Identity Set

Strategies/Ideas:

Cards are not in chronological order. Consider organizing them that way!

Organize your study cards by theme or by era. If you want to cut the "cards" out, you can use them to sort into eras. [Some cards span many eras and can be used more broadly to study change/continuity over time.]

(See landscape era title "cards" to aid you in this technique).

Combine your use of these cards with the content outline. For example, you can sort into eras with other themes, study the cards, and read the relevant portion of the content outline to reinforce your understanding of main historical developments!

From colonization to modern times

ideas about democracy... found expression political institutions... colonies developed colonial legislatures with elected representatives, town meetings in New England, elite planters help most power in Southern assemblies, Enlightenment ideals (especially John Locke's natural rights) led to growing support for republicanism, perceived corruption of imperialism led to AOC then Constitution... republican motherhood... women's movement fought for suffrage... making the world safe for democracy driving force in WWI...

ideas about freedom... found expression in the development of cultural values... Middle Colonies were diverse and high level of tolerance developed, Quakers and Rhode Island interacted with Natives with more respect and tolerance of diversity, DOI and Bill of Rights expressed rights no government should take away... abolition movement worked toward ending slavery...Lincoln redefined "all men are created equal."... Reconstruction efforts worked to bring African Americans under protection of Constitution... 1st amendment rights questioned at times (WWI, WWII)... modern civil rights activists fought for the promises of reconstruction

ideas about individualism... found expression in American identity... Puritan work ethic, value of hard work, goals of property (sign of wealth and success), First Great Awakening strengthened individualism... manifest destiny and competition for land and resources led to wars and expansion westward... survival of the fittest... rugged individualism... the power of individual activists... challenges to assimilation and Americanization policies

House of Burgesses Mayflower Compact Colonial Assemblies

Fundamental Orders of Connecticut First Great Awakening Enlightenment
Stamp Act Congress Continental Congresses John Locke
Benjamin Franklin Articles of Confederation Republicanism

Federalism / Shared Powers

Checks and balances/ separation of powers Political compromises Bill of Rights

Republican Motherhood Indian Removal Women's movement

Abolition movement Gettysburg Address 13th, 14th, 15th Amendments
Chinse Exclusion Dawes Act

Feminism Espionage Act Japanese Internment

Martin Luther King Cesar Chavez & Dolores Huerta
Gay liberation American Indian Movement

Interpretations of the Constitution... affected American values, politics, and society.

strict vs loose? (party systems)
state vs central (AOC, Constitution, Federalists and Anti-Federalists)
nullification? (answered with Civil War)

Thomas Jefferson Democratic-Republican Party

Alexander Hamilton Federalist Party

Alien and Sedition Acts

Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions

Hamilton Plan

Bank of the United States (1st and 2nd)

American System

Marshall Court

Democrat Party

Nullification Crisis

Andrew Jackson

Henry Clay

Whig Party Dred Scott vs Sandford

Abraham Lincoln Republican Party
Civil War Reconstruction
Civil War amendments Plessy vs Ferguson

Brown vs Board of Education

International Conflicts 20th Century

Ideas about national identity changed in response to U.S. involvement in international conflicts and the growth of the United States.

First World War – make the world safe for democracy, American exceptionalism, idealism, Woodrow Wilson's idealistic humanitarian and peace initiatives fail and lead to disillusionment and isolation, identity changed short term then retreated

Second World War – superpower – American exceptionalism, humanitarian goals (help Jews after Holocaust by establishing Israel), increased debate over segregation, desegregation of troops soon after, NATO, United Nations, World Bank, identity changed from isolation to interventionist... a super power with super responsibilities

Cold War – good guys, "Under God," communism=evil, conformity, Red Scare, support non-communist regimes, proxy wars, (similar to make the world safe for democracy of Wilson), identity to defend democracy and contain communism

Arab-Israeli Conflict – U.S. supported Israel in each war, OPEC oil embargo early 1970s unintended consequence and beginning of new issue regarding Middle East, terrorism, and energy, identity changed to include more humanitarian goals as many Americans are horrified at Holocaust

Persian Gulf War – U.S. and allies liberating Kuwait (not appeasing as was done with Hitler), identity as liberator more continuity than change, advanced technologies allow for bombing military locations only and more preservation of civilians

Bosnia and Herzegovina – humanitarian – protecting Muslims in former Yugoslavia from genocide, identity as liberator – continuity

September 11th – fighting terrorism and conflict over policy at home and abroad, how much liberty given up for security? Identity changed again... liberty-loving America superior to those who are willing to kill innocent people for their cause, issues like torture and indiscriminate bombing much different in modern times than in before, protecting civilians important

International Conflicts 18th Century

Ideas about national identity changed in response to U.S. involvement in international conflicts and the growth of the United States.

