

Liberal feminism—form of the *equality type of feminism:*

- **Liberal feminism** is a form of feminism that argues that equality for women can be achieved through *legal means and social reform*.
- **Liberal feminism** leans towards an equality or sameness argument with men.
- **Liberal feminism** conceives of politics in individualistic terms and looks to reform present practices in society, rather than advocating for a wholesale revolutionary change. Feminist writers associated with this tradition include early feminist Mary Wollstonecraft and second-wave feminist Betty Friedan.
- “**Liberal feminists**” are often seen among other types of feminists as conservative and overwhelmingly white and middle class.

Cultural feminism—example of *difference feminism*.

- **Cultural feminism believes** that a female nature or female essence is essential to society.
- It's the theory that there are fundamental personality and psychological differences between men and women, and that women's differences are not only unique, but superior.
- This theory of feminism takes note of the biological differences between men and women - such as menstruation and childbirth and extrapolates from this the idea of an *inherent "women's culture."* For example, the belief that "women are kinder and gentler than men," prompts cultural feminists call for an infusion of women's culture into the male-dominated world, which would presumably result in less violence and fewer wars.
- **Cultural feminism seeks to** improve the relationship between the sexes and often cultures at large by *celebrating women's special qualities, ways, and experiences*, often believing that the "woman's way" is the better way, or that the culture discussed is overly masculine and requires balance from feminine perspectives.

Radical feminism

- **Radical feminism** is a branch of feminism that views women's oppression (which radical feminists refer to as "[patriarchy](#)") as a *basic system of power* upon which human relationships in society are arranged.
- It seeks to challenge this arrangement by rejecting standard gender roles and male oppression.
- The term *radical* in radical feminism (from Latin *rādīx, rādīc-*, root) is used as an adjective meaning *of or pertaining to the root* or *going to the root*.
- Radical feminists locate the *root cause* of women's oppression in patriarchal gender relations, as opposed to legal systems ([liberal feminism](#)) or class conflict (like [socialist or Marxist feminism](#)).

Socialist feminism

- **Socialist feminism** focuses upon both the public and private spheres of a woman's life.
- Argues that liberation can only be achieved by working to end both the economic and cultural sources of women's oppression.
- Broadens Marxist feminism's argument that capitalism is the source of all women's oppression;
- Incorporates radical feminism's theory of the role of gender and the patriarchy.
- "Socialist feminism confronts the common root of sexism, racism and classism: the determination of a life of oppression or privilege based on accidents of birth or circumstances. Socialist feminism is an inclusive way of creating social change. We value synthesis and cooperation rather than conflict and competition." –from Socialist Party pamphlet

Ecofeminism

- **Ecofeminism** is a social and political movement which unites environmentalism and feminism.
- **Ecofeminists** argue that a relationship exists between the oppression of women and the degradation of nature.
- **Ecofeminists** they are concerned with connections between sexism and the domination of nature. They are also concerned with racism and other characteristics of social inequality.
- Some current work emphasizes that the capitalist and patriarchal system is based on triple domination of the "Southern people" (those people who live in the Third World, the majority of which are south of the First World), women, and nature. This is sometimes referred to as global north and south.

Other forms of feminism

- **Black Feminism** essentially argues that sexism and racism are inextricably linked. Black feminists argue that the liberation of Black women entails freedom for all people, since it would require the end of racism, sexism, and class oppression. Black women in this category often refer to themselves as womanist. Example—Alice Walker
- **Separatist feminism** is a form of feminism that does not support heterosexual relationships due to a belief that sexual disparities between men and women are unresolvable. Separatist feminists generally do not feel that men can make positive contributions to the feminist movement and that even well-intentioned men replicate the dynamics of patriarchy. Really a branch of radical feminists.

Male Feminists. . .

- Yes, men are feminists, too.



Some other good examples in this film clip called Debunking Myths of Feminism-Let's Talk About It

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P2f-f9KZqBI>

Do I have to choose?

- No—most feminists believe that free thinking is important. It's the “focus” or “how to accomplish” equality that divides feminists more than anything.



I'm a Feminist,

now what?



Don't ever forget. . .

- To think for yourself—any philosophy can be a straight jacket.
- To see the world through a lens other than that of the status quo.
- To honor the efforts of those who worked to get you your rights
- To *use* your rights.
- To extend those rights to those who don't have them and the next generation.
- To remember that nobody is perfect, but systems and philosophies can be made more perfect.