

MILESTONES AND KEY FIGURES IN WOMEN'S HISTORY

I LIFE IN COLONIAL AMERICA, 1607-1789

A. ANNE HUTCHINSON

1. Anne Hutchinson challenged Puritan religious authorities in Massachusetts Bay.
2. Puritan authorities banished Anne Hutchinson because she challenged religious doctrine, gender roles, and clerical authority, and she claimed to have had revelations from God.

B. LEGAL STATUS OF COLONIAL WOMEN

1. Women usually lost control of their property when they married.
2. Married women had no separate legal identity apart from their husband.
3. Women could *not* hold political office, serve as clergy, vote, or serve as jurors.
4. Single women and widows did have the legal right to own property.
5. Women serving as indentured servants had to remain unmarried until the period of their indenture was over.

C. THE CHESAPEAKE COLONIES

1. There was a scarcity of women and a high mortality rate among men. This was especially true in the seventeenth century.

2. As a result of the scarcity of women, the status of women in the Chesapeake colonies was higher than that of women in the New England colonies.

II THE EARLY REPUBLIC, 1789-1815

A. ABIGAIL ADAMS

1. Abigail Adams was an early proponent of women's rights.
2. Here is an excerpt from the famous letter she wrote to her husband, John Adams:
"... and by the way in the new code of laws which I suppose it will be necessary for you to make, I desire you would remember the ladies, and be more generous and favorable to them than your ancestors. . . . Remember, men would be tyrants if they could."
3. Abigail Adams's letter demonstrates that some colonial women hoped to benefit from republican ideals of equality and individual rights.



Sadly, John Adams ignored his wife's plea to "remember the ladies." Although ignored by the framers of the Constitution, Abigail's letter has been remembered by APUSH test writers. You should be able to identify the quote and know that some colonial women were committed to republican ideals.

B. THE CULT OF DOMESTICITY/REPUBLICAN MOTHERHOOD

1. The term *cult of domesticity* refers to the idealization of women in their roles as wives and mothers.
2. The term *republican mother* suggested that women would be responsible for rearing their children to be virtuous citizens of the new American republic. By emphasizing family and religious values, women could have a positive moral influence on the American political character.
3. Middle-class Americans viewed the home as a refuge from the world rather than a productive economic unit.
4. Catharine Beecher supported the cult of domesticity. Here is an illustrative quote:

"The mother writes the character of the future man; the sister bends the fibers that hereafter are the forest tree; the wife sways the heart, whose energies may turn for good or evil the destinies of a nation. Let the women of a country be virtuous and intelligent, and the men will certainly be the same."

III WOMEN IN ANTEBELLUM AMERICA, 1815-1860

A. THE LOWELL SYSTEM

1. The Lowell System was a plan developed in the early nineteenth century to promote and expand textile manufacturing.
2. During the first half of the nineteenth century, textile mills in Lowell relied heavily on a labor force of women and children.
3. During the 1820s and 1830s, the majority of workers in the textile mills of Massachusetts were young unmarried women from rural New England who sought to earn money of their own.
4. Prior to the Civil War, Irish immigrants began to replace New England farm girls in the textile mills.

B. THE SENECA FALLS CONVENTION, 1848

1. The Seneca Falls Convention was organized and led by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott.
2. The Seneca Falls Convention called for women's rights in the following areas:
 - ▶ *Suffrage*
 - ▶ *The right to retain property after marriage*
 - ▶ *Equal educational opportunities*
 - ▶ *Divorce and child custody rights*
3. The "Declaration of Sentiments and Resolutions" issued by the Seneca Falls Convention demanded greater rights for women. The declaration's first sentence clearly states this goal: "We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men and women are created equal."

C. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT IN THE ANTEBELLUM PERIOD

1. The movement was led by middle-class women.
2. It promoted a broad-based platform of legal and educational rights.
3. It had close links with the antislavery and temperance movements.
4. It held conventions in the Northeast and Midwest but not in the South.
5. It supported all of the following goals:
 - ▶ *Right of women to vote*
 - ▶ *Abolition of slavery*
 - ▶ *Passage of temperance laws*
 - ▶ *Right of married women to own property*

D. SARAH MOORE GRIMKÉ

1. She was one of the first women to publicly support abolition and women's suffrage.
2. Here is a famous quote by Grimké, advocating women's rights:

"I ask no favors for my sex. I surrender not our claim to equality. All I ask of our brethren is that they will take their feet off our necks."

IV REFORMERS AND SUFFRAGETTES, 1865–1920**A. JANE ADDAMS**

1. Jane Addams is best known for founding Hull House in Chicago. (Note: Jane Addams was NOT an abolitionist.)
2. Hull House and other settlement houses became centers of women's activism and reform efforts to help the urban poor. Settlement house workers engaged in all of the following:
 - ▶ *Teaching classes on cooking and dressmaking*
 - ▶ *Publishing reports on deplorable housing conditions*
 - ▶ *Offering literacy and language classes for immigrants*
 - ▶ *Establishing day nurseries for working mothers*

B. THE FIGHT FOR SUFFRAGE

1. Frontier life tended to promote the acceptance of greater equality for women.
2. The only states with complete women's suffrage before 1900 were located west of the Mississippi. Wyoming (1869) was the first state to grant women the full right to vote.
3. The Nineteenth Amendment (1920) guaranteed women the right to vote.

C. THE WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION (WCTU)

1. Carry Nation was one of the best known and most outspoken leaders of the WCTU.
2. The WCTU successfully convinced many women that they had a moral responsibility to improve society by working for prohibition.