French and Indian War – desire to move west past Appalachians into Ohio Valley, Proclamation Line of 1763, rebellion ensued, identity changed from British to Patriot (for some)

American Revolution – gain Northwest Territory (Ohio Valley), republicanism, liberty and ideals of DOI and AOC, identity changed more toward republicanism

French Revolution – they helped us, should we help them? Napoleonic Wars and pressure on U.S. to join; George Washington's Farewell Address – urges neutrality and warns against alliances and political parties, identity of parties split over France

AMERICAN IDENTITY

International Conflicts 19th Century

Ideas about national identity changed in response to U.S. involvement in international conflicts and the growth of the United States.

Migration to U.S. increases size of nation – nativism against Irish and Germans in Antebellum, against Chinese, Southern and Eastern European in Gilded and Progressive Era then quotas in 1920s, identity continues to see differences (especially Catholics) as threat to culture and identity

Mexican-American War – new lands and conflicts over who is American and who has right to the land (Mexicans, Natives, and Americans), Manifest Destiny, identity = destiny = continues to spread and eventually enclose West

Spanish-American War, Philippine Insurrection, Puerto Rico, Guam – overseas expansion as destiny, White Man's Burden to uplift uncivilized peoples clash with Anti-imperialist who see values of liberty as more important, identity of exceptionalism now applied globally

<u>AMERICAN – Group - IDENTITY</u>

Different group identities, including racial, ethnic, class, and regional identities, have emerged and changed over time.

Colonial Regions and North vs South – Sectionalism Whites, Slaves, Native Americans (17th-18th-19th centuries)

African Americans, Black Churches, Harlem Renaissance, Black Pride, Civil Rights

Mexican-Americans/Latinos, Mexican Repatriation, Bracero, UFW

Asian Americans, exclusions, post 1965, assimilation, Boat People

American Indians, moving off reservations, AIM (20th century)

Political Parties (often regional) (18th, 19th, and 20th centuries)

Imperialists vs Anti-Imperialists 1898-1917

Native (born here) vs Immigrant, Exclusion, Quotas, 1965 Immigration Act, 1980s Amnesty (18th, 19th, and 20th centuries)

Immigrant culture, ethnic neighborhoods, Chinatown, Little Italy, Amish Country (19th and 20th centuries)

Debates over rights, liberties, and definitions of citizenship... affected American values, politics, and society.

Who is protected? Who can vote?

1789-only propertied white men can vote and hold office

1820s-1830's – universal manhood suffrage... all white men can vote...

14th **Amendment** – citizenship for freed slaves and all who are born here (except natives)

15th **Amendment** – Black men can vote

19th Amendment – women can vote

1924 – Indian Citizenship Act – all Indians are protected under Constitution

26th **Amendment** – voting age lowered to 18

Identity - What does it mean and how has it changed?

Great Society

Lyndon Johnson greatly expanded government and welfare in his Great Society. The liberal belief that government could solve problems (war on poverty) redefined identity by expanding that view from New Deal times that American liberty and republicanism included social welfare. Critics of this view fueled a conservative resurgence.

Resurgence of Conservatism

American "identity" shifted from the cities to the suburbs during the "White Flight". The cities became the homes of the lower class, and the conservative suburbs flourished. Social issues such as abortion, pornography, homosexuality, feminism, and affirmative action fell out of favor with the New Right when they rose in response to the counter-culture movements of the 1960's. Again identity was often defined by political or religious beliefs.

<u>In modern times</u> identity continues to change and become more inclusive. The nation is multicultural and new definitions of what it means to be an American are evolving as liberty is expanding to those previously in the shadows such as gays, lesbians, and trans-genders.

