism and Cultural Feminism

- ✱ **Political Feminism.** Associated with leaders like Betty Friedan and Bella Abzug and organizations like the National Organization of Women stressed working with sympathetic men to eliminate discriminatory barriers to women. One important goal became passage of the Equal Rights Amendment.

- ✱ **Cultural Feminism.** Associated with leaders like Shulamith Firestone and organizations such as WITCH stressed rebellion against “traditional womanhood” and the development of women’s culture separate from men. They believed that “the personal was political” and the oppression of women could not be changed without a dramatic change in the relationships between the sexes.

Equal Rights Amendment

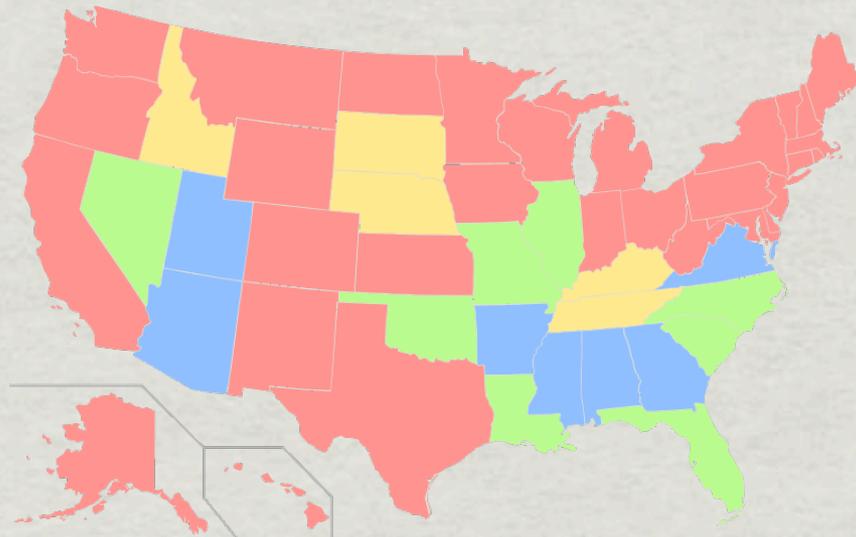
- ✦ Drafted in 1923 by suffragist Alice Paul, the Equal Rights Amendment was introduced in each subsequent session of Congress.
- ✦ In 1971, Representative Martha Griffiths successfully proposed the amendment, which was presented to the states for ratification in 1972.



Representative Martha Griffiths

- ✦ **Section 1:** Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on the account of sex.
- ✦ **Section 2:** Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.
- ✦ **Section 3:** This article shall take effect two years after the date of ratification.

- * Ratification fell short when only 35 of the 38 states needed for ratification voted in favor of it by the seven-year deadline. Five of these states later nullified their ratification. Arkansas was one of seven states in which neither legislative branch ever voted for the amendment.



The Impact of the Women's Liberation

- * During the 1970s the number of working women increased 42%.
- * By 1986, 15% of lawyers, 40% of computer programmers, 29% of managers and administrators were women.
- * By 1988, 15,000 women held elective office.

- * One result of increasing divorce rates was that poverty became increasingly “feminized” with families headed by women four times more likely to be poor than those headed by men.
- * On average women continue to earn less

