

# APUSH WOMEN REVIEW

## Colonial Era (1600s-1750s)

- Pocahontas and Jamestown
- Limited arrival of women in early colonial establishments
- Massachusetts Bay Colony
  - o Anne Hutchinson banished for antinomianism (1638)
  - o Salem Witch Trials (1692) targeted mostly women
- majority of Church membership was female
- women responsible for housekeeping and childrearing while men labored on farms
- women subordinate to men
  - o serve father when single then husband when married
  - o protections from spousal abuse
- stigma against older single women and unmarried widows
- no right to vote, own property, draft a will, testify in court
  - o women could inherit property upon death of husband, but lost rights once remarried
  - o some northern cities/colonies provided women the right to vote in limited cases
  - o southern colonies established and preserved strict patriarchal society

## Revolution and Early Republic (1750s-1820s)

- upper-class patriot women assist independence movement
  - o spinning bees
- women served war as nurses, water bearers, cooks
  - o Molly Pitcher legend
- Abigail Adams
  - o “remember the ladies” in drafting new constitution
    - “all MEN created equal” in Declaration of Independence
    - No formal recognition for women in U.S. Constitution
- after U.S. Constitution, most states removed right to vote for women
  - o New Jersey only state to provide suffrage for women
- REPUBLICAN MOTHERHOOD
  - o Women educated on republican virtues to pass to children to grow up as responsible American citizens
  - o Academies for women established to develop civic duty as republican mothers
- Judith Sargent Murray – *On the Equality of the Sexes* (1790)
  - o Promote continued education for women beyond republican motherhood
- Sacagawea assisted Lewis and Clark Expedition (1804-1806)
- Early economic conditions required more from women in terms of labor outside of the house
  - o Assisted husbands on farms especially among lower-class families
  - o Cottage system/putting-out system – spinning/weaving
    - Form of subcontracting domestic services in textile market
- Women and War of 1812
  - o Served as nurses
  - o Dolly Madison and Washington’s portrait
- Troy Female Seminary (1821)
  - o Established by Emma Hart Willard in New York
  - o Provided women an equal college education as men received

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## Age of Jackson to Civil War (1820s-1860s)

- Universal male suffrage opened up electorate, but women left out
- CULT OF DOMESTICITY
  - o After economic conditions improved through the market revolution and transportation booms, women were not required to work on the fields as before
  - o Increased factory jobs for men placed increased homemaking and childrearing burdens on women
  - o Defined and established women roles as homemakers and wives/mothers
  - o Any jobs for women were domestic-based such as textiles
    - Middle Class Women
      - Worked as sales clerks, teachers
    - Working Class Women
      - Worked at home with sewing/spinning
      - Worked as domestic servants for upper-class families
  - o Lowell System
    - Single young women provided textile mill labor
    - Lived free in boardinghouses next to textile mills
    - Strict moral code and regiment, but provided chaperoned social activities and cultural education
- Frontier life for Women
  - o Frontier life began under sense of cult of domesticity
  - o Rugged lifestyle of frontier demanded more of women to serve beyond domestic capacities
  - o Some women established boardinghouses and hotels out West
- Benevolent and Reform Movements
  - o Dorothea Dix
    - Concern for mentally ill led to reforms in asylums and prisons
  - o Temperance movement
    - Mostly led by middle-class women to alleviate society of alcohol vice
  - o Female Moral Reform Society
    - Reforms or enforcement toward prostitution
  - o Abolitionist Movement
    - Maria Stewart
      - Black woman who wrote essays and gave public speeches on abolitionism in 1830s
    - Sarah and Angelina Grimke
      - Led abolitionist rhetoric with first-hand experiences as women living on plantations in South Carolina
      - Also spoke about woman equality/suffrage
    - Female Anti-Slavery Society (1832)
      - Free black women in Salem, MA establish nation's first female-based abolitionist society
    - Harriet Tubman
      - Escaped slave who helped free slaves through underground railroad in 1850s
    - Harriet Beecher Stowe and *Uncle Tom's Cabin* (1852)
      - Reality-based anti-slavery novel spurred northern sentiment against slavery in the South
  - o Women's Rights Movement
    - Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott, Susan B. Anthony, Sojourner Truth
    - Seneca Falls Convention (1848)
      - *Declaration of Rights and Sentiments of Women*
    - Sojourner Truth – *Ain't I a Woman?* (1851)
      - Speech against female weakness as perceived by male dominance
      - Comparisons to hardships as a slave
- Women and the Civil War
  - o Served as nurses for Union and Confederacy
  - o Some minor cases of women involved in skirmishes and raids
  - o Dr. Mary Edwards Walker awarded Medal of Honor for Union espionage and surgeon duties

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## Gilded Age and Progressive Era (1860s-1920)

