

ANTI-SLAVERY AND WOMEN'S MOVEMENTS:
TIME LINE

PRE-CIVIL WAR

- 1792 -- Sarah Grimke born in Charleston, South Carolina.
- 1805 -- Angelina Grimke born in Charleston, S.C.
- 1808 -- By this time:
African slave trade abolished;
Slaves freed in New England and Ohio.
- 1817 -- Frederick Douglass born into slavery, in Maryland.
- 1820s -- Sarah Grimke becomes a Quaker and leaves the South;
moves to Philadelphia & attends Meeting in which
Lucretia Mott is a minister.
- 1831 -- Nat Turner slave rebellion.
- 1833 -- Great Britain abolishes slavery in its colonies.
-- American Anti-Slavery Society (AASS) is founded --
-uniting 3 abolitionist factions against the
colonizationists.
-feature: interracial organization.
-organized by men, who allowed women only to silently
observe.
-- Female Anti-Slavery Society (FASS) is organized the next
day in Philadelphia by Lucretia Mott, in reaction to the
rebuff of women by AASS. FASS' in other cities followed.
- 1834 -- A.Grimke begins attending meetings of Phila.FASS
-- A.Grimke, after observing fierce anti-abolitionist back-
lash, writes letter of support to Wm.Lloyd Garrison;
Garrison publishes the letter in "Liberator."
- 1836 -- A.Grimke writes "Appeal to Christian Women of the South-
ern States" and submits to AASS for publication.
-- Grimkes leave Phila. for New York, to work with AASS,
despite the Quakers' disapproval.
- 1837 -- Grimkes attend AASS Agents' Convention in N.Y.
-- Grimkes, while on lecture circuit, clash with AASS lead-
ership re: linking women's rights with anti-slavery; a
compromise is reached: they can write but not speak on
the woman question.
-- Grimkes write "Appeal to Women of the Nominally Free
States."
-- Grimkes criticize N.Y.ASS for its exclusion of Black
women because of the "strong aristocratical feelings."
- 1838 -- Frederick Douglass escapes slavery; goes to New Bedford,
Mass.; marries Anna, a freewoman he met in Baltimore.

- A.Grimke marries abolitionist Theo.Weld; has 3 children.
- 1839 -- Douglass becomes involved in anti-slavery movement.
 - AASS votes 180 to 140 to allow women to become members on a basis equal to men.
- 1840 -- World Anti-Slavery Convention in England; women excluded
 - Grimkes, caught up in caring for family and farm, unable to attend, despite invitation (husb. off on abolitionist work, and Grimkes refuse to hire any servants).
- 1841 -- Douglass meets Garrison, who picks up on FD and sends FD on lecture circuit for AASS. Moralists respond to FD.
- 1843 -- Women workers petitioned to Mass. legislature for the 10-hour day.
- 1845 -- Douglass goes on lecture tour of Great Britain for AASS.
- 1846 -- Douglass becomes a freeman, when English friends, led by 2 women, raise \$710 to buy FD's freedom from his owner.
- 1847 -- Douglass returns to USA.
 - Douglass starts "Northern Star" weekly newspaper; selects Rochester, N.Y., as his base, largely because located there is a strong FASS (Stanton, Anthony, and Sojourner Truth).
 - Douglass meets John Brown, and thereby is exposed to views opposing Garrison's "moral suasion" approach.
 - Douglass plays role in Underground Railroad (the last stop before Canada).
 - White women develop mass opposition to ideologies of male chauvinism/sexism.
- 1848 -- Seneca Falls Convention
 - Attendance: 35 women & 32 men; no Black women; a few working class women.
 - P.B. class content: focuses on attacking marriage, and the inaccessibility to women of education and the professions (Stanton = law school grad.).
 - Some recognition of working class women's concerns.
 - The only significant dispute: women's suffrage, which was introduced by Stanton & 2nded by Douglass.
 - Position favoring women's suffrage is adopted.
- National Convention of Colored Freedmen: Douglass introduces women's rights issue; convention passes resolution on women's equality.
- By this time, women workers in textile mills are predominantly immigrant women, who have no property and who have nothing to rely upon but their labor power.
- 1850 -- First National Convention on Women's Rights. Sojourner Truth attends.

