

The background of the image is a concrete wall with three large, empty black rectangular frames arranged horizontally. The frames are slightly offset from each other, with the middle one being the most prominent. The text is overlaid on the middle frame.

Feminism Stations

Document One: Betty Friedan, *The Feminine Mystique*

Betty Friedan's *The Feminine Mystique*, published in 1963, was an analysis of the lives of college-educated, middle-class women, and became an early classic of the new feminism.

Here is an excerpt:

“Over and over women heard in voices of tradition that they could desire no greater destiny than to glory in their own femininity. Experts told them how to catch a man and how to keep him, how to breastfeed children, how to buy a dishwasher, bake bread, cook gourmet snails....how to dress, look, and act more feminine and make marriage more exciting....how to keep their husbands from dying young and keep their sons from becoming delinquents....

They were taught to pity the neurotic, unfeminine, unhappy women who wanted to be poets or physicists or presidents. They learned that truly feminine women do not want careers, higher education, or political rights...

All women were taught to devote their lives from early girlhood to finding a husband and bearing children.”

Source: “The Feminine Mystique”

When Boredom and
Emotional Fatigue Bring on
“Housewife Headache”..

Making beds, getting meals, acting as family chauffeur—having to do the same dull, tiresome work day after day—is a mild form of torture. These boring yet necessary tasks can bring on nervous tension, fatigue and what is now known as ‘housewife headache’.

For this kind of headache you need strong yet safe relief. So take Anacin®. Anacin is a special fortified formula. It gives you *twice as much* of the strong pain-reliever doctors recommend most—as the other leading extra strength tablet. Minutes after taking Anacin your headache goes, so does its nervous tension and fatigue. Despite its strength Anacin is safe, taken as directed. It doesn't leave you depressed or groggy. See if you don't feel better all over with a brighter outlook after taking 2 Anacin Tablets.

© Whitehall Laboratories Inc. 1969

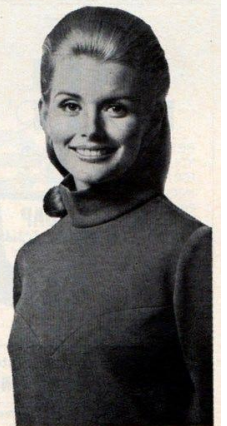


Image Source: Business Insider

Document Two: "Sex and Caste"

A Memo from the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee

The women's movement developed alongside of the Civil Rights Movement, as female activists advocating for racial equality still experienced gender-based discrimination within their organizations.

The "argument over the problems women faced within the civil rights movement was further developed in the 'kind of memo' written in 1965 by white civil rights workers Casey Hayden and Mary King. Their document proved not only a spark for internal debate within SNCC, but an important step in the early development of the women's movement."

Here's an excerpt from the memo:

"Having learned from the [Civil Rights] movement to think radically about the personal worth and abilities of people whose role in society had gone unchallenged before, a lot of women in the movement have begun trying to apply those lessons to their own relations with men...

Nearly everyone has real questions about those institutions which shape perspectives on men and women: marriage, child rearing patterns, women's (and men's) magazines, etc...

A very few men seem to feel, when they hear conversations involving these problems, that they have a right to be present and participate in them, since they are so deeply involved. At the same time, very few men can respond non-defensively, since the whole idea is either beyond their comprehension or threatens and exposes them. The usual response is laughter. That inability to see the whole issue as serious, as the straitjacketing of *both sexes*..."

Document Three: National Organization for Women, Established 1966, Statement of Purpose

“WE BELIEVE that it is as essential for every girl to be educated to her full potential of human ability as it is for every boy — with the knowledge that such education is the key to effective participation in today’s economy and that, for a girl as for a boy, education can only be serious where there is expectation that it will be used in society.

We believe that American educators are capable of devising means of imparting such expectations to girl students. Moreover, we consider the decline in the proportion of women receiving higher and professional education to be evidence of discrimination.

This discrimination may take the form of quotas against the admission of women to colleges, and professional schools; lack of encouragement by parents, counselors and educators; denial of loans or fellowships; or the traditional or arbitrary procedures in graduate and professional training geared in terms of men, which inadvertently discriminate against women. We believe that the same serious attention must be given to high school dropouts who are girls as to boys.”

