Chronology

A Framework for the Study of European Feminisms

1622 *De l'Égalité des hommes et des femmes* by Marie Le Jars de Gournay
1648 Treaty of Westphalia ends the Thirty Years War
1673 *De l'Égalité des deux sexes* by François Poullain de la Barre offers proposition that “the mind has no sex”
1686 Founding of the Maison Royale de Saint Louis at Saint-Cyr, a secular school for noble daughters, by Madame de Maintenon, morganatic wife of Louis XIV
1687 *De l'Éducation des filles* by François de Salignac de la Mothe-Fénelon argues that girls should be formed to be competent wives and mothers, not *bels esprits* or bluestockings; women half the human race
1694 *Serious Proposal to the Ladies* by Mary Astell advocates a women’s university and women’s communities for those who prefer not to marry
1721 Montesquieu publishes his *Lettres persanes*
1732 Laura Bassi receives doctoral degree in philosophy, University of Bologna
1739 *Woman Not Inferior to Man* by “Sophia, a Person of Quality”
1742 Dorothea Christine Leporin Erxleben argues for women’s right to university study
1743 *La Defensa de las mujeres* by Benito Feijóo (Spain)
1756 In *L'Encyclopédie*, vol. 6, Jaucourt raises the possibility that the subordination of wives to husbands in marriage is a social construction
1758 Exchange between Jean le Rond d’Alembert and Jean-Jacques Rousseau over women’s emancipation
1761 *Female Rights Vindicated* by “A Lady”
1761 Publication of Rousseau’s *Julie* and *Émile*
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1763 England defeats France in the Seven Years War
1772 *Essai sur le caractère, les mœurs, et l’esprit des femmes* by Antoine-Léonard Thomas
1770 Essay competitions concerning women's education in the French academies; polemics on the woman question by the *philosophes*; tracts by physicians on women's specific physiology and health issues
1776 American Declaration of Independence
1777 *Les Gynographes* by Restif de La Bretonne, an antifeminist tract proposing that women should not even be taught to read or write
1782 *Sarah Burgerhart*, novel by Betje Wolff and Aagje Deken
1787 Condorcet's *Lettres d’un bourgeois de New Haven à un citoyen de Virginie* advocates women's vote
* Mémoire pour le sexe feminin contre le sexe masculin* by Madame de Coicy
1789 Beginning of the French Revolution; publication of women's *cahiers*; women's march on Versailles [5–6 Oct.]
1790 Publication of Condorcet's *Sur l’Admission des femmes au droit de cité*
Joséa Amar y Borbón, *Discurso sobre la educación física y moral de las mugeres*
1791 Promulgation of the first French Constitution
Publication of Olympe de Gouges’s *Déclaration des droits de la femme*; Talleyrand’s report on public instruction
Enactment of equal inheritance for daughters; full civil [property] rights for unmarried French women
1792 Publication of Mary Wollstonecraft’s *Vindication of the Rights of Woman* and Theodor Gottlieb von Hippel’s *Über die bürgerliche Verbesserung der Weiber*; in Paris, Pauline Léon demands the right for women to bear arms
1793 The National Assembly votes for the execution of the French king; Prudhomme clashes with the presidents of the provincial women’s clubs; Pierre Guyomar defends political equality between individuals, expressly including women; the Parisian Society of Revolutionary Republican Women campaigns for strict economic controls; Charlotte Corday assassinates Marat; the Committee of Public Safety shuts down the women’s clubs; Olympe de Gouges, Manon Roland, Queen Marie Antoinette all guillotined
1794 French army under Napoleon “liberates” Italian states; petitions for women’s rights in the new Italian republics; Dutch tracts on women’s rights; Fichte publishes *The Science of Rights*; German scholars debate the difference between the sexes; English politicians ridicule demands for women’s political rights
1800 Napoleon becomes First Consul, then Emperor; promulgation of the
1804 French Civil Code; introduction of state-regulated prostitution
1807 Germaine de Staël publishes Corinne; Napoleon establishes schools
for daughters of the Legion of Honor
1805 French military campaigns throughout Europe; women in the Ger-
man states organize patriotic societies to resist the French
1808 Théorie des quatre mouvements by Charles Fourier
1815 Congress of Vienna; abolition of slave trade; restoration of monar-
chies
1820 Severe restrictions on freedom of the press and association through-
out Europe; publication of many tracts on women's education; Greek Revolution
1825 Publication of Appeal of One Half the Human Race Against the Pre-
tensions of the Other Half—Men—to Retain Them in Political
and Thence in Civil and Domestic Slavery by William
Thompson and Anna Doyle Wheeler
1830 French Revolution in Paris; independence for Belgium; Polish Revolu-
tion
1831 The Saint-Simonians launch their appeal, advocating rehabilitation
of the flesh
1832 La Femme libre published by Suzanne Voilquin et al.
Publication of George Sand's novel Indiana
British Reform Act explicitly excludes women from suffrage
1833 Eugénie Niboyet founds the Conseiller des femmes (Lyon)
1834 Publication of Louis-Aimé Martin's De l'éducation des mères de
famille; controversy over women's work and labor reform in The
Pioneer; massacre of workers in Lyon
1836 La Gazette des femmes published by Madeleine Poutret de
Mauchamps
Publication of Parent-Duchâtelet's De la Prostitution à Paris
1837 Campaign to reform the position of women in Judaism
1840
1838 Publication of Caroline Norton's protest on custody of infants
1839 Publication of Carl Almqvist's novel Det Går An [in English, Sara
Videbeck]
1841 Voyage en Icarie by Étienne Cabet (communist community as a
paradise for women, where everyone will marry)
1843 Publication of Marion Reid's A Plea for Women [Edinburgh]
Publication of Flora Tristan's L'Union ouvrière
1846 Proudhon gives women two choices, "Housewife or Harlot"
1847 Publication of Jane Eyre: An Autobiography by Charlotte Brontë
under a male pseudonym; Tennyson's The Princess
1848 Revolutions in Paris, Berlin, Vienna, etc. [March]
The French Provisional Government establishes universal manhood
suffrage, abolishes black slavery in the colonies, sponsors Le-
gouvé's lectures on women's history at the Collège de France
Parisian women demand to know why women have been “forgotten” politically; founding of women’s clubs, women’s press, La Voix des femmes; demands for rights, including the vote and representation

