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Buzzfeed Final Assignment

7 Ways that Studying US History 1877 to Modern Times History Shapes the Way You Think About Society's Views of Women

1. A REASON AND TARGET – During the years 1900-1940s, white women were seen as the topic of punishment in most cases of lynching.

The New South & Lynching – week 2



Figure 1 : <https://smntks.com/2018/06/25/prelude-to-a-lynching-crying-black-in-colonized-spaces/>

In this figure it shows a young girl standing front line of a black male being hung. During the times of the lynching, the white women were brought to the events and most of the men were being lynched just because they were accused of assaulting a woman. White women and young girls were sent to the lynching to make it normal for them and to create more fear from the black men ([The New South and Lynching; January 22, 2020](#)). The men were mainly accused of assaulting a women event though they didn't. In most cases the people being lynched were mostly innocent and the whites just wanted to ensure that they had the power over the blacks ([“Whose History? The Reckoning over Confederate Monuments and the Racial Terror of Lynching”](#)). In the south, white men always had the idea that “We must protect our Ladies” was a good enough reason to kill ([Excerpt from “Lynch Law in Georgia” by Ida B. Wells, 1899](#)). The women during this time were seen as useless and that they could not fend for themselves.

Citations:

- [Lecture: Dr. Hannah Dudley-Shotwell: The New South and Lynching; January 22, 2020](#)
- [“Whose History? The Reckoning over Confederate Monuments and the Racial Terror of Lynching”](#)
- [Excerpt from “Lynch Law in Georgia” by Ida B. Wells, 1899](#)

2. **JUST OBJECTS** – During the 1910s, women were not always accounted for as important.
Social Reform – week 4



Figure 2: *Keystone/Getty Images*. <https://www.history.com/news/triangle-shirtwaist-factory-fire-labor-safety-laws>

In this picture, it shows the day of the Triangle Factory Fire in Manhattan, New York, on March 25, 1911. There was a fire that broke out, the women on floors 8-10 couldn't get out. One hundred forty-six women died because there were no fire safety arrangements in the workplace ([Social Reform; February 3, 2020](#)). Corporations didn't feel the need to pay for fire safety such as sturdy fire escapes, doors that open easily, and fire extinguishers. The women in the factories also did not have many good working areas as there were many working in small places, they were basically sitting shoulder to shoulder. There were mostly women working in the factories because they were cheaper pay. ([Triangle Shirtwaist film](#)). After the fire, everyone in the city came together and went

on strike for better working conditions. “The constraints and uncertainties of working-class life made individualism at best a wasteful indulgence and at worst a mortal threat. Realizing that they had to depend on one another to survive, workers developed a culture of mutualism and reciprocity” (McGerr, “Class, Gender, and Race at Home” page 141). The women were not seen as important as men in society (especially lower class), until this tragedy happened. If they were treated well, then there would have likely been a lot more lives saved.

Citations:

- Lecture: Dr. Hannah Dudley-Shotwell: Social Reform; February 3, 2020
- MP- McGerr, “Class, Gender, and Race at Home”
- Triangle Shirtwaist film

3. **FLAPPERS** – During the 1920s, the real show were the pretty women in short dresses and expensive jewelry.
The “modern” 1920s – week 5



Figure3: "A woman of the 1920s era dancing in heels and a short dress." <https://historycollection.co/these-fabulous-facts-about-flappers-prove-they-made-the-20s-roar/>

In this figure, it shows the women that went out to have fun and all stressed similarly who were then considered “flappers.” This was a moment of change for women. Young women of the upper class (and some middle class) who had short hair, wore lots of jewelry, and showed skin (mainly the shoulders and knees) were considered flappers. These women would do out and have fun and there was no need for a man for them during this time (The “Modern” 1920s; February 10, 2020). During this time there was a huge increase of independence for women. Because women were usually expected to become a housewife, it was a new way for the women to express their freedom by being able to drink and smoke in public (Crash Course 32: “The Roaring 20s”). Even in some advertisements, young women were targeted to buy products to make them even more appealing to the men and to look better when going out (“Why I Cried After the Party” AD). Not only that but “in the behavior of young men and women in the twenties, this

charting of distinctions was as important as the exploration” (Larson, “Fundamental battle Modernism in the Roaring 20s” page 201). The actions of premarital sexual intercourse became a more important thing for the young men and women and didn’t seem to be something they needed to wait for. Public displays of affection was not much more of a problem during this time either. Mainly, young women had the image of always dressing up and going out to party.

