

Ali Short

Period 1

History

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The Fight For Women's Rights

The civil rights movement expanded for women because women wanted to have equal opportunities, jobs, and reproductive rights. Over the years women have had to fight for many rights, it is a fight that women still have to do today. “In 2009, women earned about 77 cents for every dollar men earned. Meanwhile, relatively few women have been promoted to upper management. The invisible barrier to women's professional advancement has been called the glass ceiling. This term has also been applied to minorities. Despite the growing prominence of the women's movement, many Americans at the time opposed feminism, the movement for women's equality.” (TCI).

One of the issues women were fighting for was reproductive rights “The development of the birth control pill was a major step in this direction. In 1960, the Food and Drug Administration approved the pill, and by 1965, five million women were using it. The pill had a tremendous impact on women's lives, and on society, by allowing women greater control over reproduction.” Some Americans disapproved of the pill. They favored abstinence as a form of birth control and argued that family-planning centers should not advise couples on other methods to avoid pregnancy. But in 1965, the Supreme Court ruled that married couples had a “right to privacy in marital relations” that included access to counseling on birth control, including use of

the pill. (TCI). Another major issue women were fighting for was the Equal rights amendment to help end job discrimination equality reproductive rights.” Section 1. Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex. Section 2. The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article. Section 3. This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification.”(ERA). Another issue was workplace discrimination. Women wanted more freedom in their lives. “They coined the term sexism to describe oppression of women in the workplace and home. They used the term women's liberation to describe their goal.”(TCI)

Women used many methods to fight for rights for example “supporters of the Equal Rights Amendment between 1972 and 1982 lobbied, marched, rallied, petitioned, picketed, went on hunger strikes, and committed acts of civil disobedience” (ERA). The national organization for women was formed their goal is to “take action through intersectional grassroots activism to promote feminist ideals, lead societal change, eliminate discrimination, and achieve and protect the equal rights of all women and girls in all aspects of social, political, and economic life”(NOW). According to now methods they do to fight for rights include “electoral and lobbying work and bring lawsuits. We also organize mass marches, rallies, pickets, non-violent civil disobedience and immediate, responsive “zap” actions.”(Now).” A NOW-organized march in support of the Equal Rights Amendment drew more than 100,000 people to Washington, D.C. in 1978.”(Now). All of these are examples of ways women fought for rights.

One of the major events that helped shape women's rights was the supreme court case Roe v Wade. Here is what happened“ Roe, a Texas resident, sought to terminate her pregnancy by abortion. Texas law prohibited abortions except to save the pregnant woman's life. After

granting certiorari, the Court heard arguments twice. The Court held that a woman's right to an abortion fell within the right to privacy (recognized in *Griswold v. Connecticut*) protected by the Fourteenth Amendment. The decision gave a woman total autonomy over the pregnancy during the first trimester and defined different levels of state interest for the second and third trimesters. As a result, the laws of 46 states were affected by the Court's ruling” (oyez). This court case led to women's rights to abortion and privacy and control over their own bodies.

The civil rights movement expanded for women because women wanted to have equal opportunities, jobs, and reproductive rights. Today women's rights are still being challenged. The civil rights movement for women is still going on and will continue until men and women have a state of total political social and economical equality.

Works Cited

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