

# Chronology

## *A Framework for the Study of European Feminisms*

- 1622 *De l'Égalité des hommes et des femmes* by Marie Le Jars de Gournay
- 1648 Treaty of Westphalia ends the Thirty Years War
- 1673 *De l'Égalité des deux sexes* by François Poullain de la Barre offers proposition that "the mind has no sex"
- 1686 Founding of the Maison Royale de Saint Louis at Saint-Cyr, a secular school for noble daughters, by Madame de Maintenon, morganatic wife of Louis XIV
- 1687 *De l'Éducation des filles* by François de Salignac de la Mothe-Fénelon argues that girls should be formed to be competent wives and mothers, not *bels esprits* or bluestockings; women half the human race
- 1694 *Serious Proposal to the Ladies* by Mary Astell advocates a women's university and women's communities for those who prefer not to marry
- 1721 Montesquieu publishes his *Lettres persanes*
- 1732 Laura Bassi receives doctoral degree in philosophy, University of Bologna
- 1739 *Woman Not Inferior to Man* by "Sophia, a Person of Quality"  
*La Defensa de las mujeres* by Benito Feijóo (Spain)
- 1742 Dorothea Christine Leporin Erxleben argues for women's right to university study
- 1745 Madame de Pompadour presented at court as the official mistress of Louis XV
- 1748 Montesquieu's *L'Esprit des lois* discusses women's position under three forms of government
- 1756 In *L'Encyclopédie*, vol. 6, Jaucourt raises the possibility that the subordination of wives to husbands in marriage is a social construction
- 1758 Exchange between Jean le Rond d'Alembert and Jean-Jacques  
-59 Rousseau over women's emancipation  
*Female Rights Vindicated* by "A Lady"
- 1761 Publication of Rousseau's *Julie* and *Émile*
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- Founding of *Le Journal des dames* by Madame de Beaumer  
From Sweden Charlotta Nordenflycht replies to Rousseau
- 1763 England defeats France in the Seven Years War
- 1772 *Essai sur le caractère, les mœurs, et l'esprit des femmes* by Antoine-Léonard Thomas
- 1770 Essay competitions concerning women's education in the French academies; polemics on the woman question by the *philosophes*; tracts by physicians on women's specific physiology and health issues
- 1776 American Declaration of Independence
- 1777 *Les Gynographes* by Restif de La Bretonne, an antifeminist tract proposing that women should not even be taught to read or write
- 1782 *Sarah Burgerhart*, novel by Betje Wolff and Aagje Deken
- 1787 Condorcet's *Lettres d'un bourgeois de New Haven à un citoyen de Virginie* advocates women's vote  
*Mémoire pour le sexe féminin contre le sexe masculin* by Madame de Coicy
- 1789 Beginning of the French Revolution; publication of women's *cahiers*; women's march on Versailles (5–6 Oct.)
- 1790 Publication of Condorcet's *Sur l'Admission des femmes au droit de cité*  
Josefa Amar y Borbón, *Discurso sobre la educación física y moral de las mugeres*
- 1791 Promulgation of the first French Constitution  
Publication of Olympe de Gouges's *Déclaration des droits de la femme*; Talleyrand's report on public instruction  
Enactment of equal inheritance for daughters; full civil (property) rights for unmarried French women
- 1792 Publication of Mary Wollstonecraft's *Vindication of the Rights of Woman* and Theodor Gottlieb von Hippel's *Über die bürgerliche Verbesserung der Weiber*; in Paris, Pauline Léon demands the right for women to bear arms
- 1793 The National Assembly votes for the execution of the French king; Prudhomme clashes with the presidents of the provincial women's clubs; Pierre Guyomar defends political equality between individuals, expressly including women; the Parisian Society of Revolutionary Republican Women campaigns for strict economic controls; Charlotte Corday assassinates Marat; the Committee of Public Safety shuts down the women's clubs; Olympe de Gouges, Manon Roland, Queen Marie Antoinette all guillotined
- 1794 French army under Napoleon "liberates" Italian states; petitions for women's rights in the new Italian republics; Dutch tracts on women's rights; Fichte publishes *The Science of Rights*; German scholars debate the difference between the sexes; English politicians ridicule demands for women's political rights
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- 1800 Napoleon becomes First Consul, then Emperor; promulgation of the  
 –1804 French Civil Code; introduction of state-regulated prostitution
- 1807 Germaine de Staël publishes *Corinne*; Napoleon establishes schools  
 for daughters of the Legion of Honor
- 1805 French military campaigns throughout Europe; women in the Ger-  
 –15 man states organize patriotic societies to resist the French
- 1808 *Théorie des quatre mouvements* by Charles Fourier
- 1815 Congress of Vienna; abolition of slave trade; restoration of monar-  
 chies
- 1820s Severe restrictions on freedom of the press and association through-  
 out Europe; publication of many tracts on women's education;  
 Greek Revolution
- 1825 Publication of *Appeal of One Half the Human Race Against the Pre-  
 tensions of the Other Half—Men—to Retain Them in Political  
 and Thence in Civil and Domestic Slavery* by William  
 Thompson and Anna Doyle Wheeler
- 1830 New Revolution in Paris; independence for Belgium; Polish Revolu-  
 tion
- 1831 The Saint-Simonians launch their appeal, advocating rehabilitation  
 of the flesh
- 1832 *La Femme libre* published by Suzanne Voilquin et al.  
 Publication of George Sand's novel *Indiana*  
 British Reform Act explicitly excludes women from suffrage
- 1833 Eugénie Niboyet founds the *Conseiller des femmes* (Lyon)
- 1834 Publication of Louis-Aimé Martin's *De l'éducation des mères de  
 famille*; controversy over women's work and labor reform in *The  
 Pioneer*; massacre of workers in Lyon
- 1836 *La Gazette des femmes* published by Madeleine Poutret de  
 Mauchamps  
 Publication of Parent-Duchâtelet's *De la Prostitution à Paris*
- 1837 Campaign to reform the position of women in Judaism  
 –1840s
- 1838 Publication of Caroline Norton's protest on custody of infants
- 1839 Publication of Carl Almqvist's novel *Det Går An* (in English, Sara  
 Videbeck)
- 1841 *Voyage en Icarie* by Étienne Cabet (communist community as a  
 paradise for women, where everyone will marry)
- 1843 Publication of Marion Reid's *A Plea for Women* (Edinburgh)  
 Publication of Flora Tristan's *L'Union ouvrière*
- 1846 Proudhon gives women two choices, "Housewife or Harlot"
- 1847 Publication of *Jane Eyre: An Autobiography* by Charlotte Brontë  
 under a male pseudonym; Tennyson's *The Princess*
- 1848 Revolutions in Paris, Berlin, Vienna, etc. (March)  
 The French Provisional Government establishes universal manhood  
 suffrage, abolishes black slavery in the colonies, sponsors Le-  
 gouvé's lectures on women's history at the Collège de France