Citations:

- Lecture: Dr. Hannah Dudley-Shotwell: The “Modern” 1920s; February 10, 2020
- Crash Course 32: “The Roaring 20s”
- MP- Larson, “Fundamental battle Modernism in the Roaring 20s”
- “Why I Cried After the Party” AD

4. **STAY AT HOME MOM** – During the 1920s, married women were doing nothing but working at home by cleaning and helping the children.
Women’s Suffrage – week 5



Figure 4: *Daily Mail*. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2185708/Pictures-proper-way-housewives-1920s-chores-style.html>

On the other side of the spectrum, there are the married and lower-class women always staying home doing all the chores. In this figure, it shows the mom staying home and cleaning instead of going out and having a job. Women were seen as wrong to society if you weren't the one doing all the chores in home. The women were meant to stay home and put all their energy into doing the chores and keeping the house clean (“Just what is it to be a good wife in this modern age?” AD). The basic household held the image that the men were moving forward in life and the women stayed in the spot they are in (“Just what

is it to be a good wife in this modern age?” AD). These women even gave up their nights out and free time just to do the chores because it either took so long or there were so many to be done (“Just what is it to be a good wife in this modern age?” AD). Even during this time, the most of the advertisements (mainly on household appliances) were targeted towards to women to try to convince them that buy the products would make their lives easier and give less work to be done at home (“Just what is it to be a good wife in this modern age?” AD). There were women that had jobs, but these were mainly in the office. Women during this time loved this experience because it created individual expression and freedom (Crash course 31: “Women’s Suffrage”).

However, there were women during this time that started standing up for themselves and Women’s Suffrage started. Although, these women did not have much of a say because the men never believed that they should have the right to vote even though the women fought the argument that they could balance out the vote and thought they were wiser (Women’s Suffrage; February 12&14, 2020) (“The Remonstrance (Boston 1909)”). A main counter against if women should get the right to vote were the women who initially didn’t want the right to vote (who were mainly the white upper class) (“The Remonstrance (Boston 1909)”).

Citations:

- Lecture: Dr. Hannah Dudley-Shotwell: Women’s Suffrage; February 12&14, 2020
- Crash course 31: “Women’s Suffrage”
- “Just what is it to be a good wife in this modern age?” AD
- “The Remonstrance (Boston 1909)”

5. FACTORY WORKERS – During the 1940s, all of the women finally gained respect in society by being heavily needed.

WW2 – week 6



Figure 5: "Rosie the Riveter" was an iconic poster of a female factory worker flexing her muscle, exhorting other women to join the World War II effort with the declaration that "We Can Do It!"

<https://www.defense.gov/Explore/Features/story/Article/1791664/rosie-the-riveter-inspired-women-to-serve-in-world-war-ii/>

Mainly all of the advertisements during the time of World War 2 were targeted to women to help in one way or another; to help fund the war or help the country somehow ([WW2 poster collection at northwestern university library](#)). This image shows the most popular one of them all that still gets referenced today. Rosie the Riveter shows that women can do what men do and it was meant to encourage women to go work in the factories. Women had to step in because almost all men were drafted to war. There was even an economy overdrive and the unemployment heavily dropped

during the war ([Crash Course 36: “WW2 pt2”](#)). Before the United States got too involved with the war, they stated isolationism and was first only sending troops and supplies to the other countries ([WW2; February 19, 2020](#)). After the men left, the women had to “do the job that was left behind,” which meant to work in the factories and the women believed they could work and still be feminine ([WW2; February 19, 2020](#)). This time didn’t just affect the women, but also the men in war. They got to the point of thought that they would only fight just so they could go home after they were done fighting. “Soldiers in the armies of all nations in all wars have yearned to go home, but the GI’s sense of home was especially an American sense” ([Blum, GI Joe, “Fighting for Home” page 280](#)). Even some of the advertisements in the United States were for the women needing to send letters to the men at war and, of course, a huge marketing factor was uncle Sam ([WW2 poster collection at northwestern university library](#)). The women were finally seen as essential and made the war better for the United States as they kept the home front working along with what was happening across the sea.

