



1970'S FEMINISM

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REASONS BEHIND THE RISE

- Women no longer wanted to conform to the sexist stereotypes they had been forced into
- Wanted equality - no more 'Housewives'
- Wanted equal rights to divorce, sex, property, work, money, etc.
- Second-wave feminism drew attention to domestic violence and marital rape as opposed to first-wave feminism which focused mainly on overturning legal obstacles to gender equality.

KEY MOMENTS

- ERA - Equal Rights Amendment - “equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex”
- National Women’s Conference (1977)
- Strike for Equality (1970)
- Protests (1970)
- Ms. Magazine (1972) - a magazine based on feminist aspects
- Defining rape in marriage as a Crime of Violence

CORE BELIEFS

- The ‘Personal is Political’ was a frequently heard feminist rallying cry, during the late 1960s and 1970s. Many second-wave feminists used the phrase or its underlying meaning in their writing, speeches, and other activities.
- The ‘Pro-Woman Line’ refers to the idea introduced by 1960s radical feminists that women should not be blamed for their own oppression.
- The term ‘sisterhood’ is used among feminists to express the connection of women who are not biologically related but are bonded in solidarity.
- Abortion on demand is the concept that a pregnant woman should be able to access an abortion at her request.



DIFFERENCES BETWEEN 1970'S/21ST CENTURY 3RD WAVE FEMINISM

- Second-wave feminism focused mainly on domestic violence and marital rape issues along with changes in custody and divorce laws.
- Whereas, third-wave feminism refers to several themes regarding feminist sex wars. These are characterised by anti-porn feminism and sex-positive feminism.
- These groups disagreed regarding sexuality. Specifically, pornography, erotica, prostitution, lesbian sexual practices and the role of trans women in the lesbian community.
- The feminist movement was deeply divided as a result of these debates.

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