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## EQUALITY REVOLUTION: FEMINIST THEORY AND SOCIAL TRANSFORMATIONS

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**Abstract.** *The role of women in society has always been the subject of much debate, both from the feminist movement and from opposing sides. However, we see great results that women have achieved through the acquisition of broad rights. Feminist theory still remains extremely relevant, since to this day develops and proves the active participation of women in solving urgent problems in society.*

**Key words:** *feminist theory, global politics, international relations, women, gender, equality.*

Feminist approaches in international relations are relatively new and belong today to the most critical currents in theory. The starting point of criticism for feminism is that dominant schools in international politics such as neorealism, liberal institutionalism, and theories of world systems have obscured inequality.

Feminist representatives drew attention to the fact that all existing theories of international relations were based on men's perception of the world and did not take into account women's perception of it or their contribution to its political development.

From the beginning, feminist theory has challenged the almost total absence of women in the theory and practice of international relations. This absence is reflected both in the exclusion of women in decision-making and in the assumption that the reality of women's daily lives does not depend on international relations. This theory confirms that traditional international relations are not gender neutral and argues that gender and politics are separate spheres that do not influence each other. Feminist theory confirms that traditional international relations are gender insensitive.

In our time, the problem of feminism in international relations has been studied in detail in the works of foreign authors J. Kristeva, S. Enloe, B. Ettinger, J. Benjamin, J. Butler, L. Handrahan, etc.

Politics and women, until recently, are incompatible concepts. Where are the roots of the struggle for gender equality in the sphere of politics? Was it true that there was an inherently unequal position for women in society? And who has achieved incredible results in the political arena by refuting any prejudices? We will try to answer these questions in this research.

In the 15th century BC, the Egyptian queen Hatshepsut took all the power in the country in her own hands. She ruled for many years by herself. Hatshepsut was a strong-willed, intelligent, powerful queen. But when she sat on the throne, she often tied an artificial beard, and had to show that she was a pharaoh, although everyone

knew she was a woman. As a ruler, she pretended to be a man. And this is a very characteristic story, because centuries know many bright women. Some of them seized power, some influenced events through men, changed the course of history, but still remained in an unequal position, playing the role of mother, sister or daughter.

*The status of women in the past, the main questions that shaped feminism.*

Philosophers and enlighteners of the mid-17th century wrote that all men are equal, all have inalienable rights given by nature. On the one hand, people are equal, but it turns out that only white men with property are equal.

In 1789, when the French Revolution began, in August 1789 the National Assembly adopted a great document called the «Declaration of Human and Citizen's Rights».

However, in French, this declaration, whose title we translate as the Declaration of Human and Citizen's Rights, could be read differently because «La Déclaration des droits de l'homme et du citoyen» [1] means «... rights of man and citizen». But at the time, no one was paying any attention, at least none of the men.

At this time in France lives Olympe de Gouges, which was one of the first to think about the rights of women, not people at all. It issues the Declaration «Women's and Citizens' Rights» [2] and it is understandable that she takes the Declaration of Human Rights and edits it to include women.

Article 1: “Woman is born free and equal to man”.

Article 2: “The goal of any political association is natural and inalienable rights of women and men”.

She goes on to write about what continues to be said: “Laws must express the will of all, all citizens, men and women alike, must promote law-making, men and women must be equal before the law. No one can be punished for his or her views. A woman could rise to the scaffold, so she could stand on the tribune, provided that her statement did not call for the overthrow of the legitimate regime. The most precious thing for a woman is the right to express her thoughts” [7] One of the founders of the German Democratic Constitution, Elisabeth Selbert, will carry this thought forward by legislating gender equality [6].

All these thoughts, which seem understandable today, for that time were incredibly revolutionary. Olympe de Gouges with astonishing clarity defines all the pain points from which there will be a fight.

In 1803, the Napoleonic Empire issued a civil code [3]. It was a leap in legal thought, but everything about family relationships was incredibly traditional.