Citations:

- [Lecture: Dr. Hannah Dudley-Shotwell: WW2; February 19, 2020](#)
- [Crash Course 35: “WW2 pt1”](#)
- [Crash Course 36: “WW2 pt2”](#)
- [MP- Blum, GI Joe, “Fighting for Home”](#)
- [WW2 poster collection at northwestern university library](#)

6. BABY MAKERS – During the 1950s, women were needed again to regain a high population in the United States after World War 2.

The postwar boom – week 8



Figure 6: Corbis. “American society in the 1950s was geared toward the family.”
<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/pill-mrs-america-womens-roles-1950s/>

In this figure it shows a mom with many children, as that was the normality after the war. One of the biggest trends in the 1950s was the baby boom. When the men came back and the families grew, as did the population as a whole ([The Postwar Boom; March 11, 2020](#)). Another huge trend in the 1950s was suburbanization. This consisted of (mostly white) people to. Move out of the city and into suburban neighborhoods ([The Postwar Boom; March 11, 2020](#)). The idea of this was to have one man, one woman, and many kids living in each home, and each home showing off how much money you have ([“A Real Estate Agent Explains the Fine Art of Blockbusting”](#)). The women were seen as unpatriotic, a social deviant, and open to communism if they don’t marry to a man or have many children.

Although, there were women who did not want to follow basic rules of society and they wanted to be with another women. “According to the common wisdom of the time, “normal” heterosexual behavior culminating in marriage represented “maturity” and “responsibility”; therefore, those who were “deviant” were, by definition, irresponsible, immature, and weak” (May, *Men and Women: Life in the Nuclear Cocoon* page 333). Gays and Lesbians were a threat to the American way of life and to the country because it was during the time of the Lavender Scare (*The Postwar Boom*; March 11, 2020). People were fired for being gay and were treated/called outside the norm (*The Postwar Boom*; March 11, 2020).

Citations:

- Lecture: Dr. Hannah Dudley-Shotwell: *The Postwar Boom*; March 11, 2020
- MP- *May, Men and Women: Life in the Nuclear Cocoon*
- “A Real Estate Agent Explains the Fine Art of Blockbusting”

7. STANDING UP – During the years 1960s-1970s, women knew what is right for them and standing up for themselves.

Feminism and women’s movements – week 10



Figure 7: Desanctis. “Thousands march down Pennsylvania Avenue during the Women’s March in Washington, DC, U.S., January 21, 2017.” <https://www.nationalreview.com/corner/the-womens-march-is-about-abortion/>

In this figure, it shows women coming together as allies to stand up for something they believe in. There were many different reasons for the marches and rallies but mainly to gain equal rights and to speak the truth to power (Feminism and Women’s Movements; March 23&25, 2020). The. Women wanted their lives to be more equal to the men. In the household and in the workplaces (“The Politics of Housework”). However, in some cases the women had to do what was best for women in general and make things happen on their own, such as working with the Women’s Liberation in opening their own clinics, changing their puritanical mode of dress, or burning their degrees and making the media redesign the characters of a woman (“She’s beautiful when she’s angry”). During the marches, there were many points hit as to what the women wanted, such as: voting rights, job beyond the desk,

and power against rape actions (“She’s beautiful when she’s angry”). These marches for women were also televised and gained political pressure from outside of the United States (Feminism and Women’s Movements; March 23&25, 2020). Women finally decided to stand up for what they believe in and were sometimes seen as troublesome.

Citations:

- Lecture: Dr. Hannah Dudley-Shotwell: Feminism and Women’s Movements; March 23&25, 2020
- “She’s beautiful when she’s angry”
- “Little Rapes”
- “The Politics of Housework”