- Parisian women demand to know why women have been  
“forgotten” politically; founding of women’s clubs, women’s  
press, *La Voix des femmes*; demands for rights, including the vote  
and representation
- Publication of Auguste Comte’s *Système de politique positive*,  
where he argues that “man should provide for woman” and des-  
ignates women as priestesses for the religion of humanity
- Seneca Falls Women’s Rights Convention (U.S., mid-July)
- Closing of the Parisian women’s clubs (late July)
- Debates on the woman question in German-language press;  
women’s clubs in Vienna, Berlin, etc.
- 1849 Jeanne Deroin founds *L’Opinion des femmes*, declares her candidacy  
for office; polemic with Proudhon
- Louise Otto founds the *Frauenzeitung* (Meissen)
- Papal encyclical *Ubi Primum* proposes the elevation of the Virgin  
Mary to rally female support for the Catholic Church; response by  
Johannes Ronge of the progressive German Catholic sect
- 1850 Repression in Paris, Prussia; new laws against association, publish-  
ing
- 1851 Deroin and Roland address their letter from prison to the women of  
America; Harriet Taylor Mill’s article in the *Westminster Review*
- 1852 Jeanne Deroin publishes the *Almanach des femmes* with articles  
-54 in French and English
- 1854 Papal promulgation of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception of  
Mary
- Barbara Leigh Smith protests the legal position of married women in  
England
- 1854 Publication of Camilla Collett’s novel *Amtmadens dötter* in  
-55 Christiania (Oslo)
- Publication of Fredrika Bremer’s novel *Hertha* in Stockholm
- 1856 Women’s Petition to Parliament (London)
- 1856 Jenny P. d’Héricourt takes on P. J. Proudhon  
-57
- 1858 Publication of Proudhon’s *De la Justice*
- Publication of Juliette Lamber’s *Idées anti-proudhoniennes*
- British Parliament restricts medical profession to holders of British  
degrees in response to Elizabeth Blackwell’s registration as a phy-  
sician, with an American degree and a French internship
- 1859 Russian women admitted to university lectures
- 1859 Publication of Jules Michelet’s *L’Amour* and *La Femme*  
-60
- Publication of Jenny P. d’Héricourt’s *La Femme affranchie*
- 1860 Civil War in the United States; abolition of slavery (1864–65)  
-65
- Abolition of serfdom in Russia
- 1860 Mikhailov and Chernyshevsky address the woman question in  
-63 *Sovremennik*

