

Social Changes

Chapter 5 Section 2

Focus Questions #3

- What was the experience of women prior to industrialization?
- What are some of the new opportunities women experienced as a result of the social changes?
- What major changes did women gain and what methods did they use to achieve these changes?

The Experiences of Women

- In the 1800's women were mainly defined by their family and household roles.
- Women were legally inferior to their husbands and economically dependent on his income.
- By the 19th century those roles and the opportunities for women began to dramatically change.

New Job Opportunities

- During the the first wave of industrialization many men believed that women should remain at home to bear and nurture children and should not be allowed in the industrial workforce.
- In the second wave of industrialization there were not enough men to fill the the relatively low paid white collar jobs being created.
- Women were hired as clerks, typists, secretaries, file clerks, sales clerks, and worked in light industrial plants.

New Job Opportunities

- Governments had also expanded their services which also created jobs for women.
- Most of the jobs created by the government were filled by middle class women who worked as telephone operators, public educators, secretaries, and health clerks.

Marriage and Family

- The first wave of industrialization strengthened the idea that women should be caretakers and family was their only honorable career.
- This changed during the second wave. Women had less children, birth control reduced the birth rate and the first birth clinic was founded in Amsterdam.

Marriage and Family

- Birth control decreased the number of children and changed the way households functioned.
- Smaller families for middle class members of society allowed for more time to foster the idea of togetherness, and leisure time.
- For working class families it meant that mothers could join the workforce and contribute to the household.

Women's Rights

- Feminism or the movement for women's rights had its beginning during the Enlightenment period.
- Feminism advocated for equality, right to own property, and divorce their husbands.
- The laws during this period gave the husbands complete power over women.

Victories for Women

- Gained the right to own property in 1870.
- Gained access to universities and professions and occupations that were usually dominated by men.
- Formed political parties. (Women's Social and Political Union)
- Goals of Feminism
- Earn the right to vote.
- equal political rights.
- Full citizenship in the nation

Methods of Protest

- Pelted government officials with eggs.
- Chained themselves to lampposts.
- Burned railroad cars, and smashed windows of fashionable department stores.
- Police responded by arresting and brutal treatment of leading activists.
- Before World War I demands for rights were being heard throughout Europe and granted in some countries.