- Industrialization and urbanization effect on women's roles
  - o If economically feasible for families, cult of domesticity accepted by men and women
  - o Mechanization reduced need for women and children on farms
  - o Urban conditions reduced families decreasing women roles as caretaker/mother
  - o Increased and newer industries allowed increased factory job opportunities for women
    - Limited to domestic industries, i.e. textiles, spinning mills
    - As men assumed managerial positions, women assumed previously male-based professional jobs
      - Clerks, bookkeepers, typists, secretaries, telephone operators
  - o Because women worked in newer positions, status and wages lowered than previously held/paid with men
  - o 20% of adult women in labor force by 1900
    - Most young women; only 5% married women
  - o Divorce rates increased to 1 in 12 marriages by 1900
    - States granting more divorce rights for abuse and desertion
- Second Industrial Revolution and corporations/monopolies form during Gilded Age leading to unfair and deplorable working and living conditions
  - o Owners sometimes hired women as cheap labor for profits given unequal wages
  - o Middle-class women pursued reforms through Social Gospel
    - Settlement houses – Jane Addams and Hull House in Chicago (1889)
      - Community centers providing daycares, schooling, cultural activities
      - English lessons for immigrants, child-care classes
      - Addams won Nobel Peace Prize in 1931
- Temperance Movement
  - o Woman's Christian Temperance Union (1874)
    - Lobbied for local/state laws against alcohol
    - Frances E. Willard
  - o Carrie A. Nation destroyed bars across the nation
- Mary Baker Eddy and Christian Science
  - o Good health result of "Father Mother God"
- Ida Tarbell and *The History of the Standard Oil Company* (1902)
  - o Muckraker articles on ruthless business exploits of John D. Rockefeller
- Women's Suffrage/Rights Movement
  - o Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Victoria Woodhull, Lucy Stone, Julia Ward Howe, Alice Paul
  - o Despite Progressive Era reforms surging in many aspects, women suffrage and rights was slow and gradual
  - o National Woman Suffrage Association (1869)
  - o American Suffrage Association pursued woman suffrage in state constitutions
  - o Equal Rights Party nominated Victoria Woodhull first ever female presidential candidate in 1872
  - o Jeannette Rankin (R-Montana) – first woman elected to Congress in 1917
  - o National American Woman Suffrage Association (1890)
    - Many gains for suffrage in states, especially in the West
      - Wyoming – first state granting full woman suffrage in 1869
    - Carrie Chapman Catt pursued woman suffrage on national level with constitutional amendment
  - o National Woman's Party – Alice Paul and Lucy Burns (1916)
    - More militant strategies: picketing, parades, hunger strikes
    - Silent Sentinels pressuring Woodrow Wilson
  - o Nineteenth Amendment (1920) – female suffrage
    - Led to League of Women Voters by Chapman
- World War I Effects
  - o First American war women officially allowed to serve in military, mostly as nurses or operators
  - o Men drafted opened up jobs for women
  - o Woman contributions to war effort helped support Nineteenth Amendment
  - o Women returned to previous status after war; not allowed to serve in military unless nurses

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## Roaring Twenties to World War II (1920-1940s)

- Suffrage's Limited Impact on Women
  - o Women voted like their husbands
  - o Politicians campaigned for women issues
    - Increased divorce laws and protections
      - 1 in 8 marriages divorced in 1920
      - 1 in 6 marriages divorced in 1930
  - o Equal Rights Amendment introduced in Congress in 1923; never passes...until...
  - o Compulsory education for females led to opportunities for higher education
- Feminism of 1920s
  - o Flapper Girls
    - Rejection of conservatism, Victorian society norms
    - Smoked, drank, swore, danced, dated, promiscuous, consumerist, purchased cosmetics
    - Short skirts, bobbed hair; prefer slender bodies/image
  - o Margaret Sanger
    - American Birth Control League (1921)
      - Promote education for pregnancy prevention, menstruation
    - Spoke against poor conditions for young women
- Women and the Depression
  - o Unemployment rate for women lower than men in 1930s
    - Women paid less than men
    - Men unwilling to accept "women jobs" like clerical or domestic service
  - o Depression decreased professional opportunities for women
  - o Severe burdens on women as husbands/fathers left homes looking for employment
  - o Eleanor Roosevelt becomes vocal and strong First Lady and promotes many social issues
  - o Frances Perkins appointed Secretary of Labor in 1933 – first female in Cabinet
  - o Amelia Earhart's flights from 1932-1937
- World War II's Impact on Women
  - o Drafted men allowed women to assume more jobs in factories
    - 12 million women in workforce in 1941 to 18 million by 1945
    - Rosie the Riveter
  - o 350,000 women in military serving as nurses, operators, loaders, mixers, mechanics, electricians, spies

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## Post-World War II (1950s-1980s)

- Women replaced by men once war was over
  - o Some lower-class/working-class women returned to old jobs
- cult of domesticity emphasized as economy prospered in 1950s
  - o baby boom from 1945-1960
  - o television and consumer society promoted women in image of housewife/homemaker and subservience
  - o 46% women in workforce, but 75% clerical or sales jobs
    - 1950s women earned 60% of men's salaries
- Rosa Parks inspired Montgomery Bus Boycott in 1955
  - o *Browder v. Gayle* desegregated busing (1955)
- Equal Rights Movement for Women and Feminism
  - o Studies and books published for reviewing or criticizing unequal opportunities for women
  - o President Kennedy's Commission on the Status of Women (1961-1963)
    - Found inequality and discrimination in education, employment, and political rights
  - o Betty Friedan and *The Feminine Mystique* (1963)
    - Criticized cult of domesticity and housewife perception enlightening women on possibilities of professional opportunities beyond domestic capacities
  - o National Organization for Women (1966)
    - Pursue equal and full opportunities for women, especially in the workplace
  - o Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1972
    - Equal Employment Opportunity Commission may sue for discrimination in workplace based on gender
  - o Title IX in Education (1972)
    - Gender equity in federally-funded educational programs
    - More opportunities for female participation, but eliminated male-based programs/sports
  - o Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) - 1972
    - First introduced by Alice Paul in 1923
    - Passed Congress, but only received 35 states of required 38 for ratification
      - Mostly southern states denied ratification
    - growing conservative culture campaigned against ERA
      - Phyllis Schlafly argued denial of husband support, women in combat, abortion rights upheld
- *Roe v. Wade* (1973)
  - o Supreme Court legalized abortion protecting privacy rights for women
  - o Instilled controversial debate between pro-life and pro-choice
- Sandra Day O'Connor confirmed as first woman on Supreme Court (1981)
- Geraldine Ferraro first major party vice presidential candidate for Democrats (1984)