

Class Reading:

Steinem, Gloria. *My Life on the Road*. New York, NY: Random House, 2015.

I think this excerpt from the book give a good introduction to how second-wave feminism or the women's movement, despite being immensely influential on all sects of life in the United States, has been largely overlooked. Therefore, telling the story of feminists rising in the 1960s and advocating for equality throughout the 1970s is still "history from below." Additionally, Steinem's memories show us the involvement of the women's movement within mainstream United States politics when, if we hear stories, they're typically about social protests or challenging laws, but not within the walls of Congress. Thus, Steinem tells a story counter to the hegemonic narrative that women are antithetical to real politics.

Working Bibliography

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Dicker, Rory Cooke. "Chapter 3: Second Wave Feminism: Seeking Liberation and Equality ." Essay. In *A History of U.S. Feminisms*, 57–102. Berkeley, CA: Seal Press, 2016.

Faderman, Lillian. "Chapter 12: A 'New Woman' Emerges (Carrying Baggage) & Chapter 13: Radical Women and the Radical Woman." Essay. In *Woman: The American History of an Idea*, 302–59. New Haven, CT: YALE UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2023.

Klein, Ezra. "Michelle Goldberg Grapples with Feminism After Roe." Produced by Annie Galvin. *The Ezra Klein Show*, July 8, 2022.

Levine, Suzanne, and Harriet Lyons. *The Decade of Women: A Ms. History of the Seventies in Words and Pictures*. New York, NY: Paragon Books, 1980.

[National Women's Political Caucus Records](#), 1970-2006; item description, dates. MC 522, folder #. Schlesinger Library, Radcliffe Institute, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.

She's Beautiful When She's Angry. United States of America : Netflix, 2014.

Spruill, Marjorie Julian. *Divided We Stand: The Battle over Women's Rights and Family Values That Polarized American Politics*. London: Bloomsbury, 2019.

Steinem, Gloria. *My Life on the Road*. New York, NY: Random House, 2015.

Why It Matters

My own approach to history is grounded in understanding the Women's Liberation Movement in the 1970s, the figures involved in and influences for the waves of progress and backlash; my approach relies on themes like Women and Gender and Society, Economics, and Politics.

So much of Second Wave Feminism can be understood through legal and political change. The women of the movement involved in politics argued for and achieved a margin of equality before the law, resulting in access to reproductive healthcare, more opportunities in education, and more. Yet for all their efforts, today, so much of what they envisioned has not yet been achieved. I believe that political issues like unclear and everchanging sexual harassment guidelines on college campuses, the lack of Constitutional protection for gender equity, or, most notably, the overturning of *Roe v. Wade (1973)*, are best understood by following the story of the Women's Movement.