- 1851 -- Women's Rights Convention in Akron, Ohio, where S.Truth delivers "Ain't I a Woman" speech. She establishes in the forefront of the women's movement the new standard of womanhood. S.Truth represents leadership of all women. S.Truth provides an answer to male chauvinism and a lesson to white women by exposing white chauvinism and class bias among them.
- Douglass publicly proclaims his unity with John Brown's methods of struggle. This is followed by a period of venomous attacks by Garrison. Douglass brings principled struggle, and Harriet Beecher Stowe tries to reconcile them, but to no avail.
- 1850s -- Douglass attends many women's rights conventions during this decade.
- The Grimke sisters participate in the women's rights movement -- by Angelina's periodic attendance at women's conventions, and more frequently by the sisters' written contributions. [They are tied down to tending farm and Angelina's children.]
- 1853 -- Grimkes and Weld join a utopian cooperative in New Jersey, where Weld is its school director. During this time, the trio writes 2 pamphlets -- one on the effect of emancipation in the West Indies, and the other a detailed account of the realities of slavery.
- 1859 -- Harper's Ferry insurrection, led by John Brown. Brown has asked Douglass to participate in the raid, but FD declines because he thinks it is doomed to failure.
- The raid fails, and Douglass is implicated as a conspirator. Douglass flees to Canada and then to England.
- John Brown is hanged.

CIVIL WAR (1861-1865)

- 1861 -- Civil War begins.
- Agitation for immediate emancipation of slaves, by Douglass, Stanton, and Anthony.
- Marx writes analysis of the Civil War, stating:
"Events themselves drive to the promulgation
of the decisive slogan: 'the emancipation
of the slaves.'"
- 1861 -- In December, Secretary of Treasury, Simon Cameron, issued a report (edited by Pres. Lincoln), declaring:
"Persons held by [Confederate] rebels . . . to service as slaves may, however, be justly liberated from their constraint, and made more valuable in various employments, through voluntary and compensated service, than if confiscated as subjects of property."

- 1862 -- General Strike begins to gather momentum, as slaves abandon their plantation posts en masse and arrive at camps of the Northern armies. During the next 3 years, various Northern army generals establish experimental social/economic systems for assimilating the freedmen into productive life. The feature: freedmen's labor now is paid, whether in the form of wages or by land ownership.
- In September, Pres. Lincoln issues a preliminary emancipation proclamation.
- 1863 -- On January 1, Pres. Lincoln issues the Emancipation Proclamation, by which he declared that the slaves of all persons in rebellion were "henceforth and forever free."
- Douglass recruits Black soldiers for the Union army; then he ceases upon discovering pervasive discrimination against Black soldiers (unprotected as prisoners of war, not promoted to officers' ranks, paid less than white soldiers).
- Douglass meets with Pres. Lincoln and, after some assurances, resumes recruitment efforts.
- Formation of Women's Loyalty League to support Union in war effort.
- Attending: Stanton, Anthony, & Angelina Grimke.
 - Grimke delivers speech appealing for unity between Blacks, women and labor.
 - Stanton's and Anthony's linking the rights of Blacks and women arises partly from fear that women will be left behind; hence, an element of opportunism.
- Grimke sisters write books and articles on political issues during the Civil War.
- 1865 -- Civil War ends.

POST-CIVIL WAR:
RECONSTRUCTION (1865-1877)

- 1866 -- Equal Rights Association (ERA) is founded, at the first women's rights meeting since the eve of the Civil War. ERA's purpose is to link the causes of suffrage for Black people and women. It is permeated with opportunism and white chauvinism.
- National Labor Union (NLU) is founded. The NLU acknowledges women's right to organize as workers.
- 1867 -- First meeting of ERA. Stanton is a leading figure.
- Stanton and Anthony believe that they have made a strategic error in setting aside women's rights during the Civil War; view vote as end in itself.

-Stanton argues that women's suffrage is more important than Black men's suffrage -- thereby combining white chauvinism, sexism, and class bias. The justification for this position is that women are the fairest and most "civilized" and thus deserve the vote more than Black men do.

-But Douglass and others understand that the abolition of slavery did not automatically confer political power upon Black people, and that the Black vote will help to secure the political power necessary to protect their freedom; hence, giving the vote to Black men is a matter of political urgency. The vote is but a means to an end.

- 1868 -- S.B.Anthony publishes the first issue of "Revolution," mouthpiece of the P.B. white women's suffrage movement. The publication is financed by avowed racist George Francis Train.
- A.Grimke reads about a speech delivered by Archibald Grimke at Lincoln University (a college for Black men). She writes to him and learns that he is the son of her brother Henry and a slave. She visits Archibald at Lincoln U. and invites him and his two brothers (also sons of Henry) to visit the Grimke sisters' home. The Grimke sisters pay for the education of the 2 brothers who accepted their assistance. Archibald eventually graduates from Harvard Law School, and his brother Francis from Princeton Seminary School. Both Archibald and Francis are the only 2 members of the next generation of Grimkes who carried forward the tradition of struggle for the rights of Black people and women.
- NLU convention. Women delegates (including Stanton and Anthony) compel the convention to pass stronger resolutions on, and generally to treat more seriously, the cause of working women's rights.
- 1869 -- Last meeting of ERA. Majority declines to adopt resolution endorsing passage of the 15th Amendment, despite appeals for unity by Douglass and Sojourner Truth. ERA is disbanded, and two splinter women's suffrage organizations subsequently created. One, the National Women's Suffrage Association (NAWSA), is founded by Standon and Anthony, who oppose passage of the 15th Amendment. The other, the American Women's Suffrage Association, is founded by Lucy Stone, her husband, and Julia Ward Howe, who support passage of the 15th Amendment.
- National Colored Labor Union is founded, and elects a woman (Mary S. Carey) to its policymaking executive committee.
- NLU excludes Anthony from its convention, because she has encouraged women to work as scabs.