AMERICAN IDENTITY Individualism, Liberty, Rebellion

Colonists... rebelling against Trade and Navigation Acts by **smuggling** pre-1754, **Patriots rebel against British Imperial policies after 1763**

Indian Rebellions... Pontiac's Rebellion (1763), Tecumseh and the Prophet (early republic), Wovoka and Ghost Dance (Gilded) examples of Indian rebellions against encroachment, AIM occupation of Wounded Knee in 70s (trying to get land back)

Slave Rebellions – Several rebellions, usually only resulting in harsher slave codes (Stono, Nat Turner, John Brown)

Underground Railroad – helping slaves escape, hundreds freed

Nullification Rebellions against central government – Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions (1798-1799), Hartford Resolutions (1815), South Carolina Exposition and Protest (1828-1833 nullification crisis), 1860 secession

Race Riots (Whites resisting change or Blacks demanding change) NY Draft Riot (civil war), Colfax Massacre (Gilded), Tulsa Riot (1920s), Watts Riot (60s), Rodney King Riot/LA Riot (90s), Ferguson (2014)

Labor Strikes (rebelling against labor practices, wages, conditions) Haymarket Riot and Pullman Strike (Gilded), Coal Strike (Progressive), Seattle General Strike (1919)

Colonization

America began as a group of people fleeing persecution or seeking opportunity unavailable in their homeland. Most shared the English language, the common goal of creating an agricultural society, and English customs. "New England" and "Virginia" (named after the *Virgin* Queen Elizabeth) illustrate they were still "English." Life in the New World so far away from the oppressive conditions of England bred in the colonists the ideas of individual liberty, democracy, religious freedom, and economic opportunities.

At the start of Colonization, most people in North America considered themselves English. By the time colonies were fully established, America had already become quite a melting pot. People still defined themselves by where they had emigrated from, or even by their religious beliefs. The vast diversity showed no signs of unity for the colonies.

Revolution

As America found itself fighting Britain, citizens were not in any way united. They were forced to band together and form a national government, but a nationalistic spirit was hardly shared by all. They fought, not for independence, but for "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

<u>Independence</u>

After gaining independence, the idea of statehood was established. There was no one American identity in this period, but the idea of being a member of their own state instead of the county as a whole was prevalent. This is clear in the Articles of Confederation.

Jackson & Era of the Common Man

Andrew Jackson, or "Old Hickory", took control of the White House in 1829 and was portrayed as a rough-hewn frontiersman and a champion of the common man. He was the first candidate nominated at a formal party convention (1832), and only the second without a college education. He employed the Spoils System, dealt forcefully with the "Nullies" in the south and passed the Force Bill which authorized him to use force to collect the federal tariff dues. Jackson also forced the Indians out of the southern states, and into modern day Oklahoma. Next, he got rid of the National Bank, and defeated Henry Clay in the election of 1832.

An idea of mass democracy was instilled in the people as Jackson was ushered into the White House. His connection with the common people gave the masses the ability to identify with the government. The common man now had the American Identity that the upper class had for a decade. American identity in terms of democracy was changing to include more men, but sectionalism continued, Blacks and slaves and women were still excluded, and Catholic immigrants were treated poorly.

Manifest Destiny

With the idea of Manifest Destiny, the exceptional American identity came into view. Believing that they had every right to take and cultivate the western lands, Americans began removing Indians and settling in their territory. This became a major point in the campaign of 1844 between James K. Polk (Democrat), and Henry Clay (Whigs). Expansionist Democrats were heavily into the ideals of Manifest Destiny, and were strongly for the annexation of Texas and the Oregon Territory. Identity was often defined by political party and region. American Indians maintained their own identities, and slaves and slave culture and churches developed their own identity, as did some immigrants. Many immigrants and Indians did assimilate, however.

Constitution

Once the Constitutional Convention met in 1789, people began to be recognized as either for a powerful federal government or for states' rights. (Federalists vs Anti-Federalists) Once the constitution was ratified and George Washington became president debates over what it meant to be a constitutional republic continued and the first two parties developed in the early 1790s (Democratic-Republicans and Federalists).

Federalist Era

Federalists were for loose interpretation, while Democratic-Republicans favored strict interpretation. The nation still was thought of as individual states instead of as a united nation, but new policies such as Hamilton's Financial Plan and Marshall Court decisions helped pull them together. Still, those in New England viewed problems much differently than those in the South. Much of identity was regional.

War of 1812 through the Era of Good Feelings

During the War of 1812, however, and through the Era of Good Feelings, with the help of the Monroe Doctrine and the American System, the United States was much more united as a whole. The Market Revolution and the development of a truly American culture helped improve this, however, sectionalism continued especially after the Missouri Compromise of 1820.

Sectionalism

The term "Americans" applied to two different factions: the South and the North, each with its own individuality and beliefs. Southern slave culture and aristocracy differed dramatically from the capitalistic, wage labor, and more socially mobile north.

