

Changing Rights and Responsibilities of Women

- Women's Property Rights - to keep wages, own real estate, file patents – began to change, state by state, in the 1800's. Married women in California had the right to keep their own property from the beginning of the state.

[State Law Resources - American Women](#)

[Women's Property Rights - Women's Rights: 1839 - Present - Library Home at CSU Bakersfield](#)

- Clara Barton believed women had the right to be paid as much as men for the same work. She assumed responsibility for large-scale relief efforts during the Civil War, managed efforts to find missing soldiers, and founded the Red Cross.

<https://www.civilwarmed.org/clara-barton-and-womens-rights/>

<https://clarabartonmuseum.org/broke-barriers/>

- Dr. Elizabeth Follansbee was Southern California's first woman physician and helped found the Children's Hospital of San Francisco. Did she have the right to become a physician despite a dean that encouraged hazing of women during a time sexism towards women. Did she have a responsibility to pass on what she learned to the women and children that treated.

<https://www.latimes.com/archives/la-xpm-1985-07-21-vw-7136-story.html>

<https://www.encyclopedia.com/women/dictionaries-thesauruses-pictures-and-press-releases/follansbee-elizabeth-1839-1917>

<http://www.laalmanac.com/people/pe30ef.php>

<https://homesteadmuseum.blog/2023/04/04/eulogy-has-formed-no-part-of-the-plan-of-the-se-brief-sketches-the-makers-of-los-angeles-in-out-west-magazine-april-1909-part-two/>

- Bloomer Girls - Disapproving scolds. Sexist condescension. Odd theories about the effect of exercise on reproductive organs. Did females have the right to play sports. Though baseball began as a gender-neutral sport, girls and women of the nineteenth century faced many obstacles on their way to the diamond. Yet all-female teams took the field everywhere. Did these women have a responsibility to show that they could do everything that men could do.

<https://www.loc.gov/rr/news/topics/bloomergirls.html>

<https://www.historycolorado.org/story/stuff-history/2018/05/26/bloomer-girls-baseball>

- “Mary Breckenridge and the Frontier Nursing Service: How the Cry of One Woman Changed the World”
[https://www.mayoclinicproceedings.org/article/S0025-6196\(11\)64180-3/fulltext](https://www.mayoclinicproceedings.org/article/S0025-6196(11)64180-3/fulltext)
<https://nursemanifest.com/2018/04/27/mary-breckinridge-1881-1965/>

Rights and Responsibilities of African Americans

- Allensworth, CA (founded in 1908) became the first African-American town in California. Its purpose was to provide an opportunity for equal rights and its citizens had the responsibility of planning and organizing the entire community.
<https://www.historynet.com/allensworth-californias-black-community/>
<https://www.blackpast.org/african-american-history/history-allensworth-california-1908/>
- Mary Ellen “Mammy” Pleasant sued to desegregate streetcars in San Francisco in the 1860’s. A successful African American businesswoman, she took on the responsibility to help others have basic rights.
<https://www.aclunc.org/sites/goldchains/explore/mary-ellen-pleasant.html>
<https://wams.nyhistory.org/industry-and-empire/expansion-and-empire/mary-ellen-pleasant/>
- Bridget “Biddy” Mason . Did she have a right to her freedom by being brought to California. Did she have a responsibility to become something after she was granted her freedom. A former slave, Mason became an entrepreneur, landowner, philanthropist and co-founder of First African Methodist Episcopal Church. Mason was a midwife and nurse thus becoming economically independent. She is remembered for her work with the poor and imprisoned as she provided food and shelter to people of all races. Also one of the first African American women to own land.
<https://www.aclunc.org/sites/goldchains/explore/biddy-mason.html>
<https://americacomesalive.com/bridget-biddy-mason-1818-1891-businesswoman-and-philanthropist/>

- “African Americans’ Right to Vote: A Long Journey” 1857- The Scott vs Sanford Supreme Court decision (Dred Scott) stated that slaves were not citizens of the U.S.
<https://www.acslaw.org/expertforum/no-rights-which-the-white-man-was-bound-to-respect/>
<https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/dred-scott-case>
- “Henrietta Lacks” Henrietta Lacks was an African-American woman whose cancer cells are the source of the HeLa cell line, the first immortalized human cell line and one of the most important cell lines in medical research.
https://www.societyforhistoryeducation.org/pdfs/N14_Stump.pdf
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5072843/>
- Nathaniel Colley, Civil Rights Attorney from Sacramento, Ca Fought for the rights of African Americans to live in California.
[This Sacramento lawyer helped desegregate housing. A film series tells his legacy](#)
<https://sacobserver.com/2023/12/sacramento-honors-black-pioneer-nathaniel-colley-for-landmark-civil-rights-work/>