- 1861 Publication of Maine's *Ancient Law* and Bachofen's *Das Mutterrecht*  
 Unification of Italy; codification of laws begins  
 Julie-Victoire Daubié becomes the first woman to earn the French baccalaureate  
 Jules Simon denounces the "working woman" in *L'Ouvrière*
- 1862 Swedish women taxpayers granted the municipal vote
- 1864 The University of Zurich opens its medical school to women auditors
- 1865 Founding of the Allgemeiner Deutscher Frauenverein (Association of German Women) by Louise Otto  
 Founding of the American Ladies' Club in Prague by V. Fingerhut-Náperstek
- 1866 Massive women's suffrage petition in England  
 Publication of Julie-Victoire Daubié's *La Femme pauvre*
- 1866 Debates on women's work in the International Working Men's Association (Geneva, Lausanne)  
 Passage of Contagious Disease Acts (1866, 1867) in England
- 1867 The British House of Commons debates John Stuart Mill's woman suffrage amendment to Second Reform Act  
 University of Zurich grants first medical degree to a woman  
 Constitution of the Austrian-Hungarian "Dual Monarchy"
- 1867 Secularists and Catholics battle over lecture courses for girls in Paris
- 1868 Emily Davies argues that English girls must pass the same university entrance examinations as boys do  
 Paule Mink and others defend women's right to work in Paris  
 Marie Goegg founds the Association Internationale des Femmes  
 Empress Eugénie opens the Paris Faculty of Medicine to women
- 1869 Publication of John Stuart Mill's *The Subjection of Women*  
 Single women granted municipal vote in England
- 1869 Debates over women's physical and mental suitability for higher education  
 Founding of Girton College and Newnham College at Cambridge; Sophia Jex-Blake and friends obtain permission to study medicine at Edinburgh University
- 1870 Franco-Prussian War; Paris Commune; unification of Germany;  
 -71 French establish Provisional Government that leads (1875) to the Third Republic; reestablishment of the Association Internationale des Femmes
- 1871 Founding of Dansk Kvindesamfund (Danish Women's Association)  
 The German Constitution of 1871 establishes universal manhood suffrage for election of Reichstag delegates; abortion criminalized in the German Penal Code
- 1872 Russia establishes medical courses exclusively for women, in St. Petersburg (closed again in 1887)

- Founding of *Solidarité* in Switzerland
- 1874 Josephine Butler and associates launch crusade against regulated prostitution on the Continent, especially against the French system
- 1876 British Parliament amends the Medical Act, removing restrictions based on sexual difference
- 1877 Founding of the British and Continental Federation for the Abolition of Prostitution, Geneva
- 1878 First International Congress on Women's Rights, Paris  
Hubertine Auclert challenges the omission of woman suffrage from the International Congress agenda  
Russia opens first women's university; Université de Neufchatel opened to women
- 1879 Publication of August Bebel's *Die Frau in der Vergangenheit, Gegenwart und Zukunft*  
Hubertine Auclert challenges the French worker's congress to support women's rights
- 1880 First production in Copenhagen of Henrik Ibsen's play *Et Dukkehjem* (A Doll's House, published 1879)  
France establishes free and obligatory primary education for both sexes, and separate state secondary schools for girls
- 1881 Founding in Milan of the Liga Promotrice degli Interessi Femminile by Anna Maria Mozzoni
- 1883 Repeal of the British Contagious Disease Acts  
Publication of Olive Schreiner's *The Story of an African Farm*
- 1884 Publication of Theodore Stanton's *The Woman Question in Europe*  
Publication of Friedrich Engels's *Der Ursprung der Familie, des Privateigentums und des Staats*  
Founding of Finsk Kvinnoförening, Norsk Kvindesagsforening, Fredrike-Bremer Førbundet (Sweden)  
Transfer of regulation of prostitution from Paris municipal officials to French Ministry of the Interior
- 1887 Publication in Paris of Marie Bashkirtseff's *Journal*
- 1888 Founding of the International Council of Women (ICW) by the NWSA, in Washington, D.C.
- 1889 Centennial of the French Revolution; international expositions in Paris; two international women's congresses held in Paris  
Founding of Second International Working Men's Association  
Bertha von Suttner publishes *Die Waffen nieder* (Lay Down Your Arms)
- 1890 International congress on limitation of women's employment convened by the German government  
Viennese women lose their municipal vote
- 1891 Founding of the Fédération Abolitionniste Internationale
- 1891 Papal encyclical *Rerum Novarum*
- 1892 First self-proclaimed "feminist" women's congress in Paris (May)

