

Research Essay: Politics of Western Women

Women's rights have been a hot topic since the 1840s and have continued to be so today. Based on the letter sent by the UN Women immediately after the inaugural National Women's Gathering, women are regarded to be justifiably equal to what is demanded by man in regarding political liberties. Frederick Douglass participated and endorsed the conference. To stop there, we must declare our belief in the equality of women's political freedom with that of men's (Funk & Gathmann, 2006). From 1861 to 1865, the Civil Military saw women and their allies dedicate their attention to supporting the war effort. Susan B. Anthony, together with Elizabeth Cady Stanton, founded the American Equal Rights Association immediately after the war, which was the first suffrage group for people of all colors and genders. Several women, like Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Stanton, were instrumental in the fight for women's suffrage. (Harhai & Krueger, 2019) It was Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Stanton and a slew of other well-known activists who highly encouraged and promoted the Women's Suffrage Movement. The aim was to strengthen women's rights, despite the many obstacles they faced, owing to the economic, cultural, and political backing they received from influential personalities.

Evidence

Critical Analysis

Approximately three hundred women activists convened in 1848 in Seneca Falls to debate the status of women in society and methods to expand their social and political rights, which laid the foundations for today's women's rights movement in the United States. The difficulties women encountered were brought up throughout the convention (Marilley, 2013). The primary goal of the gathering was not just to address these issues; notable female leaders in the women's liberation movement, including Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, figured prominently in organizing and mobilizing women to fight over legislation and requirements that violated their inherent rights and advantages. According to the National Women's History

Museum, when Elizabeth Cady Stanton wrote "The Declaration of Sentiments" during the Seneca Falls Convention in 1848, she set the stage for decades to come. This, I feel, demonstrates where the movement got its start. The National Woman's Suffrage Association was created in 1869 by Susan B. Anthony (McCammon, 2003). It was designed to fight for women's rights and was established by her later that year. She escorted other women to the polls and petitioned the courts to demonstrate that women had a democratic right to vote in litigation brought by other women's groups. As a result of her efforts, additional African American women were inspired to join the fight, resulting in their ability to vote.

As a result of Fredrick's assistance to Elizabeth Stanton and Susan B Anthony in informing the American human rights organization, which pushed for democratic elections, Fredrick Douglass became a prominent player in the fight against the infringement of women's rights throughout the nineteenth century. The group was abolished three years after it had been formed, but he kept assisting and pushing for the repeal of discriminating rules in the workplace and elsewhere. As a result of Douglass' guidance and hard work from other prominent names in this motion, the 19th Amendment was adopted in 1920 (Nichols, 2013). The adaptation of pioneering was the opportunity for a better campaign to combat gender discrimination in the United States. It served to raise women's awareness about their socioeconomic, legitimate, and financial standing.

More Insight about Struggles and 19th Amendment

Because of the disparity in treatment between men and women in the nineteenth century, women's suffrage was urgently needed in the United States. Inequality between men and women was prominent throughout the 1800s and into the 1920s, particularly in work, schooling, and art. Men were authorized to study, publish, and ballot at that period and exercise other privileges that

women were not allowed to do. It took numerous women to do something respectable and courageous that is still beneficial to women today. They began the fight for woman's liberation to achieve equality between the sexes in the country's workplace, school, and community. Women in the nineteenth century were not considered valuable until the beginning of the women's liberation movement. Men were given additional chances because of this belief. (Anthony)

During the 1848-1849 period in the northeastern US, the Women's Suffrage Movement gained momentum. (Nielsen, 1994)(O'Connor, 1996) Their primary goal was to improve women's social, ethical, juridical, academic, and economic standing; nevertheless, obtaining universal suffrage was not their priority. Those who advocated for suffrage argued that it was necessary both signify gender rights and uniqueness and to enhance women's social and legal status. During the argument, they discussed whether women were logical individuals who ought to be able to receive an education, do a job, and develop personalities "independent of the difference of sex." Women in the US had few rights under the law and were denied the ability to vote during the nineteenth century. In 1872, Susan B. Anthony delivered a speech in which she hoped to shift the public's perception of fairness in America following her detention for casting an unlawful vote in the general election. During her speech, she alluded to the most critical struggle in American history by quoting the preface of the Constitution, which reads,

"We, the people of the United States, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity. Do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America" (Anthony).

Throughout the preamble, she emphasizes that we, the population, founded the Federation; not we of white male citizens, nor even we of male citizens, but we, the whole people, who brought the Union into being.

Susan B. Anthony and the women who endorsed the desire for equality of the sexes were not alone; just a small number of males supported the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment. With Industrialization having such a significant influence on America, lifestyles were transformed, and women were encouraged to become a part of this transformation. Middle-class women significantly benefitted from the growing mercantile and capitalist economy, but unlike their husbands and fathers, they were shielded from the vulgar and dishonest commercial world by the restrictions placed on them in the personal realm, which they did not have. Following the Cult of True Womanhood, a woman's function was confined to a homemaker who nurtured her spouse and kids (Rover, 2019). Due to the large number of women who worked in the field, the women's rights ideology sought to achieve equal pay, employment prospects, and shorter working hours. Women from rural farm households began working in New England textile factories in the 1820s, making a living for themselves and their families. Their personal experiences brought to light the uneven pay and limited career opportunities available to women.