Rights and Responsibilities of Progressive Government

- Direct Democracy became popular during the Progressive Era. In 1911, under the leadership of Governor Hiram Johnson, in an effort to break the railroad’s stranglehold on the state legislature, California became the ninth state to allow initiative, referendum, and recall, processes that greatly influence state government today. Citizens have the right to bring issues directly to a vote of the people, without interference from the state legislature, and also have a responsibility to become educated on propositions. Citizens may also throw out state officials, and they did recall Governor Gray Davis in 2003.
<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Hiram-Warren-Johnson>
<https://www.initiativeandreferenduminstitute.org/california>
- Yellow Journalism encouraged U.S. participation in the war. Was it the newspapers’ right to say what they pleased or did they have a responsibility for more balanced reporting?
<https://publicdomainreview.org/collection/yellow-journalism-the-fake-news-of-the-19th-century/>
https://www.pbs.org/crucible/frames/_journalism.html

Rights and Responsibilities – Westward Expansion

- Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo protested to the Mexican government over U.S. migrants into California. He feared that they would not fulfill their responsibilities to follow Mexican law, and Mexico would lose the right to control its country.
<https://ca.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/f14e0253-52c2-4bc1-8d8f-1f7feb7ca438/mariano-guadalupe-vallejo/>
<https://peacehistory-usfp.org/us-mexican-war/>
- The Bear Flag Revolt asserted California's right to independence from Mexico and a responsibility for John C. Fremont and others to defend that right.
<https://www.history.com/topics/19th-century/bear-flag-revolt>
<https://www.californiafrontier.net/bear-flag-revolt/>
- The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo stated that Mexicans could choose between U.S. and Mexican citizenship, and that new citizens would have the same rights as other U.S. citizens. Did the U.S. fulfill its responsibility to honor the treaty?
- <https://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/guadalupe-hidalgo#documents>
- <https://www.history.com/topics/mexican-american-war/treaty-of-guadalupe-hidalgo>
- The U.S. Federal Land Act (1851) assigned landowners the responsibility of filing new claims for land they had held under Mexican rule. Many retained their rights; some lost land. The Peraltas and Vallejos kept some of their land.
<https://www.jstor.org/stable/2566499>
<https://chicanohistory.sdsu.edu/chapter05/c05s02.html>

Rights, Responsibilities, and the Environment

- Conservation and protecting the environment became a responsibility of government after 1890, when the Census Bureau declared the frontier closed. John Muir and President Teddy Roosevelt were early advocates for nature and the rights of future generations to enjoy it. Damming of Hetch Hetchy Valley – Responsibility to the land.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Wv82Ci9_h4
Damming of Hetch Hetchy Valley – Responsibility to the land.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Wv82Ci9_h4

- The Colorado River inspired fights over rights and the responsibility to share resources between Colorado, California, and Mexico.
<https://wrrc.arizona.edu/publication/sharing-colorado-river-water-history-public-policy-and-colorado-river-compact>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KS-ErQa9RAk>
- Hydraulic Mining – The rights of the farmer and the responsibility to the land. A federal judge stopped this type of mining in the 1884 decision *Woodruff v. North Bloomfield Gravel Mining Company*, in order to protect agricultural land in the Central Valley
<https://lira.bc.edu/files/pdf?fileid=db154b45-b0f7-49a5-ad8e-b12ca34bda1e>
<https://trellis.net/article/heres-how-californias-water-laws-were-made/>
- The Los Angeles Aqueduct (completed 1913) was the result of much conflict and political chicanery. Who had a right to the Owens Valley water, and were they responsible with it?
[Los Angeles Aqueduct and Owens Valley - Water Education Foundation](https://vce.usc.edu/volume-1-issue-1/ethics-of-decisions-behind-the-los-angeles-aqueduct/)
<https://vce.usc.edu/volume-1-issue-1/ethics-of-decisions-behind-the-los-angeles-aqueduct/>

