

Thesis Question: How does the lifestyle/conduct and citizenship conditions of middle class white women during the American Revolution affect our contemporary society in “ethical” or “unethical” ways

“Attention Grabber”

- Imagine this, You have just won the Women’s World Cup for the second tournament in a row making you the most winning team in both male and female World Cup history. As International Champions, your team will be rewarded 30 million dollars in pay, but you feel that isn’t enough so FIFA decides 60 million will work. While the United States Men's National Team failed to qualify for the tournament as a whole are getting paid 440 million.¹
- You may be thinking, well I will take 60 million or even 30 million, but when was it ever okay for a male to get 15 times as much pay as women? Has it always been like this? Is it truly ethical or fair considering we are just women?

Flash Back²

- For many centuries, women have struggled with a “gender gap” as it is referred to as today.
 - Pre-Revolutionary War
 - During the Revolutionary time period women were no more important than children. They were not capable of being morally sound. The moral upbringing and socialization of the children was the father’s priority and responsibility.
 - Women occupied a separate sector of society, in which their role was not less important than men’s but was theoretically sheltered behind the legal privileges of the male sex.³
 - Not all women felt that this theory worked to their advantage or protection
 - many women took part in local economic life and had access to the courts when their interests were affected.
 - Results of Revolutionary war on white women
 - As men left the farms and families to go off to war, women had to step into their roles as enforcers and gained more moral obligations

¹ Gregory, Sean. 2019. ““You Will Not Silence Us”: Megan Rapinoe Talks Equal Pay, World Cup Celebrations and Presidential Tweets.” *Time.Com*, July, N.PAG.

² Berkin, Carol. 10, April 2014. “Revolutionary Transformation of Women’s Role in Society.” *The American Revolution Institute*.

³ Pole, J. R. "17/Equality." In *The Pursuit of Equality in American History*. 633 - 637. University of California Press, 1978.

- Men realized women did all of these things successfully while they were away and gave them the civic role of Republican Motherhood.
 - They raised and educated patriotic sons and daughters
- All of this led to the middle class women demanding for education
 - This opened doors for women because once educated, they realized that they were being cheated from

Forward To Today

- The gain of education that started with the Republican Motherhood is what started a chain reaction that has led to where we are today.
- Each time we begin to close the gender gap in today's society another exception is made.
 - Women today have used their knowledge, their capabilities, and their female empowerment as a building block for what has become an entire movement.
- We can look at Megan Rapinoe, Alex Morgan and 26 other Women of the National Team who on March 8th, International Women's Day, filed a gender-discrimination lawsuit against the United States Soccer Federation⁴
- The Soccer Federation used the excuse that there was not a large enough viewership for the women to be paid more, but now the USWNT holds the record for the most streamed/viewed international game in sports history, so what is the next excuse they come up with?⁵

⁴Dowd, KE & Greenspan, RE 2019, 'Team USA Triumphs Again at the 2019 FIFA Women's World Cup Final', *Time.com*, p. N.PAG, viewed 7 October 2019,

⁵ Ducharme, Jamie. 2019. "'You Either Value Us Equally... or You Don't.' Megan Rapinoe Criticizes U.S. Soccer After Pay Talks Break Down." *Time.Com*, August, N.PAG.