Publication of Auguste Comte’s Système de politique positive, where he argues that “man should provide for woman” and designates women as priestesses for the religion of humanity

Seneca Falls Women’s Rights Convention (U.S., mid-July)

Closing of the Parisian women’s clubs (late July)

Debates on the woman question in German-language press; women’s clubs in Vienna, Berlin, etc.

1849 Jeanne Deroin founds L’Opinion des femmes, declares her candidacy for office; polemic with Proudhon

Louise Otto founds the Frauenzeitung (Meissen)

Papal encyclical Ubi Primum proposes the elevation of the Virgin Mary to rally female support for the Catholic Church; response by Johannes Ronge of the progressive German Catholic sect

1850 Repression in Paris, Prussia; new laws against association, publishing

1851 Deroin and Roland address their letter from prison to the women of America; Harriet Taylor Mill’s article in the Westminster Review

1852 Jeanne Deroin publishes the Almanach des femmes with articles in French and English

1854 Papal promulgation of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception of Mary

Barbara Leigh Smith protests the legal position of married women in England

1854 Publication of Camilla Collett’s novel Amtmadens dötre in Christiana (Oslo)

1856 Publication of Fredrika Bremer’s novel Hertha in Stockholm

1856 Women’s Petition to Parliament (London)

1856 Jenny P. d’Héricourt takes on P. J. Proudhon

1858 Publication of Proudhon’s De la justice

Publication of Juliette Lamber’s Idées anti-proudhoniennes

British Parliament restricts medical profession to holders of British degrees in response to Elizabeth Blackwell’s registration as a physician, with an American degree and a French internship