Rights and Responsibilities and Native Americans

- The Modoc War (1872-1873) in California occurred when Natives lost their rights to live in their homeland and were deported. Did California's government live up to its responsibilities?
<https://www.nebraskapress.unl.edu/bison-books/9781496201799/the-modoc-war/>
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/modoc/learning/history-culture/?cid=stelprdb5310672>
- "The Rights and Responsibility of the Indian Removal Act of 1830" The Indian Removal Act of 1830 was a law that allowed President Andrew Jackson to remove Native Americans from their homelands in existing states and territories and relocate them to unsettled land in the west. The act was passed by Congress on May 28, 1830, and signed into law by President Jackson on the same day.
<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aia/part4/4p2959.html>
<https://immigrationhistory.org/item/1830-indian-removal-act/>

Rights and Responsibilities – Race and Ethnicity

- Angel Island Immigration Station represented the community's perceived responsibility to regulate and limit Asian immigration. This limited the rights of many immigrants.
<https://www.history.com/topics/immigration/angel-island-immigration-station>
<https://www.encyclopedia.com/humanities/applied-and-social-sciences-magazines/angel-island>
- The Chinese Exclusion Act (1882) asserted the right of the government to exclude a specific group from entering the United States. This policy made it easier for citizens to ignore responsibilities to treat the Chinese fairly. This policy existed until WWII. The Chinese Exclusion Act, passed in 1882, imposed a moratorium on all immigration to the United States by Chinese laborers. The Act was passed in response to the economic fears of West Coast Americans, who blamed Chinese immigrants for declining wages and growing unemployment. The Chinese Exclusion Act continued to limit Chinese immigration to the United States until 1943, and set a precedent for the immigration restriction acts that would follow it, including the National Origins Act of 1929.

<https://www.history.com/topics/immigration/chinese-exclusion-act-1882>

<https://openborders.info/chinese-exclusion-act-1882/>

- The Foreign Miner's Tax restricted Mexican American and Chinese rights to mine for gold, since it made them responsible for paying more in taxes than they would probably earn. Locke, California, was an all-Chinese town near Sacramento. Residents had the right to run their own affairs and were able to carry out responsibilities for the community.
<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/goldrush-chinese-immigrants/>
<https://shec.ashp.cuny.edu/items/show/1809>

Rights and Responsibilities of Labor and Business

- Leland Stanford, businessman, railroad tycoon, California governor and founder of Stanford University, was responsible for beginning the Republican Party in California. Did he have a right to become so rich?
<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/tcrr-stanford/>
<https://paloaltohistorymuseum.org/moments-in-history-leland-stanford-1824-1893-jane-stanford-1828-1905/>
- Andrew Carnegie believed he had a right to make enormous profits in steel, but also a responsibility to give back to the community through philanthropy. He ended strikes by shooting workers; he also built lots of libraries.
<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/carnegie-biography/>
<https://www.britannica.com/money/Andrew-Carnegie>
- “The Living Dead: The Radium Dial Painters of Ottawa, Illinois and Their Impact on Workplace Safety.” Radium dial painters, also known as the Radium Girls, were women who painted watch dials and other items with radium-containing paint in the early 20th century. The radium gave off a blue-green glow, and the painters were exposed to high levels of radiation.
<https://www.versantphysics.com/2022/07/29/what-the-radium-girls-taught-us-about-radiation-safety/>
<https://nvlpubs.nist.gov/nistpubs/jres/126/jres.126.051.pdf>
- “Watergate: The Rights and Responsibilities of the Press” The Watergate scandal was a major political controversy in the United States during the presidency of Richard Nixon from 1972 to 1974, ultimately resulting in Nixon's resignation.
<https://www.britannica.com/event/Watergate-Scandal>
<https://hls.harvard.edu/today/watergate-era-reforms-50-years-later/>
- “The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire: How Horror Brought Rights to Laborers” -The fire caused the deaths of 146 garment workers – 123 women and girls and 23 men – who died from the fire, smoke inhalation, falling, or jumping to their deaths.
<https://www.fightingforyou.com/resource-center/articles/triangle-shirtwaist-fire/#:~:text=In%20the%20wake%20of%20the%20Triangle%20Shirtwaist%20Factory%20fire%2C%20workers,be%20aware%20of%20their%20rights.>

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/nation/how-the-triangle-shirtwaist-factory-fire-transformed-labor-laws-and-protected-workers-health>

- Cesar Chavez is best known for his role as a labor leader and founding the United Farm Workers (UFW) union. He spent his life fighting for farmworkers' rights.

