

# GENDER REVOLUTION

We decided to choose roles of men and woman throughout history (from XV century until XXI century) as the subject of our research. We wanted to compare how roles have changed little by little. The changes were made because of class struggles and particularly by women's struggles.

## ROLE OF MEN AND WOMEN THROUGHOUT HISTORY FROM XV CENTURY UNTIL XXI CENTURY.

### MEN AND WOMEN IN THE XV CENTURY

Women didn't receive the same education as men. Men in high society were able to study at University and men in middle class learned to read and write. However, proletarian men worked from childhood and they were able to study. Women in high society were able to know read and write, embroider, painting, music, dance and French. However, proletarian women worked throughout its entire lives and they were paid less for doing the same job as men.

The men in high society belonged to the public sphere- the outward business of war and politics- and they, kings, princes and feudal lords, imposed the rules.



## MEN AND WOMEN IN THE XVI CENTURY

Throughout history of the world men and women believed that women were inferior to men and this continued in sixteenth century. The social structure of sixteenth century in Europe allowed women limited opportunities for involvement. Women should learn to be good daughters and wives and they were taught to manage a home, sew, make home remedies, prepare food and their duties to her future husband, as it was in past centuries. In most cases education for women was not advocated because most people think that women's education was a waste of time. Also it was thought to be in detrimental to the traditional female virtues of innocence and morality. Education was a privilege of high-born ladies.

Therefore, despite the advent of the age of print, the literacy rate during this period remained low (women of this period often expressed themselves through the ostensibly private forms of letters and autobiographies).

At that time the working and middle class men had to support the family and at the same time to work as a peasant, artisan, fisherman, etc. In the case of a man of high social class, his goal in life was to keep the lineage an inheritance in the land of his father.



## MEN AND WOMEN IN THE XVII CENTURY

The seventeenth century was not an era of drastic changes in the status or conditions of women. They often acted as counselors in the home, "tempering" their husbands' words and actions, but they were not directly involved in politics. Nevertheless, many women were able to make public their private views through the veil of personal writings. In some

countries, women participated in various community activities. For example, women were full members of English guilds. During the seventeenth century, women's writings continued to focus on largely religious concerns, but increasingly, women found a creative and intellectual outlet in private journal- and letter-writing.

The women belonging to a low class continued to take care of their children and educated them and also they worked as farmers, wet nurses, servants, etc.

In this century, men of low social class were engaged in agriculture, livestock, fishing and crafts. Regardless of their social status, the man ruled over his wife and family. The most important thing in high society was to have children that prolong the father's lineage and heritage, however farmers and artisans had children that supported and participate in the upkeep of the home, as it was in the past centuries.



#### MEN AND WOMEN IN THE XVIII CENTURY

On the one hand, the century of Agricultural Revolution significantly altered peasant life in England. Women had fewer opportunities to make profits off of work on common lands and they increasingly worked away from home in the towns or cities as cleaning women, servants, etc. Also growth of cottage industry and women increasingly were home working in the cottage industry.

On the other hand, the Industrial Revolution large numbers of women work in factories in late 18th-century England. Families often work together (especially women and children) and get smaller in cities.

The Enlightenment ideology didn't like or respect women all that much, and when women (Olympe de Gouges or Madame Roland) tried to apply its ideas of freedom and equality to their own sex even the most radical leaders of the French Revolution repressed them.

Two very important women were Mary Wollstonecraft and Catherine the Great in those days.

In many countries, women in the eighteenth century had absolute submission to man, foreordained to marriage, stay at home, caring for children, the preservation of modesty and virginity, among others. Women were declared inferior, subjected to manly exploitation protection " because of their inferiority ".

The man is always wearing over and everything revolves around him. Women should be under the strict orders sent. They believe that the man over the centuries is being perfected continuously.



## MEN AND WOMEN IN THE XIX CENTURY

The nineteenth-century woman was not developed as a human being. The woman followed the example of honesty, integrity and respect for man and society itself.

The man in the couple and the family was limited to being the provider; for example, he was responsible for working to bring money home. No one was going to wait for the man of the house to collaborate and less to assume traditionally female roles. Middle class wives, daughters and sisters were left at home all day to oversee the domestic duties that were increasingly carried out by servants.

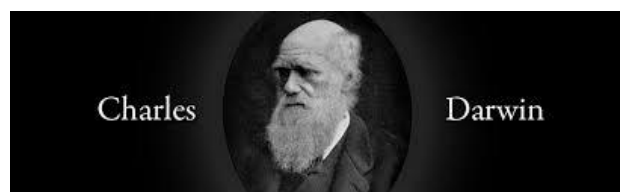
Women were considered physically weaker yet morally superior to men, which meant that they were best suited to the domestic sphere. Some doctors reported that too much study actually had a damaging effect on the ovaries, turning attractive young women into dried-up prunes.

Women played a major role in social reforms in the mid- late-nineteenth century: Catholic orders organized schools and hospitals; increase of female teachers in late-19th century (e.g. preschool education); trend toward gendering certain occupations that had the effect of kicking men out and also making the wages lower.

“Votes for women” was part of a gradual improvement in women’s rights that had been going on throughout the 19 th century. The movement also campaigned for the right to divorce a husband, the right to education, and the right to have a job such as a doctor. Many women, however, saw the vote as the vital achievement that would give them a them a say in the laws affecting their lives.

The National Union of Women’s Suffrage Societies- the Suffragists- was formed in 1897. The group was made up of mainly middle-class women and campaigned peacefully. The organization built up supporters in Parliament, but private members’ bills to give women the vote all failed.

The nineteenth century man had to adjust to the profound innovations of industrialization that occurred in step with modern times.



Charles

Darwin

## MEN AND WOMEN IN THE XX AND XXI CENTURIES

Women were given vote in XX century and it was one of their greatest achievements of human history.

Despite everything, women from the 1930's were commonly stereotyped as a domestic housewife. Females were often related with household chores and gossip. However, women today have grown from the stereotypes that were common in the XX century. They have developed into the thinking that they can take control.

Women to take on traditional male jobs and they are paid for them (judge, architect, doctor, researcher, etc). As a wife, she is caring and attentive to her partner. The mother is usually responsible for the care of children. The woman is the ultimate responsible for the home. The society "requires" that women have to be arranged, to pay attention to her body, her hair and make it look good.

Males have evolved from the stereotypes of being just the provider. They are not only seen as the provider, but the head of the households too. Males have changed the expectations that women and they themselves had.

Currently the role of men has changed a lot. Nowadays they are not only dedicated to work to help the family financially but also become more involved in the parenting, household chores, etc. Men care more about their image than in another time and worry about being well physically, for example, playing sports.





Colegio Nuestra Señora de Monte-Sión de Torrent