1859 Russian women admitted to university lectures

1859 Publication of Jules Michelet’s L’Amour and La Femme

1860 Civil War in the United States; abolition of slavery (1864–65)

1860 Mikhailov and Chernyshevsky address the woman question in Sovremennik

-60 Publication of Jenny P. d’Héricourt’s La Femme affranchie

-65 Abolition of serfdom in Russia
1861 Publication of Maine’s *Ancient Law* and Bachofen’s *Das Mutterrecht*
Unification of Italy; codification of laws begins
Julie-Victoire Daubié becomes the first woman to earn the French baccalaureate
Jules Simon denounces the “working woman” in *L’Ouvrière*

1862 Swedish women taxpayers granted the municipal vote

1864 The University of Zurich opens its medical school to women auditors

1865 Founding of the Allgemeiner Deutscher Frauenverein [Association of German Women] by Louise Otto
Founding of the American Ladies’ Club in Prague by V. Fingerhut-Náperstek

1866 Massive women’s suffrage petition in England
Publication of Julie-Victoire Daubié’s *La Femme pauvre*

1866 Debates on women’s work in the International Working Men’s
Association [Geneva, Lausanne]

1866 Passage of Contagious Disease Acts [1866, 1867] in England

1867 The British House of Commons debates John Stuart Mill’s woman suffrage amendment to Second Reform Act
University of Zurich grants first medical degree to a woman
Constitution of the Austrian-Hungarian “Dual Monarchy”

1867 Secularists and Catholics battle over lecture courses for girls in

1868 Emily Davies argues that English girls must pass the same university entrance examinations as boys do
Paule Mink and others defend women’s right to work in Paris
Marie Goegg founds the Association Internationale des Femmes
Empress Eugénie opens the Paris Faculty of Medicine to women

1869 Publication of John Stuart Mill’s *The Subjection of Women*
Single women granted municipal vote in England

1869 Debates over women’s physical and mental suitability for higher education

1869 Founding of Girton College and Newnham College at Cambridge; Sophia Jex-Blake and friends obtain permission to study medicine at Edinburgh University

1870 Franco-Prussian War; Paris Commune; unification of Germany;

1870 French establish Provisional Government that leads [1875] to the Third Republic; reestablishment of the Association Internationale des Femmes

1871 Founding of Dansk Kvindersamfund [Danish Women’s Association]
The German Constitution of 1871 establishes universal manhood suffrage for election of Reichstag delegates; abortion criminalized in the German Penal Code

1872 Russia establishes medical courses exclusively for women, in St. Petersburg [closed again in 1887]
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1874 Founding of Solidarité in Switzerland
Josephine Butler and associates launch crusade against regulated prostitution on the Continent, especially against the French system

1876 British Parliament amends the Medical Act, removing restrictions based on sexual difference

1877 Founding of the British and Continental Federation for the Abolition of Prostitution, Geneva

1878 First International Congress on Women’s Rights, Paris
Hubertine Auclert challenges the omission of woman suffrage from the International Congress agenda
Russia opens first women’s university; Université de Neuchatel opened to women

1879 Publication of August Bebel’s Die Frau in der Vergangenheit, Gegenwart und Zukunft
Hubertine Auclert challenges the French worker’s congress to support women’s rights

1880 First production in Copenhagen of Henrik Ibsen’s play Et Dukkehiem [A Doll’s House, published 1879]
France establishes free and obligatory primary education for both sexes, and separate state secondary schools for girls

1881 Founding in Milan of the Liga Promotrice degli Interessi Femminile by Anna Maria Mozzoni

1883 Repeal of the British Contagious Disease Acts
Publication of Olive Schreiner’s The Story of an African Farm

1884 Publication of Theodore Stanton’s The Woman Question in Europe
Publication of Friedrich Engels’s Der Ursprung der Familie, des Privat Eigentums und des Staats

1885 Founding of Finsk Kvinnoförenning, Norsk Kvindesagsforening, Fredrike-Bremer Förbundet [Sweden]
Transfer of regulation of prostitution from Paris municipal officials to French Ministry of the Interior

1887 Publication in Paris of Marie Bashkirtseff’s Journal

1888 Founding of the International Council of Women (ICW) by the NWSA, in Washington, D.C.

1889 Centennial of the French Revolution, international expositions in Paris; two international women’s congresses held in Paris
Founding of Second International Working Men’s Association
Bertha von Suttner publishes Die Waffen nieder [Lay Down Your Arms]

