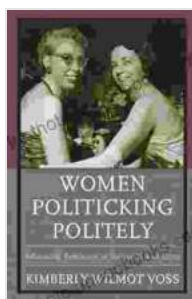


# Advancing Feminism in the 1960s and 1970s: Women in American Political History

The 1960s and 1970s witnessed a surge in feminist activism and political engagement that profoundly reshaped American society. This book delves into the transformative era, shedding light on the courageous women who fought for equality and justice.



## 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



## The Seeds of Activism

The seeds of the feminist movement were sown in the post-World War II era. Women had made significant contributions to the war effort, but their return to domestic life was met with limited opportunities and unequal treatment. Growing awareness of the systemic barriers women faced fueled the rise of consciousness-raising groups and grassroots organizations.

Key figures such as Betty Friedan and Gloria Steinem played pivotal roles in galvanizing the movement. Friedan's groundbreaking book, "The Feminine Mystique," exposed the frustration and isolation of suburban housewives, while Steinem's writings raised awareness about gender discrimination and reproductive rights.

## **Landmark Legislation**

The 1960s and 1970s saw the passage of landmark legislation that advanced the cause of women's rights. The Equal Pay Act of 1963 prohibited employers from discriminating based on sex in terms of wages. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 included provisions that addressed sex discrimination in employment and education.

The most significant victory came in 1973 with the Supreme Court's decision in *Roe v. Wade*. This groundbreaking ruling legalized abortion, giving women the right to control their own bodies and reproductive choices.

## **Political Engagement**

Women's activism extended beyond legislation into the political arena. The National Organization for Women (NOW) became a powerful force for change, advocating for equal rights and opportunities. Women also began to run for political office in unprecedented numbers.

In 1972, Shirley Chisholm became the first African American woman elected to Congress. She was joined by a growing number of female legislators who brought a diverse range of perspectives and experiences to policy-making.

## **Challenges and Backlash**

The progress made in the 1960s and 1970s was met with resistance and backlash. Traditional gender roles and conservative values persisted in many sectors of society. Women faced continued discrimination in the workplace, harassment, and violence.

Anti-feminist groups emerged, seeking to roll back the gains made by women. They opposed abortion rights, reproductive freedom, and equal opportunities.

## **Enduring Legacy**

Despite the challenges, the women's movement of the 1960s and 1970s left an enduring legacy. It transformed attitudes towards women, shattered traditional barriers, and laid the foundation for continued progress towards gender equality.

The women who fought for equality during this era continue to inspire future generations. Their courage, determination, and tireless efforts have created a more just and equitable society for all.

This book is an essential read for anyone interested in the history of feminism, women's political activism, and the American civil rights movement. It provides a comprehensive account of a transformative era that shaped the course of women's rights and made a lasting impact on American society.

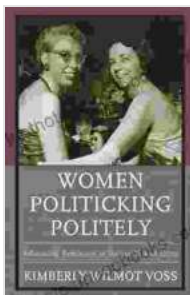
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## A Brief Timeline of Women in American Politics

☆☆☆☆☆

-  **1848** The first women's rights convention takes place in Seneca Falls
-  **1916** Jeannette Rankin is the first woman elected to Congress
-  **1920** Women gain the right to vote through the 19th Amendment
-  **1968** Shirley Chisholm is the first African American woman elected to Congress
-  **1981** Sandra Day O'Connor is the first woman to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court
-  **2021** Kamala Harris is the first woman, Indian American, and African American to serve as vice president

Sources: History Channel, ShareAmerica



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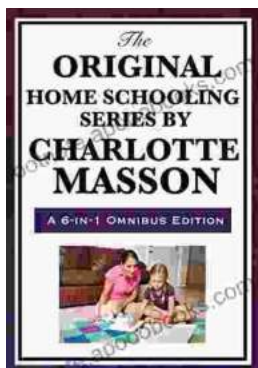
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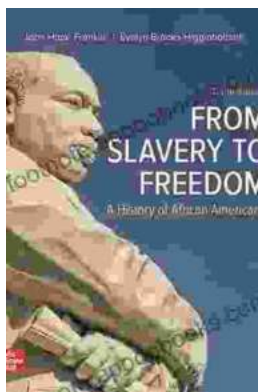
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