Feminist Movement of the Sixties

I. Women in Colonial America

A. Women were second class

1. made up most of indentured servants

B. In marriage no separate identity

1. no rights

2. no legal identity

3. property and couldn't own property

4. couldn't vote or sit on jury

5. in marriage expected to produce child after child for labor

6. could be beaten

"I look upon my family as a patriarchal sovereignty of which I am myself both king and priest."

B. Early America

1. In 1776 Abigail Adams wrote to John at the Second Continental

Congress:

"If particular care and attention is not paid to the ladies, we are determined to foment a rebellion and will not hold ourselves bound by any laws in which we have no voice or representation.”

2. Same as colonial period

C. Early Resistance

1. Mary Wollstonecraft’s *A Vindication of the Rights of Women*

2. Women's Rights Convention 1848 emerged out of anti-slavery movement in which women were in forefront

a. "A Declaration of Women's Rights"

b. Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott, Sojourner Truth, Lucy Stone, Susan B. Anthony

c. "We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men and women are created equal; that they are endowed with certain inalienable rights . . ."

d. facts of "tyranny"

i. no vote

ii. no voice in laws

iii. no legal rights of married women

iv. no rights to property

v. job segregation and wage discrimination

vi. excluded from institutions

vii. Church

viii. moral double standard

ix. self-respect

D. Early enfranchisement

1. New Jersey

2. Wyoming

E. Nineteenth Amendment (1920)

"The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex”

1. Does the vote change anything?

2. 1920s Middletown study, men spoke of women as:

a. emotional, impractical, unstable, easily hurt

b. unable to face facts, incapable of hard thinking

3. 1930s "beauty"

a. twelve hot oil treatments

b. 52 facials

c. 26 eyebrow plucks

II. Feminism had its earliest spokesperson in the 50s: Betty Friedan and her book *The Feminine Mystique*

A. Friedan

1. housewife, mother, and happy homemaker

2. wrote really positive articles about how great the life of the women of the fifties was

3. She wrote for those same magazines Redbook, Ladies Home Journal, Cosmo, that were defining the social roles for women

4. wanted to do an article on female artist

a. can only do it if it is centered around her accepted social role

b. can't define her master status as artist, her central role

B. The Feminine Mystique

1. she went to reunion at Smith College

2. talked to other alumni

3. many felt sense of entrapment, social roles and expectations too narrow

4. many didn't mind being mothers, but wanted more

5. put together an article project and submitted it

6. no one would accept, "only a neurotic woman would identify with this"

7. finally published and became an instant best seller "mystique"

a. spoke of women living as a function of husband, children

b. giving up own dreams

8. also by end of 50s all magazines referring to women as entrapped - Redbook 60,000 replies

C. This reveals deep dissatisfaction of women with social roles, norms, expectations

D. Feminism emerged in the 60s along with civil rights movement and the anti-war movement

1.leaders of feminist movement from civil rights

movement

a. no leadership roles

b. office work and 1964 Freedom House, cook and make beds while men organized

c. Fannie Lou Hamer, Ruby Doris Smith, Ella Baker

2. mass media portrayed feminists crazed lesbians burning their bras

3. many women who share goals of feminism won't identify with it because of its image

E. Issues

1. housework is not considered work in capitalist system

2. job segregation in subordinate jobs

a. pink collar - looks

b. nurses rather than doctors

3. scientific management

4. the problem of children not considered by employers, take care of it yourself and don't let it interfere with typing

5. abortion became central issue

a. one million a year, ten thousand legal

b. a third mostly poor hospitalized, thousands died

6. rape and violence

7. women's possibilities limited by body

a. young a sexual object

b. bearer of children

c. middle age no longer attractive

d. older women ignored

F. Resistance

1. 1968 Torchlight march to Arlington to bury traditional womanhood

2. 1968 Radical Women protest Miss America and the Freedom Trash Can

3. Community organization

a. Atlanta Vine City

b. thrift shop, nursery, clinic, family suppers

4. National Domestic Workers Union 1968

5. Women's tennis

6. magazines Ms. and newspapers Off Our Backs

7. 1973 Roe v Wade

8. welfare rights, child care centers

9. Susan Brownmiller Against Our Will

F. Changes

1. Laws against discrimination

a. federal hiring

b. govt supported educational programs

2. women included under jurisdiction of Equal Opportunity Employment Act

3. Roe v Wade 1973

4. Affirmative Action

5. Welfare Rights

G. Not one feminism but several: liberal feminism, Marxist feminism, socialist

feminism, radical feminism

1. liberal feminism

a. accept basic social arrangements but

b. equality of opportunity for women

i. equal pay

ii. non-discrimination in hiring

iii. non-discrimination in promotion

c. consideration for childbearing

i. shouldn't lose their job

ii. be deprived of opportunity

d. sexual harassment, demeaning treatment

2. three others have several themes in common

a. inequality goes much deeper in society than just inequality of opportunity in the work place

b. women are a second sex in all social arrangements and most cultural ideologies

c. violence toward women, abuse, sexual assault, and rape are forms of social control

d. society is patriarchal throughout all of its institutions, roles, values, norms, ideas