Civil War and Reconstruction

As the Civil War ended, blacks were gaining more and more rights as citizens. When slavery was abolished with the Amendments, blacks were now integrated into American society (or were intended to be). The idea of an "American" was changed again, as African-Americans and mulatto people became part of the United States, protected under the Constitution, but not protected from racism and discrimination.

With sectionalism still alive and racial prejudices flowing freely, Americans in the late 1800s were very suspicious and intolerant of their neighbors. Southern Democrats were disliked by many of the Republicans, who thought that the South would come back into the U.S. too strong politically and would interfere with the Republican monopoly. Southerners equally loathed Republicans for their oppression concerning slavery and their push for stronger mandates concerning Reconstruction. Blacks were not left out of the hatred. With the KKK and discrimination still at large, blacks (though legally citizens) were shuffled down to the lowest point in society. The Black Codes almost revived slavery; Blacks and Whites were not allowed to intermarry. American Identity was changed not only physically (color, etc.) but socially (discrimination, racism).

Gilded Age

Political corruption also increased after the civil war. Politicians started manipulating election results and were concerned with personal profit. Reforms in politics occurred after President Garfield's assassination. His assassination led to the end of the spoils system. Now jobs were given because of ability. When the masses finally did unite to get something done about corruption, monopolies, and trusts, they were first welcomed with the Sherman Anti-Trust Act of 1890. Unfortunately, this act was also used against labor unions. Also, in 1892 the People's Party, or Populists came into existence. Chinese exclusion happened in this era. The Chinese began emigrating to America in the 1850's but were not treated as Americans. They had a unique identity.

Industrialization

"The wealthy class is becoming wealthier; but the poorer class is becoming more dependent. The gulf between the employed and the employer is growing wider; social contrasts are becoming sharper; as liveried carriages appear; so do barefooted children." -Henry George, 1879. With industry growing and growing the social classes got even more separated and farther apart. A larger part of the population began to slip into the lower class as the upper class began to thin out. Group identity included socio-economic class. Large waves of immigrants to northern cities led to increased numbers of ethnic neighborhoods which maintained some aspects of culture while assimilating in other ways.

Western Settlement

The creation of railroads out west united the nation vastly. Indians were forced onto reservations and assimilated through education and other policies. American identity at this time did not include tolerance for dramatically different cultures like American Indian's tribal culture or nomadic culture.

Progressive Era

Socialism became more common during this time period. It was especially noticeable during the election of 1912, when the Socialist candidate doubled his number of popular votes from the 1908 election. Many Socialist candidates were elected to public office at local and state levels. Government problems in Mexico during Wilson's presidency led to mass Mexican migration to the southern United States. This created further racial diversity in the South. Identity for Mexican-Americans was usually different from White Americans. American identity was pluralistic.

1920s

Anti-German propaganda was common during WWI and the 1920s. The Creel Commission published propaganda to promote the war in the United States and encourage loyalty. Fears of anarchy especially from Italy and other southern and eastern European nations led to the 1920'simmigration laws were passed limiting the number of people who could enter the United States. (quotas) Many immigrant cultures were seen as "un-American" so they were unwelcome.

Depression

America went into a Great Depression after the stock market crash of 1929. America's overproduction was one cause of the depression. Factories closed which caused mass unemployment in America. Families stopped having children because of the expense of raising children. Homeless people constructed shacks all over the country. These were called "shantytowns" and "Hoovervilles." People came more and more to cities for the scarce jobs that remained. President Hoover tried to help with works (Hoover Dam) and financial help for farmers, but he also espoused the view that American identity was "rugged individualism" and did not support any sort of government "hand-out."

Imperialism

American exceptionalism was blaringly obvious in the time of imperialism. Theodore Roosevelt and his "Big Stick" illustrate this... if he wanted the use of the land of another country and they wouldn't allow it, he took it (Panama Canal). We took over the islands of Hawaii through an illegal revolution and eventually made it a state in 1959 after throwing out their gueen in the 1790s. Spain was making it difficult for us to trade with the oppressed Cubans so we went to war to take Cuba, though in accordance with the Teller Amendment we withdrew in 1902. Cuba wasn't completely free though, we had them write the "Platt Amendment" into their constitution guaranteeing our alliance, that we could intervene with troops in Cuba to restore order, they would sell us any needed coal-refueling or naval stations (Guantanamo). Then during that war we seized Puerto Rico for our own and made them a protectorate even though some of the people wanted freedom, though we did give them citizenship in 1917. Then after freeing the Philippines we replaced the Spanish overlords with ourselves and began fighting the resistance that had just helped us defeat the Spanish to keep control of the Philippines out anarchy and the aggressive Germans. Eventually the Philippines were freed in 1946. Imperialists and Anti-Imperialists debated this policy, and American identity was in question... American exceptionalism and expansion with superiority or America as a model of liberty and the liberator of others?