Source: National Organization for Women

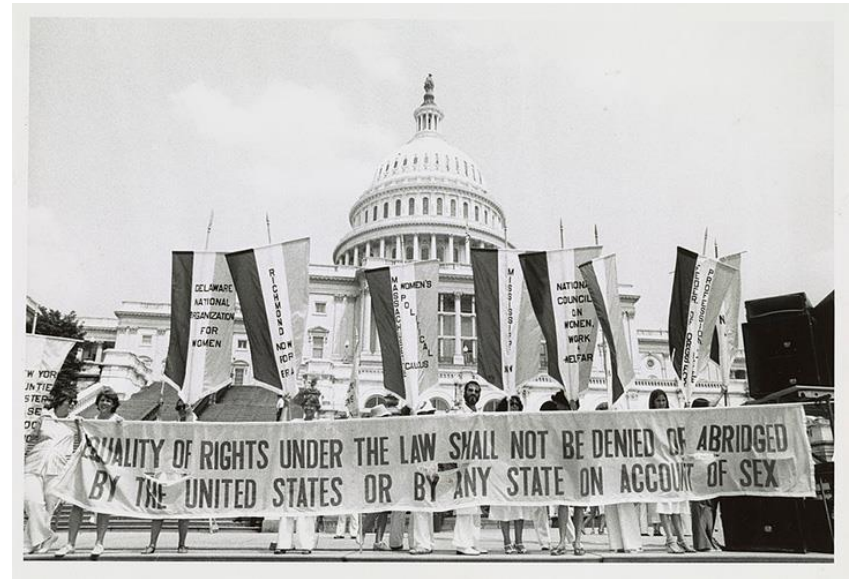


Image from 1979 shows National Organization for Women protest, accessed from the National Archives

Document Four: The Equal Rights Amendment Proposed Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

The 19th Amendment—granting women the right to vote—was ratified in 1920. The original **Equal Rights Amendment** was proposed in 1923.

“The Equal Rights Amendment would provide a fundamental legal remedy against sex discrimination for both women and men. It would guarantee that the rights affirmed by the U.S. Constitution are held equally by all citizens without regard to their sex.

The Equal Rights Amendment was written in 1923 by Alice Paul, a leader of the woman suffrage movement and a women’s rights activist with three law degrees. It was introduced in Congress in the same year and subsequently reintroduced in every session of Congress for half a century. *[Note: It is still not ratified.]*

The ERA is sometimes called the Women’s Equality Amendment to emphasize that women have historically been guaranteed fewer rights than men, and that equality can be achieved by raising women’s legal rights to the same level of constitutional protection as men’s.

As its sex-neutral language makes clear, however, the ERA’s guarantee of equal rights would protect both women as a class and men as a class against sex discrimination under the law.”

Document Five: Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm From Congressional Speech Advocating for the ERA, 1969

Shirley Chisholm was the first African American woman in Congress (She began representing Brooklyn, NY in 1968). She also was the first African American to seek the nomination for President of the United States from a major political party. During her long political career, she said she faced a “double handicap” as a black person and a female.



She advocated for the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment. Read an excerpt of one of her speeches below:

“When a young woman graduates from college and starts looking for a job, she is likely to have a frustrating and even demeaning experience ahead of her. If she walks into an office for an interview, the first question she will be asked is, ‘Do you type?’”

There is a calculated system of prejudice that lies unspoken behind that question. Why is it acceptable for women to be secretaries, librarians, and teachers, but totally unacceptable for them to be managers, administrators, doctors, lawyers, and Members of Congress.

The unspoken assumption is that women are different. They do not have executive ability orderly minds, stability, leadership skills, and they are too emotional.

It has been observed before, that society for a long time, discriminated against another minority, the blacks, on the same basis - that they were different and inferior. The happy little homemaker and the contented ‘old darkey’ on the plantation were both produced by prejudice.”

**Document Six: “What’s Wrong with ‘Equal Rights’ for Women?”
by Phyllis Schlafly, 1972**

Possibly the most well-known opponent to the Equal Rights Amendment was a woman named Phyllis Schlafly. She was a conservative attorney who became a national figure during her crusade against the Equal Rights Amendment.

Read an excerpt of one of her essays against the ERA below:

“Of all the classes of people who ever lived, the American woman is the most privileged. We have the most rights and rewards, and the fewest duties....

