Naftaly Henriquez Polanco

Dr. Williams

English 2000

03/22/2016

Feminism and the Sexual Revolution

Feminism as defined by Merriam-Webster “ the belief that men and women should have equal rights and opportunities. Organized activity in support of women’s rights and interests.”(Merriam-Webster.) Feminism is the equality among sexes in all fields such as job opportunities, sexual rights, earning power, right to vote, right to pursue an education. Women have been repressed and unable to pursue the above in the past. Due to patriarchal traditions and  misinterpretation of religious texts such as the Bible or Koran. Feminism has come in so called waves or movements throughout history. The first wave came in the late nineteenth century was solidified by the Seneca Falls Convention in 1848. This first wave lasted into the early twentieth century and it focused in suffrage rights. This first wave had members of both sexes, middle class white Americans.

The second wave came in the 1960s until the 90s. This wave focus went to establish the same sexual rights for women. The ability to choose and it was greatly impacted by the Sexual Revolution. This revolution focused on the woman's right to choose and regulate her body. The ability to have casual sex, have premarital sex, and enjoy sex as a physiological need and to determine whether having a child was something that aligned with their lifestyle. Women were given the right to control their bodies by using contraceptives the most famous was the pill during that time. The pill was a revolutionary invention it gave women the freedom to have sex and not resort to dangerous contraceptive methods (PBS.) The third wave began in the mid-90s and the focus of this wave was to break with the societal notions on gender and gender roles. Basically it went to deconstruct the stereotypes of what being a woman was, how a woman should dress and the normative notions of the female gender. It just gave women the ability to express themselves freely and not have to resort to an outfit or lipstick to be called a woman (Rampton, 2015.)

Works cited

Merriam-Webster. Merriam-Webster. Web. 22 Mar. 2016. <<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/feminism>>

*PBS*. PBS. Web. 22 Mar. 2016. <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/pill/peopleevents/e\_revolution.html>.

Rampton, Martha. "Four Waves of Feminism." Four Waves of Feminism. 25 Oct. 2015. Web. 22 Mar. 2016. <http://www.pacificu.edu/about-us/news-events/four-waves-feminism>