

Political Ideologies

Theory & History

Feminism

- The basis of feminism is gender inequality
- “Women are disadvantaged because of their sex” (how things are)
- “This disadvantage can and should be overthrown” (how things should be)

Feminism

- **Patriarchy:** “Literally, rule by the father; often used more generally to describe the dominance of men and subordination of women in society at large.”

First-wave feminism (1850s-~1950s)

- Sexual equality in the areas of political and legal rights
- Equal chance to find a job
- Equal opportunities
- Equal pay (new)
- Suffrage rights (voting rights, universal suffrage)
- Quotas

First-wave feminism (1850s-~1950s)

- **Mary Wollstonecraft** – *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (1792)
- “wives are not the property of their husbands”
- the role of women in education

Second-wave feminism (~1960s & 1970s)

- 1968 social movements – the sexual revolution
- women's liberation rather than political rights
- Critique of patriarchy
- Greater sexual freedom

Second-wave feminism (~1960s & 1970s)

- The difference between sex and gender
- Sex (biological difference)
- Gender (social and cultural distinction between male and female)
- Sex (nature) – Gender (nurture/culture)
- **Simone de Beauvoir** – *The Second Sex* (1949)
- “Women are made, they are not born”

Second-wave feminism (~1960s & 1970s)

- Public sphere (politics, education, careers, art, literature)
- Private sphere (family, caring, child-rearing, domestic work)
- Politicization of the private realm
- “personal is political”
- **Betty Friedan** – *The Feminine Mystique* (1963), “the problem with no name”

Second-wave feminism (~1960s & 1970s)

- **Ann Oakley** - *The Sociology of Housework* (1974), family, socialization
- “brave boy, pretty girl”
- **Dale Spender** – *Man Made Language* (1980), language
- **Kate Millett** - *Sexual Politics* (1970), a genderless, androgynous persona
- A woman like **Margaret Thatcher** (former prime minister of the UK) does not help, “behaves like men”

Third-wave feminism (~1990s)

- Facilitate a wide spectrum of choice and ensure equality of opportunity
- Different ways to be a woman and feminine are acknowledged
- Differences rather than “sisterhood” are emphasized
- The restrictive and policing attitude of the second-wave feminism is dismissed
- Pro-woman feminism, difference feminism
- **Naomi Wolf** – *The Beauty Myth* (1991)

Three Versions of Feminism

- Liberal Feminism (political and individual rights, individual choice)
- Socialist Feminism (socialist revolution, social inequality)
- Radical feminism (empowerment, “personal is political”, genderless persona)

Feminist Lexicon

- **Empowerment** – when an individual or social group gains a greater influence over their own lives and society as a whole
- **Glass ceiling** – a term used to describe those barriers which face women and ethnic minorities aiming for promotion in the workplace
- **Misogyny** – a prejudicial hatred of women

Liberal Feminism vs. Radical Feminism

- female emancipation
- gender inequality
- individualism
- conventional politics
- access to public realm
- equal rights & opportunities
- reform / gradualism
- political activism

- women's liberation
- patriarchy
- sisterhood
- "the personal is political"
- gender equality
- sexual politics
- revolutionary change
- consciousness raising

New feminism, postfeminism, feminism in a global age

- 1. Sex / Gender division
- Gender depends on culture, interest, intention, feeling...
- Queer theory, LGBT communities, trans identities etc.

- 2. Sex / Gender division
- Even sex is not that biological (rites of passage, interventions on our bodies)
- Sex is determined on what grounds exactly; genital organs, hormones, genes)? In some cases may be hard to determine.

Feminism (advanced problems)

- Differences among feminists about how to approach:
 - cultural issues
 - religion
 - lifestyles
 - femininity
 - pornography
 - prostitution

Feminism

- **Andrew Heywood**, *Political Ideologies: An Introduction*. London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012, 5th edition or above.
- **Kevin Bloor**, *The Definitive Guide to Political Ideologies*. Milton Keynes: Author House, 2010.
- **BBC Documentary**, *People's Century: "Half the People"*

Links

- www.keremblog.info
- *avesis account:* <https://avesis.yildiz.edu.tr/keremkar>
- *departmental website:* www.itb.yildiz.edu.tr