

Women Struggle for Equality



SS.912.A.7.3 Examine the changing status of women in the United States from post-World War II to present.

Vocabulary Builder: **stereotype** (STER e o TYP) *n.* an oversimplified image of a person or group

Shortly after World War I, women gained the right to vote. This has been called the first wave of feminism. The second wave of feminism occurred in the decades following World War II.

Post World War II

Immediately following World War II, women retreated from the workforce as discharged veterans returned to civilian jobs. Many women married and became involved in raising families. Suburbs were growing, and the baby boom was underway.

1960s and 1970s

As civil rights activism moved into the 1960s, women who were active in civil rights movements began to discover that even among civil rights groups, they were often treated as second-class citizens. At the same time, many women were moving into the workforce. There was growing rebellion against the **stereotype** of a woman's role being limited to only that of a suburban housewife. Women's rights advocates received a boost in 1964 with the passage of the Civil Rights Act. Title VII of that act outlawed discrimination on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, and national origin. It also set up the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) to enforce the act.

The National Organization for Women (NOW) was founded in 1966 to demand equal rights for women in the workplace, schools, and the justice system. NOW was also active in the fight for legalizing abortion. The first goal was partially realized in the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). However, after being ratified by several states, ratification of the ERA slowed until, in 1982, the potential amendment died because it was ratified in fewer than the necessary 38 states. NOW was more successful in pursuing abortion rights. In 1973, the Supreme Court struck down state laws banning abortion. This was the landmark Supreme Court case *Roe v. Wade*.

Present

Today, more women are in the workforce than ever before. Both married and single women are active in careers, many in careers which were in the past closed to women. Professions such as law and medicine, which once employed few women, now have many women in their ranks. However, women still tend to have lower paying jobs. This could be partly because women often carry a dual role as homemaker and career woman. Studies have also suggested that, even today, there is a limit to the professional level to which women are allowed to climb. This has been called a "glass ceiling."

Unfortunately, in spite of the fact that more women are in the workforce, more women are also living in poverty. These are frequently single mothers who bear the cost of caring for their children and the responsibility of working to provide for all the household expenses.

Check for Understanding In what ways have women gained rights since World War II?

Foreign and Domestic Policy in the 1960s

FL SS.912.A.7.4 Evaluate the success of 1960s era presidents' foreign and domestic policies.

Vocabulary Builder: *stimulate* (STYM u late) *v.* to encourage something so that it will begin, increase, or develop

Presidents Kennedy, Johnson, and Nixon all had important decisions to make during their terms as president. During Kennedy's presidency, the Cold War became a serious threat, with Russia's race to advance their nuclear arsenal. He also was in office during the Cuban Missile Crisis, a time when nuclear war with the Soviet Union was a realistic threat. President Johnson was in office during the height of the Vietnam War, as American soldiers resisted the spread of communism in the Far East and many American citizens strongly opposed the war at home. Richard Nixon tried to reshape the way the United States approached the world and communism. Nixon reached out to both China and Russia in an effort to ease tensions through resolution and agreement, not war.

PRESIDENT	DOMESTIC POLICY	FOREIGN POLICY
John F. Kennedy (1960-1963)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deficit Spending to <u>stimulate</u> the economy The Equal Pay Act (1963) New Frontier: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve economy Improve education Improve healthcare Extend Civil Rights 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cuba (Bay of Pigs and Cuban Missile Crisis) Military buildup, flexible response in military Peace Corps (Americans volunteered around the world) Alliance for Progress (unsuccessfully promoted economic assistance to Latin America) Military support for South Vietnam
Lyndon B. Johnson (1963-1969)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Great Society (included support for education and arts) Equal Opportunity Act (War on Poverty, 1964) Civil Rights Act of 1964 (outlawed discrimination in the workplace) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gulf of Tonkin incident used to greatly increase U.S. involvement in Vietnam
Richard M. Nixon (1969-1974)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Federalism (return power to the states) Environmental laws (EPA, Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act) Civil rights and affirmative action 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vietnam (expanded war to Cambodia, saw U.S. withdrawal from South Vietnam) Soviet Union (Détente, SALT I) China (Recognizes People's Republic of China, begins separating China from Soviet Union)

Check for Understanding How did the foreign policy of Richard Nixon change the Cold War?

Social Movements of the 1960s and 1970s

FL SS.912.A.7.9 Examine the similarities of social movements (Native Americans, Hispanics, women, anti-war protesters) of the 1960s and 1970s.

