

· The Second Sex

- Uses Introduction to show the "eternality" of gender inequality
- Uses lots of different women's work throughout to show the sexism present.

· Simone de Beauvoir → born upper-class

- A woman philosopher and a feminist
- Important distinction because some woman philosophers are not feminist
- Note: Hannah Arendt was one well-known woman philosopher who did not identify as a feminist. → Another example is Rosa Luxemburg.

* Doesn't really identify as a philosopher... Possibly because it was so male-dominated

· The Second Sex

- "One is not born, but rather, becomes woman."
- Social Constructivist approach
- Beauvoir was already an established academic when she published The Second Sex.

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Woman as category.

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She wants to be different

But there is hierarchy: one conscious will always attempt to become a Subject and subordinate the Other.
→ "Master/Slave"

Beauvoir: This is not just to individuals; she sees this subordination in the Othering of Women by men.

Background Information

- Sartre and Beauvoir were essentially life partners who lived together for a significant period of time.
- Note that in person, it seems that Sartre was "higher" of the two. A level of second-level to Sartre, which is interesting in light of The Second Sex
- Note that this book was written Post World War II
 - Postwar society as a regressive period which goes back to more traditional roles and values
- Struck by racism in the United States

Existentialism and Phenomenology

- Every person is an individual and has a responsibility (and freedom) to follow their views.

Authenticity means to be consistent for Beauvoir

Situation: People should transcend the situation they are in to live authentically

Hegel → Every consciousness that grows can only do so through reciprocity with others. (Dialectic)

• Mitsein

- Being together as equals.
- Sees a movement towards this equality
- Transcending the Situation

• Happiness and Freedom

- Happiness is not Freedom

• Second Sex

- Book I: Facts and Myth; Book II: Lived Experiences

- Important Ideas

- 'encyclopedic'
- Innate sexual differences vs. situational
- "Otherness" as identity category
- Homogenizing of humanity / human race

• 5 writers she criticizes

- Stendhal $\xrightarrow{\hspace{2cm}}$ Only one she sees as feminist

- Only writer of 5 to see women as Subject instead of Object

- Other 4 writers are Modernists

- All deal with crisis of Modernity. End of Enlightenment rationality

What do we with all of these male writers who are admittedly different, but all project women as others?

- Women Authorship?

- Yes, but Beauvoir is somewhat skeptical of this because so many women who are educated according to patriarchal values.
- Move towards genius, but rarely categorize themselves as such (that is women)
- Protest Literature as hopeful? But sadly exhaustive for women... By the time women get to men's starting place, they are exhausted by the protest it took to get there.