Feminism

- Introduction
  - Two basic beliefs that women are disadvantaged through "mobilisation of biases" and that disadvantage can and should be overthrown
  - Greece -Plato, china
- First wave (traditional)
  - Liberal feminism
    - Principle of individualism _ liberal values mid 19th century
      - Women's leaning toward family and domestic life is influenced by natural impulses and so reflect a willing choice
      - Privileged section of women
      - Other forms of social disadvantages ignored.
        - Class, race.
        - Interest of white middle class women in developed societies
    - Marry Wollstonecraft - a vindication of the rights of women
      - If vote - other forms disappear.
    - Seneca fall convention 1848 "declaration of sentiments"
    - J.s.mill 1867 The second reforms act
      - Society should be organised according to the principle of reason and accident of birth should be Irrelevant
  - Socialist feminism
    - Relationship between sexes is rooted in the social and economic structure itself
    - Friedrich Engels The origins of the family, private property and the state 1884
      - Pre-capitalistic - mothers right
      - Capitalism - patrilineality - " the world historic defeat of the female sex"
      - Women - reserve army of the labour
      - Producing next generation of capitalist workers
      - Powerful incentive to and find and keep the job
        - Necessary cushion against alienation and frustration
          - Male breadwinners enjoy high status within a family
- Second wave (Radical Feminism)
  - Betty Friedan "The feminine mystique"
    - Despite vote - Sense of despair and deep unhappiness - "the problem with no name"
      - Cultural myth that women seek security and fulfilment in domestic life - discourage women from entering employment, politics, public life etc.,
  - Core themes
    - Redefining political - "Personal is political"
      - Politics exists whenever and wherever social conflicts exists - Politics not just limited to public sphere
        - Social inequality is preserved precisely because the "sexual division of labour" has been thought as "natural" rather than "political"
          - Public men and "private" women
      - Cynthia Enloe
        - Where are women?
          - Absence in both theory and practice in the field of politics
      - Susan Moller Okin
        - Politics in family - violence, domination, subornation
        - State intervention in politics- personal law, rape law
        - Family - conditioning- patriarchal child into society
          - Family, state, civil society is not compartmentalised
      - Transferring responsibilities to state
        - Child rearing - nursery school, crèches at work
          - Liberals - warn dangers of politicising the private sphere which is realm of personal choice and individual freedom
    - Sex and Gender
      - Biology is destiny
        - Gender division is natural
      - Gender as a cultural norm
        - Sex is biological difference which is natural and unalterable
        - Gender is a cultural term for different roles society ascribe
          - Imposed through contradicting stereotypes of 'masculinity' and 'feminity'
      - Simone de Beauvoir
        - "Women are made, they are not born" - The second Sex.
          - Eternal Feminine
            - The Other - construction of civilisation
        - State of dilemma - Existence as Human Vs Destiny as Women
          - Jean Paul Sartre - existentialism
            - Existence is prior to essence
              - Good faith
                - Belief in oneself
              - Bad faith
                - Believe in god
      - Androgyny
        - Both male and female characteristics
          - Thus sex is irrelevant to social roles
            - Gender less "personhood "
            - Possibility of social change and women are engendered and oppressed
      - Difference Feminists
        - Essentialist perspective
          - Deeper biological differences
      - Post modern feminist
        - Questioned whether sex is a clear cut biological distinction as usually assumed
          - Biological Womanhood do not apply to who can't bear child or not sexually attracted to men
      - Trans movement
        - Gender as essentially a matter of self identification & challenges binary conception
    - Patriarchy
      - Describes power relationship between women and men
        - Literally mean rule by father /rule by men both within family and outside
          - It reproduces male dominance in all other walks of life
            - Sexual and Generational oppression
      - Varied in different cultures and at different times
        - Developed
          - Physical violence and sexual intimidation
            - MeeToo movement
              - Alissa Milano vs Harvey Weinstein
            - Susan Brown Miller - sex is institution of patriarchy
        - Developing
          - FGM, Bride murders
          - Neoliberal economic policies
            - Feminisation of poverty
      - Different Analysis
        - Liberal
          - Unequal distribution of rights and entitlements
            - Socialist
              - Economic aspect
        - Radical
          - Institutionalised and systemic
            - Dialectics of sex not class
              - Sex as base strict
    - Equality and difference
      - Liberal
        - Legal and political equality, opportunity
          - Socialist
            - Economic
      - Radical
        - Equality Feminism
          - Equality in family and personal life
            - Child care and domestic responsibility
            - Control on one's own body
            - Sexual expression and fulfilment
        - Difference feminist
          - To want to be equal to a man implies that women are "male identified "
            - Desire to be like a man
              - Adopting competitive and aggressive behaviour
          - Liberation meant achieving fulfilment as women
            - Liberation through "difference" & "female identified"
            - Pro-Women position
              - Women and men are fundamentally different at a psycho-biological level rather than simply the structure of society
                - Aggressive & competitive vs creative and empathetic
          - Cultural Feminist
            - Emphasis on women art craft and literature
            - Sense of sisterhood- experiences unique - childbirth, motherhood, menstruation
          - Differentiated citizenship
            - Iris Marion Young
              - Universal citizenship is Color blindness
        - Political lesbianism
          - Equality and harmony is impossible
            - Ti-Grace Atkinson - Feminism is theory, lesbianism is the practice
- Third wave
  - 1990s Three process
    - Deradicalisation
      - Post feminism
        - Retreat from uncompromising position
          - Objectives achieved and beyond feminism
    - Intersectionality
      - Multiple social identity
        - Interlocking system of oppression and discrimination
          - Sexism, racism, xenophobia and homophobia
      - Black Feminism
        - Bell Hooks
    - Fragmentation
      - Post structuralism
        - Micheal Foucault
          - Link between power and system of thought using the idea of discourse
            - Question the idea of fixed female identity
              - Gendered discourse
      - Trans theory
        - Sexual Ambiguity & gender continuance
          - Not fixed, natural but flipped and plural
        - Gender nonconformity
          - They are not women nor men
          - Gender is not determined at birth or ascribed to individuals by society
            - Matter of self identity
              - Judith Butler - Gender is repeated social performance
                - Gender performitivity
        - Difference feminist
          - Male bodied people to intrude into women's space, threatening identity, safety and privacy
            - Trans Exclusionary Radical Feminism (TERF)
              - Themselves as Gender critical
              - Conservatism
      - Queer theory
        - Teresa de Laurctis
          - Radical and unapologetic rejection of conventional sexual identities
            - Social production rather than essential
        - Robust opposition to heteronormativity
          - Heterosexuality as the baseline for human kind is sustained by cultural belief, religion and institutional arrangement
      - Ecofemisism
        - Vandana Shiva
          - Women by nature closure to nature
- Future
  - Widening influence
    - Moved into mainstream
      - No more outsider protest movement
      - Become standard practice in public services and across civil society
      - Weakens the movement and threatens unity

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