Vocabulary Builder: **activism** (ak tiv izm) *n.* vigorous and sometimes aggressive action in pursuit of a goal; **militant** (myl a tent) *adj.* activist, particularly in a confrontational manner

As the various social movements developed during the 1960s and 1970s, there were similarities in both method and makeup among different groups.

Age

One outstanding similarity between the various social movements was the energy and **activism** provided by youth, particularly college students. This time period is often remembered for the student activism and militancy as college campuses saw both nonviolent protests and riots. Groups like Students Nonviolent Coordinating Council (SNCC) tapped college students as volunteers during the Freedom Summer. Primarily white college students spent their summer in Mississippi assisting poor African Americans register to vote. Students were also involved in sit-ins and boycotts to protest segregation in the South.

The group Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) was a more **militant** youth organization that banded together with demands to end the war in Vietnam. In April, 1965, they held their first March on Washington as a protest against the war. Campuses across the nation began to be sites for activism as student groups protested against ROTC and military research on campus, non-relevant classes, pollution, and other popular causes. The more militant social organizations in all the civil rights causes tended to be comprised of young people. The Chicano movement and MAYO (Mexican American Youth Organization) found strength in youth. MAYO staged school walkouts and mass demonstrations. The Brown Berets, which also began as a youth organization, was probably the most militant of the Hispanic American social movements.

Methods

Social movements usually began with nonviolent methods, but in many groups these were seen as the tactics used by the older generation. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., successfully used boycotts and sit-ins to highlight the social inequities in the South. Women's groups, Native American, and Hispanic American groups all used these methods. Other nonviolent methods included lawsuits, rallies, and marches—particularly marches on Washington, D.C. Media coverage was used by the various groups to spread their message across the continent.

Racial or Ethnic Pride

"Power" was the key word in many of the social movements of the 1960s and 1970s. Native Americans developed and used the term Red Power to celebrate their unique cultural identity and to encourage a sense of unity among the various Native American nations. Brown Power stirred ethnic pride among Hispanic Americans, particularly Mexican Americans. Black Power, according to Stokely Carmichael, reminded African Americans to use their collective power to work together for equality. Even the anti-war movement had its Flower Power, a term to indicate the choice of peace over war.

Check for Understanding In what way was age a factor in the social movements of the 1960s and 1970s?

New Deal and Great Society Programs

FL SS.912.A.7.13 Analyze the attempts to extend New Deal legislation through the Great Society and the successes and failures of these programs to promote social and economic stability.

Vocabulary Builder: extend (x TEND) v. increase the size of something

President Truman Fair Deal	President Truman proposed his Fair Deal to strengthen existing New Deal reforms and to provide new programs. Unfortunately, Truman had to work with a hostile Congress, which refused most of his proposals. He did establish a special committee on civil rights to investigate race relations. He also desegregated the military. The Taft-Hartley Act, which struck at New Deal reforms by outlawing the closed shop, was passed, but Truman's veto of this bill was over-ridden by Congress.
President Eisenhower	President Eisenhower did not repeal any of the New Deal programs and in fact increased federal spending in many areas. He carried on Social Security and the minimum wage while providing federal funding for projects such as the interstate highway system and public education, particularly in the sciences.
President Kennedy New Frontier	President Kennedy carried on New Deal legislation and improved on some parts of it. He continued Social Security benefits, increased the minimum wage, and improved the welfare system. The Equal Pay Act of 1963 was passed under his administration. He also inaugurated the space program.
President Johnson Great Society	<p>President Johnson did more than any other president to <u>extend</u> New Deal legislation. The goal of his War on Poverty was to end poverty and injustice for every child. His Great Society program included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 created VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America), a program for volunteers to help in poor communities and Job Corps (provided work-training for unemployed young people) • Education programs for poor included Head Start Program (helped prepare underprivileged children for school) • National Endowment for the Arts and Humanities provided public funding that was used for such projects as National Public Radio and Public Broadcasting • Social Security amendments established health care for the needy through Medicare (for retired Americans) and Medicaid (for poor) • Clean air and vehicle safety legislation • Scholarships and low-interest loans for college students • Civil Rights Act (outlawed discrimination in housing, employment, etc.) • Omnibus Housing Act (housing for low-income Americans) • Voting Rights Act (ended literacy tests and provided for federal supervision of voter registration)

Check for Understanding How did President Johnson extend Social Security to meet health care needs?