New Deal

The New Deal was numerous programs to help reduce the effects of the depression. FDR focused on the 3 r's: Relief, Recovery, and Reform. The New deal helped create jobs, banking reforms, and social security among other things. He also started his fireside chats where he would address the country. He told them that the banks were safe to use again which brought many banks back after they had been forced to close. FDR was sharply criticized, for the New Deal did nothing to pull the US out of the depression and was unconstitutional. It made the national debt skyrocket. More and more Americans looked to the government for solutions, even more than in the Progressive Era, so identity was changing... less rugged individualism and more social welfare.

WWII

The United States became involved after being attacked at Pearl Harbor. With interventions in Northern Africa, Europe, and Asia we helped defeat Hitler, Mussolini, and Japan. The use of nuclear weapons would be used on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The United States emerged as a superpower and American identity of exceptionalism was re-invigorated. We joined NATO and United Nations and worked to spread democracy and other Ameri an ideals.

Cold War

The Cold War (and, consequently, fear of Communism) contributed to the American "Red Scare" and McCarthyism. Conformity in culture and identity increased in the 1950s and then decreased in the 1960s with counterculture. In the 1950's, television shows like "Leave It To Beaver" portrayed the idealistic feelings of the nation. The majority of families were supported solely by the father, and the mother was expected to be a good little housewife. Families lived in suburban towns like Levittown.

Legacy of slavery and the civil rights movements

Beginning in the 1950's civil rights and desegregation became very important issues. In Montgomery, Alabama Rosa Parks took a stand against segregation by sitting in the white section of a public bus and refusing to move when asked. Martin Luther King Jr. joined the bus boycott to non-violently voice his and others opinions about segregation in the United States.

Other civil rights issues were popping up all over the nation. Like in the case of Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas where segregation in public schools was ruled unconstitutional, this once again opened the old wounds of Civil War times. The new decision in this case went against a previous case in 1896, Plessy v. Ferguson which had an outcome of "separate but equal" under the Constitution. Many southerners became angered by this and did everything they could to keep blacks and whites in separate schools. Most of the time they created private schools where the decision about segregation in schools could not be as easy to apply.

In 1957 Little Rock, Alabama Eisenhower had to use the National Guard to escort black students to school, in response to Governor Orville Faubus trying to use the National Guard to keep the students out. This was in response to the decision in the Brown v. Board of Education Case.

There were some civil rights activists who didn't take the peaceful approach...Malcom X, and Stokley Carmichael who believed that violence was a much more efficient way of achieving civil rights as well as the group the Black Panthers which also took a violent approach.

American identity was increasingly becoming inclusive but the change was slow as many resisted and feared integration.

American Gay Rights Movement Highlights

Stirred by a growing awareness of inequalities in American society and by the African American civil rights movement, activists also addressed issues of identity and social justice, such as gender/sexuality and ethnicity. Activists began to question society's assumptions about gender and to call for social and economic equality for women and for gays and lesbians.

For most of U.S. history homosexuality was treated as a crime (anti-sodomy laws in all states until modern times) or a mental disorder (American Psychiatric Association listed homosexuality as a sociopathic personality disturbance from the 1950s to the 1970s), or as cause for discrimination (homosexuals were from working for the federal government or any of its private contractors. The Order listed homosexuals as security risks, along with alcoholics and neurotics.

Advocacy for gay rights increased following **Alfred Kinsey** Sexual **Behavior in the Human Male** (concluded that homosexual behavior is a natural occurrence in up to 37% of American males, with approximately 10% of men actually being homosexual).

TURNING POINT... Stonewall riot: Patrons of the Stonewall Inn in Greenwich Village rioted when police officers attempted to raid the popular gay bar around 1am. Since its establishment in 1967, the bar had been frequently raided by police officers trying to clean up the neighborhood of "sexual deviants." Angry gay youth clashed with aggressive police officers in the streets, leading to a three-day riot during which thousands of protestors received only minimal local news coverage. Beginning of modern LGBT rights movement.

Changes... 1990s policy went from banning gays in the military to "don't ask don't tell" which was repealed in 2010. New laws against hate crimes protect gays and lesbians. From states banning gay marriage (which Supreme Court ruled unconstitutional) to 2015 - gay marriage now legal in all 50 states.... Now onto the transgender bathroom!