<https://www.ocho.co/blog/cesar-chavez-peaceful-champion-for-workers>

<https://www.history.com/news/chavez-itliong-delano-grape-strike>

Rights and Responsibilities in Social Change

- Horace Mann became the first Secretary of Education of a state (Massachusetts) in 1837. He believed that education was “the great equalizer” and a positive force for democracy. Students had a right to an education, and the state had a responsibility to provide it.

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Horace-Mann>

<https://www.biography.com/scholars-educators/horace-mann>

- John Swett, known as the “Horace Mann of the West” became California’s Superintendent of Schools in 1863, making school free for all students, so that education was a right of citizens and a responsibility of the state. Unlike Mann, Swett had been a teacher.

<https://www.beniciamagazine.com/nuts-bolts-john-swett/>

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/John-Swett>

Rights and Responsibilities – Trouble with the Law

- Joaquin Murrieta, angry about losing a California mining claim after the Mexican War, began to steal horses and attack camps. Was he defending rights of Mexican natives or just failing in his responsibility to respect property?

<https://www.theparisreview.org/blog/2018/07/09/the-legend-of-joaquin-murrieta-a-history-of-racialized-violence/>

<https://www.cocohistory.com/essays-murrieta.html>

- Tiburcio Vasquez had a long career as a California bandit, punctuated with two stints in San Quentin and ended by hanging in Hollywood in 1875. What responsibilities did he think he had? In that racist time, what rights of his were violated? Who lost their rights to life, and why?

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tiburcio_V%C3%A1squez

<https://www.legendsofamerica.com/we-tiburciovasquez/>

- The San Francisco Committee of Vigilance assumed the responsibility for policing San Francisco during its lawless early days. As enthusiastic amateurs, its members had little respect for the rights of the accused.
https://www.foundsf.org/index.php?title=Committee_of_Vigilance_of_San_Francisco
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San_Francisco_Committee_of_Vigilance
- Harry Morse, sheriff of Alameda County in 1864, had the responsibility of protecting the rights of a widely dispersed population. He captured many horse and cattle thieves. In the 1880's he opened a detective agency and tracked down notorious bandits.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harry_N._Morse
<https://www.geriwalton.com/harry-morse-bloodhound-of-the-far-west/>
- Black Bart, gentleman stagecoach robber and poet, fulfilled his responsibilities in the Union Army at Vicksburg and during the March to the Sea. Afterward, he formed a grudge against Wells Fargo and began depriving people of their property rights. Eventually caught by Harry Morse, he disappeared after serving six years in San Quentin.
<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Black-Bart>
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_Bart_\(outlaw\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_Bart_(outlaw))
- "Rights and Responsibilities: How Japanese Americans responded to their internment during World War II" Fred T. Korematsu was a national civil rights hero. In 1942, at the age of 23, he refused to go to the government's incarceration camps for Japanese Americans. After he was arrested and convicted of defying the government's order, he appealed his case all the way to the Supreme Court.
<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/fred-korematsu-fought-against-japanese-internment-supreme-court-and-lost-180961967/>
- <https://korematsuinstitute.org/freds-story/>
- Japanese American internment: This topic includes whether young men interned in camps could be drafted

WW1 Rights and Responsibilities -

https://wwichangedus.org/all_resources/rights-and-responsibilities-lesson-plan/

<https://nhd.org/en/by-topic/world-war-i/>

- **The Espionage and Sedition Acts in the U.S.:**
How did these acts restrict freedom of speech and press during WWI, and what were the legal challenges to them?
- **Conscientious Objectors:**
Explore the experiences of individuals who refused military service due to religious or moral objections, and the legal battles they faced.
- **Women's Wartime Roles:**
Analyze how women's rights expanded during WWI as they took on traditionally male jobs in factories and healthcare, while also examining the limitations placed on them.
- **Treatment of Immigrant Communities:**
Investigate how different immigrant groups were treated during the war, including suspicion and discrimination against those from enemy nations.
- **Soldier's Rights on the Frontline:**
Examine the conditions soldiers faced in trenches, their access to medical care, and the psychological impact of warfare on their rights as individuals.
- **Wartime Propaganda and Censorship:**
Analyze how governments used propaganda to control public opinion and limit dissent, and the implications for citizens' right to information.
- **The Impact of the Treaty of Versailles on Civil Rights:**

How did the Treaty of Versailles' harsh terms affect the rights of citizens in defeated nations, especially in Germany?

- How did the rights and responsibilities of different groups (soldiers, civilians, women, minorities) change during WWI?