By 1830, factory women were encountering difficulties with their occupations because they were encountering workplace speeding ups, long days, and salary cutbacks, which resulted in unequal treatment in the workplace. They staged a protest in 1845 in response to uneven salaries, hazardous and unclean conditions of employment, and a lack of job opportunities. They hoped to change working conditions by striking. Because of the inadequate working conditions, a massive fire erupted at the Triangle Shirtwaist factory, where I was employed. Workers could not flee since the entrances were shut from the outside, prohibiting them from stealing or taking

time off from their positions (Weedon, 2020). The incident was itself deemed to have had a significant influence on America; however, because of the circumstances in which it took place, it astonished many people. Employees were primarily female and Jewish, ranging in age from 16 to 23 years old. Considering the sad events that had claimed so many people, it was a last-ditch effort to modify the nature of labor not just for men but also for women and children. Women who earned a living also spoke out in support of protective labor regulations. As a result of their interest in the interests of working women, they gained recognition in the women's liberation movement. Teaching was the only alternative available to those women who were not engaged in manufacturing work but who required or desired to earn a living income. The number of women pursuing higher education and entering the education system increased, and revenues declined.

Inequality in compensation was an issue that women were already facing. Still, so many women's rights activists asserted that a more foundational and enduring issue was preventing women from participating fully in political life and increasing income, and denying them access to higher education. Women were considered enslaved because they were a necessary component of the labor force. Dr. Harriot K. Hunt of Boston has raised the discrimination against women in education by sending out an official protest with her taxation each year. Moreover, she declared that "the rights and liberties of the female member of the group were often neglected or ignored due to their neglect of voting freedoms." With the emergence of the women's liberation movement, Emma Willard's Troy Female Seminary, founded in 1821, took the opportunity to supply quality education for young women and girls. In their book, Stanton and Anthony commend Willard's school for being the first in the country to offer "advanced mathematics for ladies." Despite the plaudits heaped upon other colleges for allowing women to attend and study, they were not permitted to complete an entire degree course until 1840 in the United States. Lucy

Stone was one of the first women to finish with an average degree from Oberlin College in 1847, and she was an abolitionist and women's rights campaigner. Lucy's degree, which demonstrated that it was feasible for women to obtain an education, motivated others, passionate about women's educational opportunities.

Role of Margaret Fuller

As one lady who influenced another, Margaret Fuller decided to take matters a step beyond. To plan to motivate ladies' educations and not be so constrained, Fuller established a series of talks where women could gather and debate significant problems, for instance, philosophical, artistic, societal, and diplomatic. She pushed for women to be able to pursue any profession, even elective office, "We would have every avenue made available to women as open to men." She related the girl's right to schooling to actual freedom. Everything was ruled by males, especially socially. Women were still regarded as inferior to black males around the mid-nineteen hundred. Black suffrage battled for black people who have been pursuing their human liberties similarly to white males, but it did not primarily focus on women. It was built on black men and their wealth, and in 1854, Stanton campaigned for almost all female liberties, not only the ballot. "We are ethical, honest, and clever, and in all aspects completely equal to the prideful white man, yet by your rules, we are categorized alongside fools, loons, and Negroes." She reiterated that women were mistreated more than black males when she argued that women were charged without participation. She commented, "here again, you position the Negro, so unfairly humiliated by you, in a stronger position than your very own mothers and wives." Motivated by Stanton's speech, black women and white women campaigned together to obtain their rights. They were trying to stand up together when the ladies were not discriminated on their colors. They argued that it was women's obligation to struggle against a system that deprived slave

women of their legitimate responsibilities as mothers and wives. The beginning of the 20th century has widened gender discrimination. The disparity between genders produced a severe demand for women's suffrage. Blacks had the right to vote, but women did not have that privilege (Norris, 1987) while gaining the right to vote was the main objective, eradicating gender inequities in social, moral, and educational standing was secondary. As more women entered the job and the wage gap between men and women became more pronounced, activists such as Susan B. Anthony took the lead in the fight for women's equality. The status of educated women was still viewed as inferior by the male population. If women are given the right to vote, a process of gender equality will be enhanced; consequently, women will be treated more equally.

Movement During Civil War

As the women's liberation movement progressed, it encountered several problems and obstacles. Firstly, the Civil War halted migration from 1861 to 1865. According to the National Women's History Museum, there was a stop in suffrage movements during the Civil War. During World War II, women devoted themselves to the cause. After this setback, there were repercussions from other nations since these nations considered that American women were already better off than women in any other country; "American women were the best-off in the world; what was there to riot about?" This is just a clear indication of how people feel about American females and women's rights activists in the United States. Leading to a shortage of contributors and followers, the campaign was unable to continue as it had in the past. Women's Rights Activism and the passage of the 19th Amendment were seen as a threat by African Americans, who feared that these events would eclipse the 15th Amendment and affect public perceptions of African Americans. To sum it up, the women's rights movement has faced numerous challenges and difficulties to where it is today.

Rationale

To conclude, this issue is essential to me since I am a supporter of women's rights; in today's culture, women experience injustice and prejudice all over the globe. In addition, women are still paid less than males, and they lose jobs every day because of their gender. The Women's liberation movement and the passage of the nineteenth Amendment have always been important to me but undertaking this study has given me a deeper appreciation of the challenges women and their allies suffered throughout this period. I set my personal biases aside by acting as a scholar to identify facts based on prior lenses I was employing. When I put on a sociological perspective to study the circumstances of this period, I discovered material about Frederick Douglass and a large bunch of other men who backed women's rights. A researcher might be able to provide more light on my research subject by delving further into the lives of the people who lived through the most challenging times during this historical period.

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