Chicano Civil Rights Movement Highlights

Stirred by a growing awareness of inequalities in American society and by the African American civil rights movement, activists also addressed issues of identity and social justice, such as gender/sexuality and ethnicity.

In a Nutshell... For more than a century farmworkers had been denied a decent life in the fields and communities of California's agricultural valleys. Essential to the state's biggest industry, but only so long as they remained exploited and submissive farmworkers had tried but failed so many times to organize the giant agribusiness farms that most observers considered it a hopeless task. And yet by the early 1960's things were beginning to change beneath the surface. Within another fifteen years more than 50,000 farmworkers were protected by union contracts. (Hispanics also fought against segregation)

The **National Farm Workers Association** (NFWA) was started by a young Chicano named **Cesar Chavez** and **Dolores Huerta** in 1962... the led marches, strikes, and boycotts that helped lead to improved working conditions and wages for migrant workers.

Under Nixon, the **Equal Educational Opportunity Act created equality in public schools by offering bilingual education to Hispanic students.**

In the 1980s, Reagan helped bring migrant workers out of the shadows with amnesty.

In 2016 two prominent Hispanics are running for President, Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz.

Asian Civil Rights Movement Highlights

Stirred by a growing awareness of inequalities in American society and by the African American civil rights movement, activists also addressed issues of identity and social justice, such as gender/sexuality and ethnicity.

Chinese immigrants began migrating to the United States in the 1850s. (although there is evidence that Asians migrated to Mexico in 1700's)...Nativism followed them for generations... like the Chicano and American Indian Movement, Asian Americans were also inspired by MLK and the African American Civil Rights Movement. They fought similar policies of segregation and discrimination as well as social stereotypes.

Gilded Age... Chinese exclusion ... later extended in Progressive ... and after 1924 (quota acts) Asians were practically barred from entry. ... all such limits end in 1965 under LBJ.

- ...1905...California's outlawed marriage between whites and "Mongolians." (Asians)...1907...**San Francisco School Board** segregated Japanese schoolchildren Japan and the U.S. reach "**Gentlemen's Agreement**"
- ...1918...Servicemen of Asian ancestry who had served in World War I receive right of naturalization (citizenship)
- 1943...Congress repeals all Chinese exclusion laws, grants right of naturalization and a very small immigration quota to Chinese (105 per year).... While Japanese Americans are interned by executive order; some Japanese take loyalty oath and serve in military during WWII.
- 1979...Establishment of diplomatic relations between the People's Republic of China and the U.S. reunites members of long-separated Chinese American families.
- 1988...The U.S. Senate votes 69 to 27 to support redress for Japanese Americans, creating The Civil Liberties Act of 1988. And the American Homecoming Act allows **children in Vietnam born of American fathers to immigrate to the U.S.**

I modern times Asians in leadership positions and portrayal in media without stereotype and as leading men/women has increased significantly. However, following the Covid-19 pandemic discrimination toward Asian-Americans has increased.

Modern Feminism Movement Highlights

Stirred by a growing awareness of inequalities in American society and by the African American civil rights movement, activists also addressed issues of identity and social justice, such as gender/sexuality and ethnicity. Activists began to question society's assumptions about gender and to call for social and economic equality for women and for gays and lesbians.

1848 Seneca Falls began the first women's movement which led to the 19th Amendment in 1920s. Throughout the 20th century women fought for opportunity, birth control, and freedom from stereotypes and stifling gender "norms." Modern Feminism sparked following MLK's work and after Betty Friedan's Feminine Mystique was published in 1962.

Modern Feminism Highlights

1955- 1st Lesbian organization in U.S. founded (Daughters of Bilitis)

1960 – FDA approves birth control pill

1961- President's Commission on the Status of Women documented substantial discrimination against women in the workplace

1964 Civil Rights Act – protects against gender and racial discrimination

1966-National Organization for Women founded

1968-sex-segregated work ads illegal

1970s- Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) passed by Congress but fails by 3 states (not ratified), Roe v. Wade legalizes abortion, Title IX equalizes funding

1980s...Supreme Court rules that sexual harassment is a form of illegal job discrimination...

1990s... Violence Against Women Act tightens federal penalties for sex offenders, funds set aside for victims of frame and domestic violence and special training for police

Today the wage gap is closing and gender discrimination is on the decline. The 2016 Democrat nominee for President was a woman (Hillary Clinton), and we have had three women on the Supreme Court since the 1980s, powerful female leaders like Oprah, and female medical students now outnumber males.