In the last couple of years, a noisy movement has sprung up agitating for ‘women’s rights.’ Suddenly, everywhere we are afflicted with aggressive females on television talk shows yapping about how mistreated American women are, suggesting that marriage has put us in some kind of ‘slavery,’ that housework is menial and degrading, and—perish the thought—that women are discriminated against.

...It’s time to set the record straight. The claim that American women are downtrodden and unfairly treated is the fraud of the century. The truth is that American women never had it so good. Why should we lower ourselves to ‘equal rights’ when we already have the status of special privilege?

...Why should we trade in our special privileges and honored status for the alleged advantage of working in an office or assembly line? Most women would rather cuddle a baby than a typewriter or factory machine. Most women find that it is easier to get along with a husband than a foreman or office manager. Offices and factories require many more menial and repetitious chores than washing dishes and ironing shirts.”



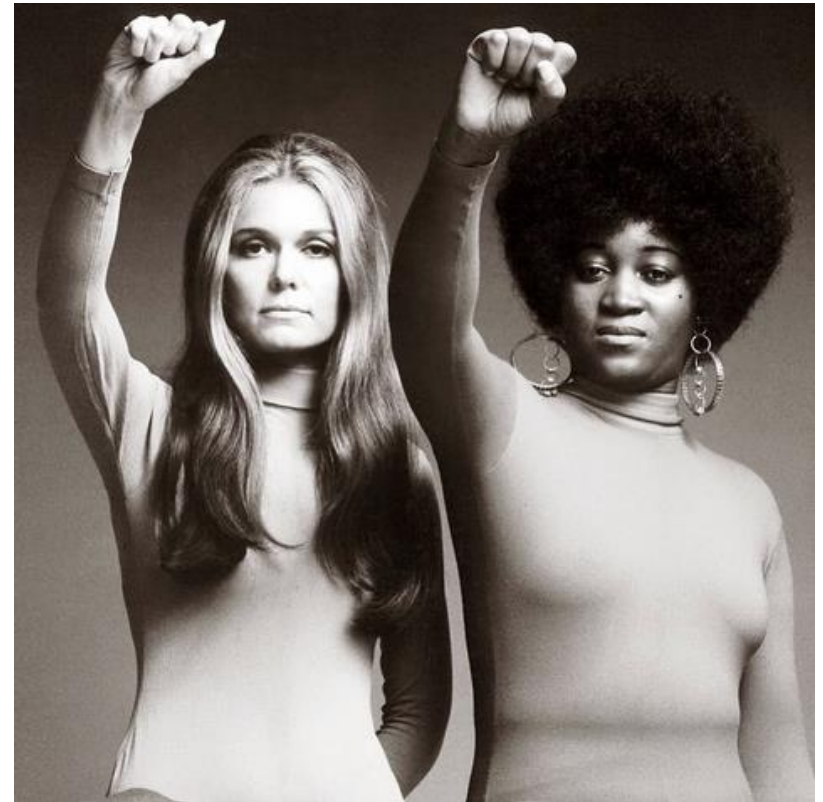
Document Seven: Gloria Steinem Advocating for the Equal Rights Amendment, 1970

“As a freelance writer, I don't work in the male-dominated hierarchy of an office.

Women, like blacks and other visibly-different minorities, do better in individual professions such as the arts, sports, or domestic work; anything in which they don't have authority over white males.

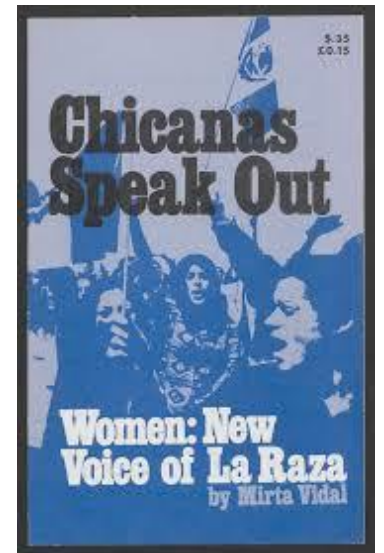
I am not one of the millions of women who must support a family. Therefore, I haven't had to go on welfare because there are no day care centers for my children while I work, and I haven't had to submit to the humiliating welfare inquiries about my private and sexual life, inquiries from which men are exempt. I haven't had to brave the sex bias of labor unions and employers, only to see my family subsist on a median salary 40% less than the male median salary.”