- 1893 Founding of the Allgemeiner Österreichischer Frauenverein (General Austrian Women's Association)
- 1894 Founding of the Bund Deutscher Frauenvereine
- 1895 German Social Democratic women denounce "bourgeois feminism"
- 1896 Ellen Key asserts importance of motherhood, rather than paid labor, and calls for state subsidies for mothers; second feminist congress in Paris; Marie Maugeret founds Christian feminism, Paris; international congress in Berlin; feminists launch protests against new German Civil Code
- 1897 First congress of "Czechoslavic" women, Prague; founding of Ústřední Spolek Českých žen (Central Association of Czech Women); international feminist congress in Belgium; founding of *La Fronde*, Paris; founding of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies (NUWSS), England; women admitted to study at the University of Vienna
- 1899 Women's petition (a million signatures) addressed to the Hague Peace Conference
- 1899 Huge ICW Congress in London; two international feminist congresses in Paris
- 1900 Marie Maugeret founds Fédération Jeanne d'Arc (Catholic feminists)
- 1901 Norwegian women taxpayers obtain municipal vote and right of election; first suffrage proposal introduced in French Chamber of Deputies
- 1902 Belgian Workers Party betrays its support for woman suffrage International Woman Suffrage Alliance (IWSA) founded in Washington, D.C.
- 1903 Founding of the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) in Manchester
- 1904 Founding of the IWSA conference in Berlin International agreement on the suppression of white slave trade Bertha Pappenheim founds the Jüdischer Frauenbund Ellen Key publishes the first volume of her *Lifslinjer* (Lifelines) Feminist protests in Paris and Vienna against the Civil Codes of France and Austria
- 1905 Founding of Soiuz Ravnopravnosti Zhenshchin (Union for Equal Rights for Women), Moscow Rosa Mayreder publishes *Zur Kritik der Weiblichkeit*
- 1906 Women (and men) accorded the national vote in Finland Russian Duma debates woman suffrage Sibilla Aleramo publishes *Una donna*
- 1907 Women's Section of the Second International Workingmen's Association endorses unrestricted woman suffrage as a socialist goal
- 1908 All-Russian Congress of Women, St. Petersburg Prohibitions lifted on German women's participation in public life
- 1909 Kollontai publishes *Sotsial'nye osnovy zhenskogo voprosa* (The Social Basis of the Woman Question)

- Founding of the Union Française pour le Suffrage des Femmes  
 1910 Socialist women endorse International Women's Day  
 International convention to end the white slave trade  
 Founding of the Liga Republicana das Mulheres Portuguesas  
 (Republican League of Portuguese Women)  
 1911 Norwegians elect a woman to the Storting (Parliament)  
 1912 Parliamentary defeat of the Third Conciliation Bill (electoral re-  
 form), Great Britain  
 Czechs elect a woman to the Bohemian Diet  
 1913 Norwegian women obtain full parliamentary suffrage  
 IWSA meets in Budapest; abolitionist meetings in Paris & London;  
 "Cat and Mouse" Act; English suffragette throws herself in front  
 of the king's horse (June 4)  
 1914 Publication of Abraham Flexner's *Prostitution in Europe*  
 Suffrage campaign peaks in France (spring & early summer)  
 ICW meets in Rome; IWSA sponsors massive suffrage rally in Rome  
 (May)  
 Serbian conspirator assassinates the heir to the Austro-Hungarian  
 throne in Sarajevo  
 1914 World War I (August 1914–November 1918)  
 –18  
 1914 IWSA Manifesto, calling for arbitration  
 1915 International Congress of Women at The Hague; International  
 Women's League for Peace founded (becomes WILPF in 1919);  
 Danish women enfranchised  
 1916 Easter Uprising, Dublin  
 1917 Outbreak of the Russian Revolution (Feb.)  
 Bolsheviks seize power and confirm women's equality (Oct.)  
 1918 British women above age 30 granted the vote, along with all remain-  
 ing unenfranchised men  
 All-Russian Congress of Women (Nov.)  
 Maternity and Child Welfare Act, Great Britain  
 Founding of National Association of Spanish Women (ANME)  
 1917 Women granted the vote (in various forms) in the Netherlands, Rus-  
 –19 sia, United Kingdom, Germany, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Poland,  
 but not in France, Italy, Spain, Greece, Romania, or Bulgaria  
 1919 Pro-suffrage Allied women meet in Paris to influence Treaty of Ver-  
 sailles  
 Founding of the League of Nations and the International Labour Or-  
 ganization (ILO)  
 Founding of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom  
 (WILPF), Zurich  
 ILO Conference on Women's Work, Washington, D.C.  
 First International Congress of Working Women  
 1920 Russian revolutionary government legalizes abortion (Nov.)  
 French pro-natalists proclaim the Rights of the Family



