

Objectives

- Analyze how a movement for women's rights arose in the 1960s.
- Explain the goals and tactics of the women's movement.
- Assess the impact of the women's movement on American society.



Terms and People

- **feminism** – the theory of the political, social, and economic equality of men and women
- **Betty Friedan** – author of the groundbreaking book *The Feminine Mystique*
- **NOW** – the National Organization for Women, which worked for “true equality for all women”
- **ERA** – the Equal Rights Amendment, a proposed Constitutional amendment to guarantee gender equality under the law

Terms and People (continued)

- **Gloria Steinem** – a feminist leader and writer who sought to raise the public's awareness of gender issues
- **Phyllis Schlafly** – a conservative political activist who opposed the women's movement
- **Roe v. Wade** – the controversial Supreme Court case that legalized abortion



What led to the rise of the women's movement, and what impact did it have on American society?

After World War II, women gave up their jobs and returned to their homes to raise families.

In the 1960s and 1970s, however, **the women's movement worked to attain equality for women and change American life.**

The long history of struggle for women's rights

The struggle for women's rights began with the Declaration of Sentiments at Seneca Falls in the 1840s.

Women won the right to vote in the 1920s, culminating the first wave of **feminism**.

However, women made **little legal or social headway** in the decades that followed.

The civil rights struggles of the 1960s prompted women to examine their roles and rights in American society.

- They **rejected the stereotypical** view of women as housewives.
- They **analyzed how society discriminated** against women.
- They **sought equality** in jobs and job training.

This gave rise to the **second wave of feminism.**



In 1963, journalist and housewife **Betty Friedan**, wrote *The Feminine Mystique*, a book that helped to launch the feminist movement.

Friedan helped to establish **NOW**, the National Organization for Women.



NOW attacked stereotypes and identified two main priorities.

- Passage of the **ERA**, the Equal Rights Amendment
- Protecting women's reproductive rights



NOW's goal was to achieve "true equality for all women."

The **Equal Rights Amendment** was a proposed Constitutional amendment to guarantee equality between men and women.

Political conservatives such as **Phyllis Schlafly** opposed the ERA, arguing it would hurt families and allow the military to draft women.



era

In the end, the ERA narrowly failed to become part of the Constitution.

In 1973, the Supreme Court's decision in *Roe v. Wade* granted women the right to legal abortions.

Before this decision, most states outlawed or restricted abortion.

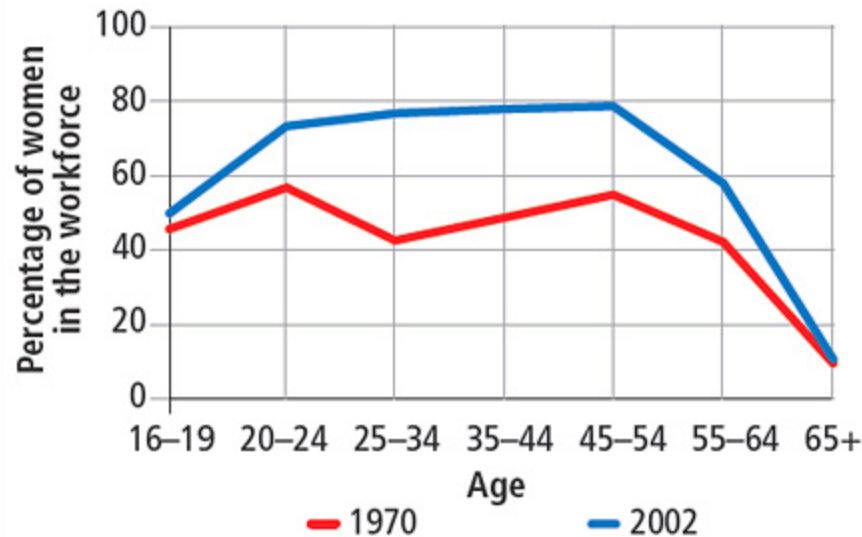
Roe remains a controversial and divisive decision today.



The women's rights movement made legal progress in the 1960s and 1970s.

- NOW filed many lawsuits with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to stop workplace discrimination.
- Title IX of the 1972 Higher Education Act banned discrimination in education.
- In 1974, the Equal Opportunity Credit act made it illegal to deny a woman credit because of her gender.

Women in the Workforce, by Age



SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Women play a larger role in today's workforce.

- Over 60% of women now work.
- Medicine, law, accounting, and other traditionally male fields now routinely accept women.
- However, for the same jobs, women still earn less than men.

Section Review

QuickTake Quiz



Know It, Show It Quiz

