

## 8/26 Class Notes

### Waves of Feminism

#### → The First Wave

- basic legal rights in the US.
- all women's decisions were dictated by men.
- no property, no trades, no government, little education.
- women's place was the domestic sphere:
  - ↳ marriage, children, keeping house.
- unmarried women were spinsters & old maids.
  - ↳ unmarried after 30.
  - ↳ Edith Wharton's "The House of Mirth"

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- spinsters: textile workers.
  - "unwanted" because they worked.
  - old maids: too old to have kids.
- Late 19<sup>th</sup> + early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries began to address these issues.
  - ↳ abolitionists, suffragettes: challenged norms.
  - created conventions.
- Lucretia Mott
  - ↳ very well-spoken.
- Elizabeth Cady Stanton
  - ↳ somewhat controversial figure.
  - lifelong suffragists.
  - allied with Susan B. Anthony
- Seneca Falls Convention
  - ↳ organized by Stanton & Mott.
  - held in Wesleyan Chapel at Seneca Falls.
  - July 19<sup>th</sup>, 1848
  - read "Declaration of Sentiments & Grievances"
    - comparable to Declaration of Independence
- It would take nearly 100 years for women to gain the right to vote.

#### → The 2<sup>nd</sup> Wave (mid - 1960s to 1980s)

- women could vote, but they were still being reeled and resigned to the domestic sphere.
  - Simone de Beauvoir
    - ↳ "The Second Sex"
    - existentialism → Jean-Paul Sartre
  - Betty Friedan
    - ↳ "The Feminine Mystique"
    - THE book of the 2<sup>nd</sup> wave: went mainstream.
  - "The personal is political."
    - ↳ 2<sup>nd</sup> wave feminists were focused on social inequality.
    - equal pay act, right to birth control, Title IX, Roe v. Wade
    - women could:
      - apply and hold credit cards
      - apply for and hold mortgages
- right to privacy +  
right to reproductive care.

## → The 2<sup>nd</sup> Wave

- "the personal is political"

### → women began:

- to raise awareness about domestic violence,
- address and outlaw rape, and
- address sexual harassment in the workplace

## → The 3<sup>rd</sup> Wave (early 1990s - 2000s)

- issues become more visible.
- women become fervent ages of change.
- more intersectionality, global reach.
- Anita Hill

↳ testified that Clarence Thomas (now a SCOTUS justice!) SA'd her.

→ watershed moment: people started to talk.

- Riot Grrrl

↳ subcultural underground feminist punk music in early 1990s.