



FEMINISM – ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT

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ORIGIN

Moral and philosophical Origin in the liberation discourse and movements for equality

European Renaissance

Debate over the point of origin of Feminism:

- History was largely written by men

- Do thoughts and action precede the word? : Women's issues and ideology

1. Origin of human consciousness – Distinction of woman psyche: advocated largely by ecofeminists (Susan Griffin- 'Women and Nature', 1978)

ORIGIN

2. Plato's Feminism

3. The 1400s is traced as the origin:

Christine De Pizan (1364-1430) – Book of the City of Ladies, 1405

Aphra Behn (1640-89)

4. The origin: the late 1700s, immediate aftermath of the French Revolution

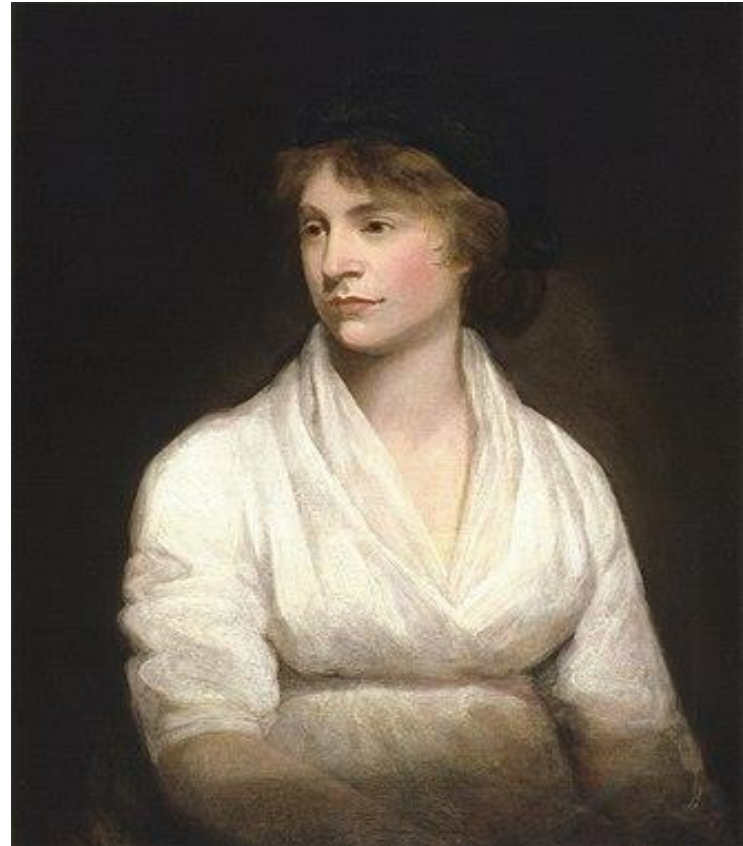
- Mary Wollstonecraft (1759-1797), 'A Vindication of the Rights of Women', 1792: the feminist declaration of independence
- First phase: 1870-1920
- The Classical Liberal Rights Perspective and Lockean Language



BOOK OF THE CITY OF LADIES, 1405

Pioneered the advocacy of women's education, talked about famous women in the history

REBELS OF THEIR TIMES



ORIGIN – UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

- Enfranchisement
- Background lay in middle class, non-conformist, religious movements- encouraged women to be socially active
- Growth of industrialization and modernization
- American Seneca Falls Convention, 1848 –Elizabeth Cady Stanton: alternative declaration of independence
- Demands for property and education rights: American civil war and suffrage rights given to the African American men, 1866
- National American Women's Suffrage Association – formed in 1890
- 'Anthony Amendment' – was accepted in 1920

ORIGIN -EUROPE

France and England: the influence of utopian socialism

Harriot Tailor and J. S. Mill

Women's involvement in movements for property law reform and campaign for educational and employment opportunities; charity, social work and moral reform movements

Women's Social and Political Union, set up in 1903

DEVELOPMENT OF WOMEN'S MOVEMENT

1920s to 1940s was a period of relative stagnation : the Great Depression and the war period

Welfare and family concerns

Issues of health care and maternity benefits were raised

Post-war prosperity – pragmatic liberalism and end of ideology debate

THE SECOND WAVE OF FEMINISM

Increased education and employment

Convergence Politics and Civil Rights Movement

Legislation on abortion, equal pay etc., scientific progress in contraceptives

Literature focusing on Women's Issues:

Simon de Beauvoir (*The Second Sex*, 1952), Betty Friedan (*The Feminine Mystique*, 1963), Germaine Greer (*The Female Eunuch*, 1970)

Changing social attitudes and newly gained independence

Explosion of women's organizations

Experience of movements

1980S AND '90S

The rise of New Right

Rise of postmodernism and Post-structuralism

Awareness of the plight of women in marginalised social groups.

RADICAL FEMINISM

Daring to be Bad, by Alice Echols (1989)

The oppression of women as the most fundamental form of oppression, one that cuts across boundaries of race, culture, and economic class.

Breeding ground for many of the ideas arising from feminism

Social change of revolutionary proportions