Source: University of Maryland



The above image, from the National Portrait Gallery, shows Gloria Steinem (left) and Dorothy Pitman Hughes (right). Both were female activists in the 1960s-present.

Document Eight: Mirta Vidal On the Experiences of Chicanas, 1971



Mirta Vidal was a Chicana feminist, activist, and writer. According to the University of Michigan, “the most popular definition of a *Chicana* is a Mexican-American female who is raised in the United States.”

Read an excerpt of Mirta Vidal’s writings on Chicana feminism below:

"The oppression suffered by Chicanas is different from that suffered by most women in this country.

Because Chicanas are part of an oppressed nationality, they are subjected to the racism practiced against La Raza. (*In English, “the race.” Often refers to people of Spanish/Latino ancestry.*)

Since the overwhelming majority of Chicanos are workers, Chicanas are also victims of the exploitation of the working class.

But in addition, Chicanas, along with the rest of women, are relegated to an inferior position because of their sex. Thus, Raza women suffer a triple form of oppression: as members of an oppressed nationality, as workers, and as women."

Source: University of Michigan

Document Nine: Gloria Steinem on “Internalized Aggression” From Speech Advocating for the ERA, 1970

“A deeper result of social and legal injustice, however, is what sociologists refer to as ‘Internalized Aggression.’

Victims of aggression absorb the myth of their own inferiority, and come to believe that their group is in fact second class. Even when they themselves realize they are not second class, they may still think their group is, thus the tendency to be the only Jew in the club, the only black woman on the block, the only woman in the office.

The truth is that most American children seem to be suffering from too much Mother, and too little Father. Part of the program of Women's Liberation is a return of fathers to their children.

If laws permit women equal work and pay opportunities, men will then be relieved of their role as sole breadwinner. Fewer ulcers, fewer hours of meaningless work, equal responsibility for his own children: these are a few of the reasons that Women's Liberation is Men's Liberation, too.”

Source: University of Maryland

Document Ten: Jerry Falwell on “Threats to the American Family”, 1980

“There are only three institutions God ordained in the Bible: government, the church, and the family.

There is a vicious assault upon the American family....In the war against the family today, we find an arsenal of weapons. Television, the playboy....and the feminist revolution.

Many women are saying ‘why should I be taken advantage of by chauvinists? I will get out and do my own thing. I will stand up for my rights...’ Feminists are saying that self-satisfaction is more important than the family. Most of the women who are leaders in the feminist movement promote an immoral lifestyle.

In a drastic departure from the home, more than half the women in our country are currently employed. Our nation is in serious danger when motherhood is considered a task that is ‘unrewarding, unfulfilling, and boring.’ I believe that a woman’s call is to be a wife and a mother is the highest calling in the world. My wife is proud to be called a housewife.”

Source: Liberty University



Document Eleven: *Roe v. Wade* – Background of the Case Supreme Court decision, 1973

Here is the background on the Supreme Court case *Roe v. Wade*:

- The state of Texas had a law where it was illegal to “procure an abortion” unless it was “in attempt to save the life of the mother.” (Similar laws existed in a majority of the states.)
 - Jane Roe, a single women in Dallas County, sued over the law
 - Roe said she was unmarried and pregnant and wanted to end her pregnancy under “safe, clinical conditions” but was barred from doing so because of the Texas law
 - Roe said the Texas law abridged (cut short) her constitutional right of personal privacy, protected by the 1st, 4th, 5th, 9th, and 14th Amendment

The Supreme Court would heart the case and determine their answer to the following question:
Does the Constitution recognize a woman's right to terminate her pregnancy by abortion?

Document Twelve: *Roe v. Wade* – Decision Supreme Court decision, 1973

Here is an excerpt from the actual decision issued by the United States Supreme Court in *Roe v. Wade*:

“The Constitution does not explicitly mention any right of privacy. In a line of decisions, however, the Court has recognized that a right of personal privacy...does exist under the Constitution...

This right of privacy, whether it be founded in the Fourteenth Amendment’s concept of personal liberty and restrictions upon state action...or in the Ninth Amendment’s reservation of rights to the people, is *broad enough to encompass a woman’s decision whether or not to terminate her pregnancy...*

We conclude the right of personal privacy *includes* the abortion decision, but that this right is not unqualified and must be considered against important state interests in regulation...”