Part 1:

Family violence is a complex social problem that has been studied from different perspectives throughout history. A recent article by Gallagher, Turcotte, and Herring (2021) titled "A Meta-Analytic Review of the Intergenerational Transmission of Intimate Partner Violence" reviews research on the transmission of intimate partner violence across generations. The authors note that historically, family violence was often seen as a private matter and therefore not a concern of the public or the state. This attitude began to change in the late 19th and early 20th centuries with the emergence of the women's movement and advocacy for women's rights. Since then, family violence has been increasingly recognized as a public health issue and a violation of human rights.

In contrast, an essay by Gelles (1997) titled "The Politics of Research on Violence Against Women" illustrates how the study of family violence was typically overlooked by scientists and politicians until the 1970s. Previous to this, violence within families was frequently written off as "discipline" or a "family affair," and it was considered a personal problem as opposed to a social one. According to Gelles, this image started to shift in the 1970s as the feminist movement gained momentum and violence against women became more well known.

Part 2:

The criminalization of domestic abuse, the acceptance of children as victims of family violence, and the implementation of evidence-based treatments are three developments in the field of family violence that may be noted. Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, domestic abuse started to be criminalised in the United States (Lerner & Lerner, 2017). Before this, marital violence was frequently considered to be a private affair and not subject to legal action. Over time, there have also been changes in how family violence is seen by children. In the past, maltreatment of children was frequently not taken seriously and was not seen as a crime. Yet when child welfare laws began to take shape in the middle of the 20th century, children's vulnerability and need for protection became more widely acknowledged (Melton, 1992). The use of therapies that are supported by research has also increased recently. Evidence-based therapies have been created as a consequence of significant research on the effectiveness of various interventions in preventing and treating family violence. This has caused a movement away from harsh penalties and in favour of better treatment and preventative methods (Babcock, Green, & Robie, 2004).

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