

Realism and Feminism in late 19th Century

Ch. 24, pp. 765-66

Ch. 23, pp. 726-735

Realism in Literature

- Characteristics
 - Literature should depict life exactly as it is
 - Push for typical – commonplace
 - Objectivity
 - Determinists: vs. free will
 - Faith in science / material progress
 - Secularization
- French:
 - Emile Zola (*Germinal*)
 - Flaubert (*Madame Bovary*)
 - Balzac (*The Human Comedy*)
- English:
 - Charles Dickens
 - Mary Ann Evans = George Eliot (*Silas Marner*)
 - Thomas Hardy (*Tess of the D'Urbervilles*)
- Russian:
 - Tolstoy (*War and Peace*)

Women in 19th Century

- Gender roles
 - Man – increasingly wage earner
 - Woman – increasingly tied to home – children
 - Although women enter into white collar positions as industry and gov't expands
- Women & Property
 - England: “in law husband and wife are one person, and the husband is that person” until 1882, Married Woman’s Property Act
 - Still no right to vote
 - France: Napoleonic code subordinated women – but – inheritance divided among ALL children – change comes slowly (1895, 1907)
 - Germany: In 1900 husband still controlled wife’s property
 - NEVERTHELESS– women become central to family stability

Women in 19th Century

- Family Law
 - Divorce difficult
 - England: Court of Matrimonial Causes – proof of cruelty /injury necessary; adultery alone not cause enough for woman to divorce a man
 - Germany: adultery. serious mistreatment = cause for divorce
 - Custody of Children
 - Across Europe husbands could determine a mother unfit and take her children from her

Women in 19th Century

- Educational Barriers
 - 2nd half of 19th century universities open up to women
 - Switzerland, England, France, Prussia, Russia
 - HOWEVER very little opportunity given women to gain “High School” qualifications let alone attend university
 - Medicine and Teaching most popular areas of study



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Women in the Workplace

- New Jobs
 - Secretaries & Clerks in government and industry
 - Elementary School Teachers
 - Retail sales in new department stores
 - Telephone operators
 - Elementary School Teachers
- Drawbacks
 - low wages, low-level skills, married women need not apply
 - See pg. 729

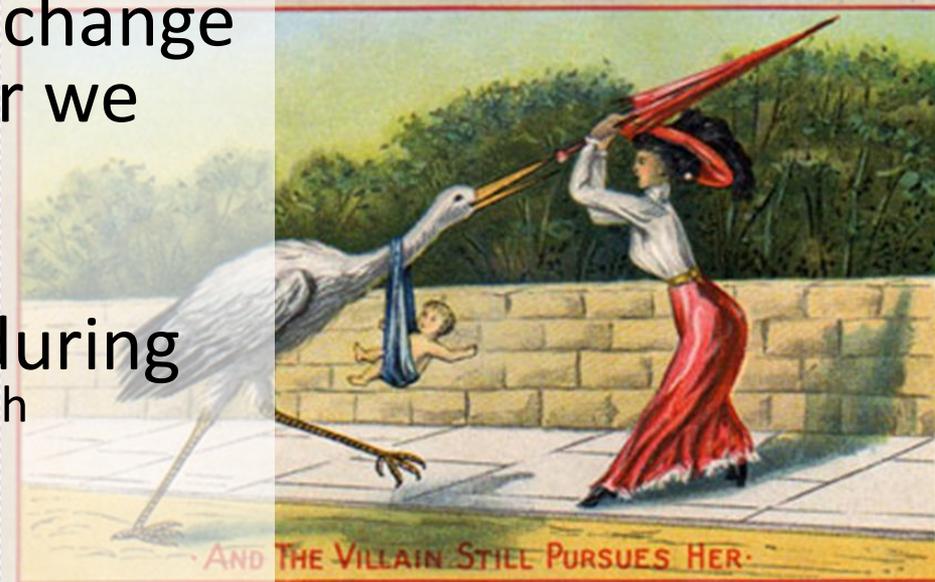
Working-Class Women

- What is the *putting-out system*? To what can this be compared?
- What often became of women who could not make a decent living and were not supported by a husband, father or brother?



Women in the Middle Class

- What is meant by the “cult of domesticity”? Do elements of this still exist today?
- Explain the role middle-class women played in the administration of charity. How does this role support the change in feelings toward the poor we have already discussed?
- Middle-class family size **INCREASED** **DECREASED** during the last decades of the 19th century. Why?



19th Century Feminism

- Issues = social, economic, political
- Early feminists
 - Mary Wollstonecraft
 - Olympe de Gouges
- 19th Century Feminists
 - John Stuart Mill and Harriet Taylor
 - Socialist Parties (i.e. German Social Democratic Party)
 - Nat. Union of Women's Suffrage Societies
 - Millicent Fawcett, evolutionary feminism
 - Women's Social and Political Union
 - Emmeline, Christabel & Sylvia Pankhurst, militant feminism

Women and the Right to Vote

- NEVERTHELESS feminism and the fight for women's rights is spreading
 - USA – 1848 Seneca Falls, NY; voting rights 1920
 - England – voting rights 1918 & 1928
 - Earliest voting rights - New Zealand, 1893; Australia, 1902, Finland 1906 (followed by rest of Scandinavian)
 - Latest voting rights – Switzerland, 1971; Portugal, 1976; Lichtenstein, 1984 [see handout for other countries]