1890 International congress on limitation of women’s employment convened by the German government
Viennese women lose their municipal vote

1891 Founding of the Fédération Abolitionniste Internationale

1891 Papal encyclical Rerum Novarum

1892 First self-proclaimed “feminist” women’s congress in Paris [May]
1893 Founding of the Allgemeiner Österreichischer Frauenverein
(General Austrian Women's Association)

1894 Founding of the Bund Deutscher Frauenvereine

1895 German Social Democratic women denounce “bourgeois feminism”

1896 Ellen Key asserts importance of motherhood, rather than paid labor,
and calls for state subsidies for mothers; second feminist congress
in Paris; Marie Maugeret founds Christian feminism, Paris; inter-
national congress in Berlin; feminists launch protests against new
German Civil Code

1897 First congress of “Czechoslavie” women, Prague; founding of
Ústřední Spolek Českých žen (Central Association of Czech
Women); international feminist congress in Belgium; founding of
La Fronde, Paris; founding of the National Union of Women’s
Suffrage Societies (NUWSS), England; women admitted to study
at the University of Vienna

1899 Women’s petition (a million signatures) addressed to the Hague
Peace Conference

1899 Huge ICW Congress in London; two international feminist con-
ferences in Paris

1900 Marie Maugeret founds Fédération Jeanne d’Arc (Catholic feminists)

1901 Norwegian women taxpayers obtain municipal vote and right of
election; first suffrage proposal introduced in French Chamber of
Deputies

1902 Belgian Workers Party betrays its support for woman suffrage
International Woman Suffrage Alliance (IWSA) founded in Washing-
ton, D.C.

1903 Founding of the Women’s Social and Political Union (WSPU) in
Manchester

1904 Founding of the IWSA conference in Berlin
International agreement on the suppression of white slave trade
Bertha Pappenheim founds the Jüdischer Frauenbund
Ellen Key publishes the first volume of her Lifslinjer (Lifelines)
Feminist protests in Paris and Vienna against the Civil Codes of
France and Austria

1905 Founding of Soiuz Ravnopravnosti Zhenshchin (Union for Equal
Rights for Women), Moscow
Rosa Mayreder publishes Zur Kritik der Weiblichkeit

1906 Women (and men) accorded the national vote in Finland
Russian Duma debates woman suffrage
Sibilla Aleramo publishes Una donna

1907 Women’s Section of the Second International Workingmen’s Asso-
ciation endorses unrestricted woman suffrage as a socialist goal

1908 All-Russian Congress of Women, St. Petersburg
Prohibitions lifted on German women’s participation in public life

1909 Kollontai publishes Sotsial’nye osnory zhenskogo voprosa (The So-
cial Basis of the Woman Question)
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1910 Founding of the Union Française pour le Suffrage des Femmes
Socialist women endorse International Women’s Day
International convention to end the white slave trade
Founding of the Liga Republicana das Mulheres Portuguesas
[Republican League of Portuguese Women]

1911 Norwegians elect a woman to the Storting [Parliament]

1912 Parliamentary defeat of the Third Conciliation Bill [electoral reform], Great Britain
Czechs elect a woman to the Bohemian Diet

1913 Norwegian women obtain full parliamentary suffrage
IWSA meets in Budapest; abolitionist meetings in Paris & London;
“Cat and Mouse” Act; English suffragette throws herself in front
of the kings horse [June 4]

1914 Publication of Abraham Flexner’s Prostitution in Europe
Suffrage campaign peaks in France [spring & early summer]
ICW meets in Rome; IWSA sponsors massive suffrage rally in Rome
[May]
Serbian conspirator assassinates the heir to the Austro-Hungarian
throne in Sarajevo

World War I [August 1914–November 1918]

1914 IWSA Manifesto, calling for arbitration

1915 International Congress of Women at The Hague; International
Women’s League for Peace founded [becomes WILPF in 1919];
Danish women enfranchised

1916 Easter Uprising, Dublin

1917 Outbreak of the Russian Revolution [Feb.]
Bolsheviks seize power and confirm women’s equality [Oct.]

1918 British women above age 30 granted the vote, along with all remaining
unenfranchised men
All-Russian Congress of Women [Nov.]
Maternity and Child Welfare Act, Great Britain
Founding of National Association of Spanish Women [ANME]