For example, it was difficult for a woman to get a divorce, as he was not welcomed by the church. The issue related to children was also resolved in favor of the father. During the French Revolution, illegitimate children were equated with legitimate children, it was removed. Men had been relieved of their obligation to support their illegitimate children, all of which was the responsibility of women.

This inferior position of women in the family is the basis for women's inferior position in society and politics.

From the middle of the 19th century, women began to struggle for equal rights in the family, in society, as an economic unit, and then all this will lead to political

struggle.

At the end of the 20th century Cynthia Enloe asked the question, «Where are the women?» [8]. Encouraging scholars of international relations to consider the place of women in global politics and demonstrating that they play an important role in the international system.

For example, the issue of conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence has only recently begun to be discussed internationally. In comparison, during and after World War II, mass rape of women was not prosecuted, it was considered either a consequence of the war or simply ignored. Since then, the situation has changed: Rome Statute 2002 [4] made rape a war crime.

In her research of wartime rapes, Lori Handrahan found a intersection of gender and ethnic identities, where women representing opposing sides are treated as "other". As a result, violence against them is perceived as a way of " expansion of ethnic territory by conquering men ". Gender constructs that perceive women as objects of protection imply that their conquest through rape is a way of gaining power and domination over the enemy. However, researches by international feminist scholars show that violence against women often continues in the post-conflict period on the same or even broader scale than during the conflict. This includes sexual assault, domestic violence, forced prostitution, and forced genital mutilation, which causes high mortality among women. The prevailing approach to peacekeeping often hides these types of violence. Unlike the "hard" issues associated with military security, issues such as gender equality and domestic violence that violate human rights are often treated as "soft" issues. Thus, in this perception of the world, women's security is not recognized as important or central.

Another misconception is the idea of women as defenceless and weak beings who are estranged from active participation in public life. Feminists see this concept as a manifestation of gender inequality that excludes women from international relations.

These perceptions can easily be transformed by remembering bright political leaders like Indira Gandhi, Margaret Thatcher, Madeleine Albright, Golda Meir, and many others.

For example, Golda Meir is the first woman to govern in the 20th century. Already at 17 years old, campaigning for moving to Palestine, was convicted of political resistance to English authorities, with the help of his erudition and perseverance persuaded the secretary of the military council to give way to the EXODUS ship, after which the representative of England will write: "She was the most gifted woman I've ever met. She somehow reminded me of Churchill, she found simple solutions to any problems».

Madeleine Albright - the first female Secretary of State [5]. «The Titanium Lady of American Diplomacy» adhered to strict measures in conflict management. During the events in the Balkans in 1990. American diplomacy, largely thanks to Albright's personal contribution, developed techniques that were applied in the subsequent international crises of the presidency of Bill Clinton and that were largely adopted by George W. Bush. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer praised her: "Madeleine Albright was one-of-a kind and first-of-a-kind". "Her brilliance,

passionate patriotism, and sharp wit made her a formidable presence on the world stage and her story inspired women and girls across the globe....” [9].

The reminder of such gifted individuals who violated gender identity called into question the perception of women as victims rather than actors. It makes it clear that women can make effective decisions, show diplomatic flexibility and even cruelty, so everyone should be treated as equal regardless of gender. As noted earlier, feminist theory reveals gender-based violence and inequality in international relations. This important contribution of feminist theory is changing perceptions of gender identity that do not reflect the diversity of women’s participation in international relations. It also raises awareness of women’s limited access to power and calls for change.

Thus, taking feminism seriously means not only overcoming the historical marginalization of women, but also providing a fuller picture of global politics, taking into account a wider range of actors.

Despite its name, feminism does not deal only with women’s issues or with what is commonly regarded as women’s issues. By highlighting both inequality and new political opportunities for women, feminism reveals the nature of gender power and its impact on global policy.

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