Douglas declares the Rep. Party to represent workers
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- 1870 -- 15th Amendment is adopted.
- 1872 -- Massachusetts Women's Suffrage Association formed. Both Grimke sisters are offered (and accept) positions on its Board of Directors.
- 1871 -- Int'l Workingmen's Association Parade in NYC - Neg vs organizations
- 1873 -- Sarah Grimke dies at age 81.
- 1870s new wave of immigration appeased N. industrialists fear of upper.
- 1879 -- Angelina Grimke dies at age 74. reducing labor supply.
- 1884 -- Eighteen months after the death of his first wife, Douglass marries a white woman, his former secretary (college-educated, age 46).
-This generates an outraged response, even among Abolitionists, white and Black.
-Stanton criticizes those who opposed the marriage.
- 1886 -- Haymarket riot. Eight radical labor leaders are arrested.
- 1890 -- The census reveals that, of the 2.7 million Black women over age 10, over 37% work for wages:
-38.7% work in agriculture
-30.8% work in household domestic service
-15.6% work in laundries
-2.8% work in manufacturing
-- The General Federation of Women's Clubs is founded. The federation excludes Black women's clubs.
- 1890s -- Development of the institution of modern racism (its institutional supports and ideological justifications). In addition, U.S. imperialism is on the rise.
- 1892 -- Stanton becomes disillusioned about the power of the ballot, and cedes NAWSA presidency to Anthony.
-- Ida B. Wells begins the struggle against lynching.
-- Douglass and Mary Church Terrell join the anti-lynching campaign.
-- Out of anti-lynching campaign grew Black women's clubs, in New York, New England, and Washington; later in Chicago and other locations.
- 1893 -- Douglass and Ida B. Wells organize a protest against the racism of the 1893 World's Fair.
-- NAWSA passes a profoundly racist and class-biased resolution promoting suffrage for white P.B. women.
-- U.S. Supreme Court reverses the Civil Rights Act of 1875 thereby lending judicial sanction to Jim Crow and lynch laws.
- 1895 -- Frederick Douglass dies of a heart attack at age 78.
-- First National Conference of Colored Women convenes in Boston to establish a federation of Black women's clubs and to develop a strategy of resistance to lynching and to propagandistic assaults on Black women.

- 1900 -- Anthony resigns from presidency of NAWSA.
-- American Socialist Party is founded.
- 1905 -- Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) is founded. Leading labor organizers Mother Jones and Lucy Parsons (a Black woman) are among the dignitaries who deliver speeches at the founding convention.
- 1908 -- Socialist Party creates a national women's commission.
- 1909 -- New York Triangle Shirtwaist Co. fire kills 146 women workers. This is followed by the "Uprising of the 20,000," a strike by women garment workers in New York. This marks the beginning of the stage in which working class women conceptualize the vote as a means to remove legislators supporting the interests of monopoly capitalism.
- 1913- 1915 -- W.E.B. DuBois writes article supporting the cause of woman suffrage. One of the articles cites statements by Rev. Francis Grimke.
- 1916 -- Mesabi Iron Range Strike, under IWW leadership. Frank Little and Elizabeth Gurley Flynn are involved.
- 1917 -- Frank Little (American Indian and labor organizer) is lynched in Butte, Montana.
- 1920 -- Women are granted the right to vote.
- 1922 -- Anti-Lynching Crusaders, a Black women's organization, is formed under auspices of NAACP.
- 1925 -- International Labor Defense is founded by the Communists and other progressives -- for defense against legal assaults on political activists and labor organizers.
- 1930 -- Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, a white women's organization, is formed at long last.
- 1934 -- International Women's Conference in Paris. The U.S. delegation includes Black women.
- 1940 -- The 1940 census discloses that, of all employed Black women:
-59.5% work in domestic service
-10.4% work in non-domestic service (e.g. hospitals)
-16% work in agriculture
- 1944 -- World War II: Black women more than double their numbers in industry.

1960 -- Of all employed Black women:
-1/3 work in domestic service
-1/5 work in non-domestic service