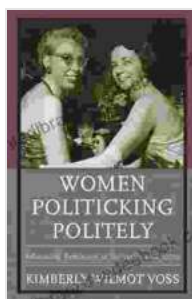


Advancing Feminism in the 1960s and 1970s: Women in American Political History

The 1960s and 1970s witnessed a surge in feminist activism that had a profound impact on American political history. Women mobilized to challenge patriarchal norms, fight for equality, and secure their legal rights. Their efforts resulted in groundbreaking laws and policies that reshaped the social and political landscape.



Women Politicking Politely: Advancing Feminism in the 1960s and 1970s (Women in American Political History)

by Kimberly Wilmot Voss

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 2454 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled

Print length : 171 pages

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The Rise of Second-Wave Feminism

The second wave of feminism emerged in the 1960s as part of a broader era of social and political upheaval. Women were inspired by the civil rights and anti-war movements, recognizing the need for their own liberation. They began to question traditional gender roles, reproductive rights, and economic inequality.

One of the key catalysts for second-wave feminism was the publication of Betty Friedan's book *The Feminine Mystique* (1963). Friedan argued that American women were being forced into a narrow and oppressive ideal of domesticity that stifled their potential and aspirations.

Landmark Legislation and Policy Changes

The feminist movement of the 1960s and 1970s achieved significant legislative and policy victories that advanced women's rights. These included:

- **Civil Rights Act of 1964:** Prohibited sex discrimination in employment, education, and public accommodations.
- **Equal Pay Act of 1963:** Required employers to pay men and women equal wages for equal work.
- **Voting Rights Act of 1965:** Eliminated barriers to voting for women and minorities.
- **Equal Rights Amendment (ERA):** Proposed an amendment to the Constitution guaranteeing equal rights for women.

Although the ERA was not ultimately ratified, it became a powerful symbol of the movement's goals. Other important policy changes included the establishment of Title IX, which prohibited sex discrimination in education, and the legalization of abortion in *Roe v. Wade* (1973).

Women's Activism and Mobilization

The feminist movement was driven by grassroots activism and the mobilization of women from diverse backgrounds. Key organizations

included the National Organization for Women (NOW), the Women's Action Alliance, and the National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL).

Women organized protests, rallies, and marches to raise awareness about their demands. They also engaged in lobbying, electoral politics, and legal challenges to bring about change.

Challenges and Opposition

The feminist movement did not occur without challenges and opposition. Conservative groups and traditionalists argued that feminism undermined gender roles and family values. Some politicians and religious leaders worked to block feminist legislation.

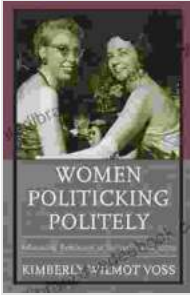
Women of color faced additional barriers, as they were often excluded from mainstream feminist organizations and their concerns were marginalized.

Legacy and Impact

The feminist movement of the 1960s and 1970s had a lasting impact on American political history. It transformed the legal framework for women's rights, expanded their opportunities in education and employment, and raised awareness about gender inequality.

Today, the legacy of the movement continues to inspire women's rights activists and shape feminist discourse. The advancements made during this era have laid the foundation for ongoing efforts to achieve full equality and justice for women.

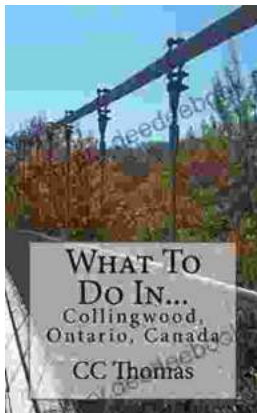
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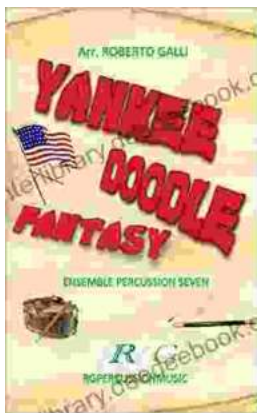
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