- 1922 Mussolini and Fascists come to power in Italy
- 1924 Publication of Eleanor Rathbone's *The Disinherited Family*  
ICW Conference on the Prevention of the Causes of War
- 1925 Sigmund Freud addresses the woman question; Karen Horney re-  
-26 sponds
- 1926 The Soviet Code on Marriage and Divorce  
IWSA Congress in Paris: schism over protective legislation for women; IWSA becomes International Alliance of Women (IAW)
- 1927 *Report of the Special Body of Experts on Traffic in Women and Children* published by the League of Nations  
Oxford University restricts the number of women students admitted
- 1928 Kellogg-Briand Pact on the outlawry of war  
Radclyffe Hall publishes *The Well of Loneliness*
- 1929 Crash of the stock market; beginning of the Great Depression; as-  
saults begin on women's employment and feminist campaigners mobilize in its defense  
États-Généraux du Féminisme, Paris
- 1930 Papal encyclical *Casti Connubi*
- 1931 Spanish Republic; women get the vote in Spain  
ILO endorses Convention on Equal Pay for Equal Work  
Liaison Committee of Women's International Organizations established
- 1932 Women's massive petition for peace presented to the League of Na-  
tions Disarmament Conference in Geneva
- 1933 Hitler comes to power in Germany, Nazis order dissolution of or-  
ganizations; the Bund Deutscher Frauenvereine dissolves itself in protest
- 1934 Manifesto of the World Congress of Women against War and Fascism  
Winifred Holtby publishes *Women and a Changing Civilization*
- 1935 Mussolini invades Abyssinia (Ethiopia; Oct.)
- 1936 French Popular Front government appoints three women ministers  
Civil War breaks out in Spain; founding of Mujeres Libres
- 1936 Swedish pro-population reforms; Gunnar and Alva Myrdal reconfig-  
-38 ure women as workers who have the right to children
- 1937 Congress of Women's World Committee against War and Fascism,  
Paris  
League of Nations authorizes formation of Committee on the Status of Women  
Constitution of the Irish Republic qualifies women's rights
- 1938 Publication of Virginia Woolf's *Three Guineas*
- 1938 Nazi Germany invades and annexes Austria, then Czechoslovakia
- 1939 Nazi-Soviet Pact; Nazi Germany invades Poland; outbreak of World War II; Nazi Germany defeats France  
IAW meets in Copenhagen  
Publication of *The Law and Women's Work* by the League of Nations

- 1940 Alva Myrdal publishes *Nation and Family* in Sweden
- 1941 Elin Wägner publishes *Väckerklocka* (Alarm Clock)
- 1942 The Beveridge Report (England) lays out a social welfare system in which wives derive benefits exclusively through employment of husbands
- 1944 The New Soviet Family Law promulgated  
Allied offensive against the Axis powers launched in May
- 1945 War ends  
Papal broadcast on "Woman's Dignity"  
French and Italian women vote for first time  
Founding of the United Nations  
Founding of Communist Women's International Democratic Federation (WIDF), Paris
- 1946 Founding of the UN Commission on the Status of Women  
Viola Klein publishes *The Feminine Character: History of an Ideology*
- 1947 The "Cold War" affirmed; the Marshall Plan and the Molotov Plan
- 1948 UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- 1949 Publication of Margaret Mead's *Male and Female*  
Publication of Simone de Beauvoir's *Le Deuxième Sexe* (The Second Sex)  
UN Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others
- 1952 ILO Convention on Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers
- 1953 WIDF raises the women's rights banner in Copenhagen at its World Congress of Women
- 1955 UNESCO publishes Duverger's survey *The Political Role of Women*