D. WOMEN AND THE PROGRESSIVE REFORMS

1. Dorothea Dix worked tirelessly on behalf of the mentally ill.
2. Ida B. Wells-Barnett was an African American civil rights advocate and an early women's rights advocate. She is noted for her opposition to lynching.
3. Women reformers were also actively involved in the following Progressive Era reforms:
 - ▶ *Passage of child labor legislation at the state level*
 - ▶ *Campaigns to limit the working hours of women and children*

E. WOMEN AND THE WORKPLACE

1. During the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the majority of female workers employed outside the home were young and unmarried.
2. During the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, women were most likely to work outside their homes as one of the following:
 - ▶ *Domestic servants*
 - ▶ *Garment workers*

3. During the late nineteenth century, women were least likely to work outside their homes as any of the following:
 - ▶ *Teachers*
 - ▶ *Cigar makers*
 - ▶ *Physicians*
 - ▶ *Lawyers*

V BOOM AND BUST, 1920–1940**A. FLAPPERS**

1. Flappers symbolized the new freedom by challenging traditional American attitudes about women. They favored short bobbed hair, smoked cigarettes, and even wore the new one-piece bathing suits.
2. In reality, few women actually lived the flapper lifestyle. Nonetheless, the look was very fashionable among college coeds, office workers, and store clerks.

B. WOMEN AND THE WORKFORCE

1. Although new jobs became available in offices and stores, the percentage of single women in the labor force actually declined between 1920 and 1930.
2. Women did not receive equal pay and continued to face discrimination in the professions.
3. Most married women did not seek employment outside the home.

C. MARGARET SANGER

1. Margaret Sanger was an outspoken reformer who openly championed birth control for women.

D. DECLINE OF THE FEMINIST MOVEMENT

1. The following factors caused a decline in the organized feminist movement during the 1920s:
 - ▶ *The passage of the Nineteenth Amendment granting women the right to vote*

- ▶ *Changing manners and morality symbolized by the flappers*
- ▶ *Dissension among women's groups concerning goals*
- ▶ *The decline of the Progressive Era reform movement*

E. ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

1. Eleanor Roosevelt was a strong supporter of women's rights during the period of the New Deal.



The passage of the Nineteenth Amendment and the end of the Progressive Era left a great void in the struggle for women's rights. Margaret Sanger and Eleanor Roosevelt were the two best-known proponents of women's rights.

VI WOMEN AND THE WORKPLACE, 1941–1960**A. WORLD WAR II**

1. World War II stimulated a widespread movement of women into factory work.
2. During World War II, married women entered the workforce in large numbers.
3. "Rosie the Riveter" was a nickname given to women who worked in America's factories during World War II.

B. THE 1950s

1. Following World War II, women were encouraged to give up their factory jobs and return home, where they would devote themselves to being wives and mothers.

VII THE MODERN WOMEN'S RIGHTS MOVEMENT**A. BETTY FRIEDAN**

1. Betty Friedan wrote *The Feminine Mystique* and was the first president of the National Organization for Women (NOW).

2. Friedan was one of the founders of NOW—an organization founded in 1966 to challenge sex discrimination in the workplace.
 3. Here is a famous excerpt from her book *The Feminine Mystique*:
 “The problem lay buried, unspoken, for many years in the minds of American women. It was a strange stirring, a sense of dissatisfaction, a yearning that women suffered in the middle of the twentieth century in the United States. Each suburban wife struggled with it alone. As she made the beds, shopped for groceries, matched slipcover material, ate peanut butter sandwiches with her children, chauffeured Cub Scouts and Brownies, lay beside her husband at night—she was afraid to ask even of herself the silent question—“Is this all?””
 4. It is important to note that the passage from Friedan reflects the fact that feminism tended to be a movement of middle-class women.
 5. Betty Friedan is best known for her criticism of traditional gender roles.
- B. THE EXPANSION OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS SINCE 1963**
1. All of the following contributed to the expansion of women's rights since 1963:
 - ▶ *The Equal Credit Opportunity Act of 1974*
 - ▶ *The Supreme Court decision in Roe v. Wade*
 - ▶ *Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964*
 - ▶ *Affirmative action regulations*
- C. THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT (ERA)**
1. The Equal Rights Amendment did not pass. So the ERA is *not* an amendment.
 2. Phyllis Schlafly led a campaign to block ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.
- D. FEMALE VICE-PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES**
1. Geraldine Ferraro was the first woman nominated for vice president by a major political party. She was Democrat Walter Mondale's running mate in 1984.
 2. Sarah Palin was the first woman nominated for vice president by the Republican Party. She was John McCain's running mate in 2008.

MILESTONES IN NATIVE AMERICAN HISTORY

I PRE-COLUMBIAN SOCIETIES

A. ARRIVAL IN NORTH AMERICA

1. Most scholars now believe that the first Native Americans reached North America by traveling across a land bridge connecting eastern Siberia and Alaska.

B. KEY ADVANCES

1. Pre-Columbian peoples developed all of the following:
 - ▶ *A mathematically based calendar*
 - ▶ *Irrigation systems*
 - ▶ *Domesticated cereal crops such as maize*
 - ▶ *Multifamily dwellings*
 - ▶ *Herbal medical treatments*
 - ▶ *Large cities such as the Aztec capital*

C. KEY FAILURES

1. Pre-Columbian peoples did *not* develop the following:
 - ▶ *Wheeled vehicles*
 - ▶ *Gunpowder*
 - ▶ *Waterwheels*



APUSH exams rarely if ever contain questions on Pre-Columbian peoples.