1917 Women granted the vote [in various forms] in the Netherlands, Russia,
United Kingdom, Germany, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Poland,
but not in France, Italy, Spain, Greece, Romania, or Bulgaria

1919 Pro-suffrage Allied women meet in Paris to influence Treaty of Versailles
Founding of the League of Nations and the International Labour Orga-
nization [ILO]
Founding of Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom
[WILPF], Zurich
ILO Conference on Women’s Work, Washington, D.C.
First International Congress of Working Women

1920 Russian revolutionary government legalizes abortion [Nov.]
French pro-natalists proclaim the Rights of the Family
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1922 Mussolini and Fascists come to power in Italy
1924 Publication of Eleanor Rathbone's *The Disinherited Family*
ICW Conference on the Prevention of the Causes of War
1925 Sigmund Freud addresses the woman question; Karen Horney responds
1926 The Soviet Code on Marriage and Divorce
IWSA Congress in Paris: schism over protective legislation for women; IWSA becomes International Alliance of Women (IAW)
1927 *Report of the Special Body of Experts on Traffic in Women and Children* published by the League of Nations
Oxford University restricts the number of women students admitted
1928 Kellogg-Briand Pact on the outlawry of war
Radclyffe Hall publishes *The Well of Loneliness*
1929 Crash of the stock market; beginning of the Great Depression; assaults begin on women's employment and feminist campaigners mobilize in its defense
États-Généraux du Féminisme, Paris
1930 Papal encyclical *Casti Connubi*
1931 Spanish Republic; women get the vote in Spain
ILO endorses Convention on Equal Pay for Equal Work
Liaison Committee of Women's International Organizations established
1932 Women's massive petition for peace presented to the League of Nations Disarmament Conference in Geneva
1933 Hitler comes to power in Germany, Nazis order dissolution of organizations; the Bund Deutscher Frauenvereine dissolves itself in protest
1934 Manifesto of the World Congress of Women against War and Fascism
Winifred Holtby publishes *Women and a Changing Civilization*
1935 Mussolini invades Abyssinia (Ethiopia; Oct.)
1936 French Popular Front government appoints three women ministers
Civil War breaks out in Spain; founding of Mujeres Libres
1936 Swedish pro-population reforms; Gunnar and Alva Myrdal reconfigure women as workers who have the right to children
1937 Congress of Women's World Committee against War and Fascism, Paris
League of Nations authorizes formation of Committee on the Status of Women
Constitution of the Irish Republic qualifies women's rights
1938 Publication of Virginia Woolf's *Three Guineas*
1938 Nazi Germany invades and annexes Austria, then Czechoslovakia
1939 Nazi-Soviet Pact; Nazi Germany invades Poland; outbreak of World War II; Nazi Germany defeats France
IAW meets in Copenhagen
Publication of *The Law and Women's Work* by the League of Nations
1940  Alva Myrdal publishes *Nation and Family* in Sweden
1941  Elin Wägner publishes *Väckerklocka* (Alarm Clock)
1942  The Beveridge Report (England) lays out a social welfare system in which wives derive benefits exclusively through employment of husbands
1944  The New Soviet Family Law promulgated
      Allied offensive against the Axis powers launched in May
1945  War ends
      Papal broadcast on “Woman’s Dignity”
      French and Italian women vote for first time
      Founding of the United Nations
      Founding of Communist Women’s International Democratic Federation (WIDF), Paris
1946  Founding of the UN Commission on the Status of Women
      Viola Klein publishes *The Feminine Character: History of an Ideology*
1947  The “Cold War” affirmed; the Marshall Plan and the Molotov Plan
1948  UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights
1949  Publication of Margaret Mead’s *Male and Female*
      Publication of Simone de Beauvoir’s *Le Deuxième Sexe* (The Second Sex)
      UN Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others
1952  ILO Convention on Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers
1953  WIDF raises the women’s rights banner in Copenhagen at its World Congress of Women
1955  UNESCO publishes Duverger’s survey *The Political Role of Women*