

# What did the Women's Rights Movement achieve and why was there opposition?

**Learning Objectives:** To identify the reasons for opposition and evaluate the significance of Phyllis Schlafly

**Key Terms, Events, Names:** Phyllis Schlafly, ERA, Abortion, STOP, Happiness of Womanhood, Roe v Wade



If it were a lady, it would  
get its bottom pinched.

If this lady was a  
car she'd run  
you down.



**FIAT**

The beautiful one

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# Progress in Women's Rights

- As the pressure from women's rights protesters grew, the government did pass legislation to improve equality between the sexes.
- In 1963, the **Equal Pay Act** made it **illegal to pay women less for doing the same job as men**. However it did not address the issue of discrimination in seeking jobs in the first place.
- This was followed by the 1964 **Civil Rights Act** which made **it illegal to discrimination on grounds of gender**

**WOMEN**  
Like men,  
only cheaper.



**IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT,  
HELP US RIGHT IT.**

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# Progress in Women's Rights

- To test government legislation, NOW pressed hundreds of **court cases** between 1966-71, securing over \$30 million in back pay owed to women.
- In 1964, **Margaret Chase Smith** announced her **candidacy for President**, becoming the first woman to have her name placed in nomination for President in the Republican Party. She lost every single primary, getting only 27 votes.

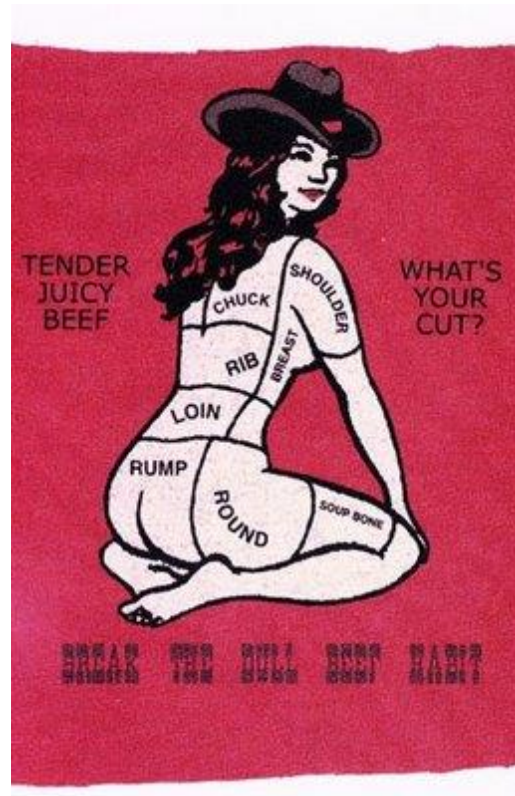




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# Women's Liberation Movement

What is the story behind these images?  
Create a news catchy news headline for a local paper?





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# Opposition to Women's Rights

- The women's liberation movement faced opposition from men AND women.
- Some people rejected everything the movement stood for. Others objected only to some of the changes the movement pushed for.
- One of the biggest issues that divided people in the USA was **abortion**.



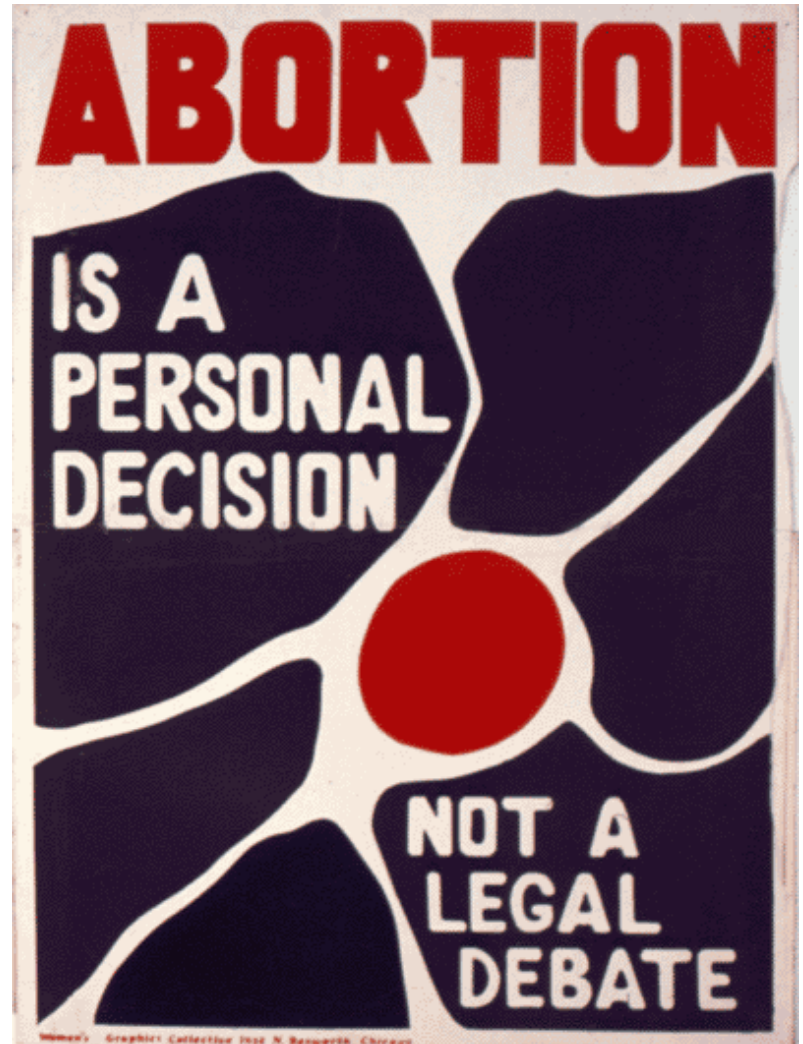


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# Abortion

- In 1960 abortion was **illegal** in the USA, although some states allowed it if the **mother's life was at risk**.
- Illegal abortions were dangerous and many women died during procedures.
- **Unwanted pregnancy** was too often seen as a **problem** for the pregnant woman to solve.

Why do you think that this issue faced so much opposition?

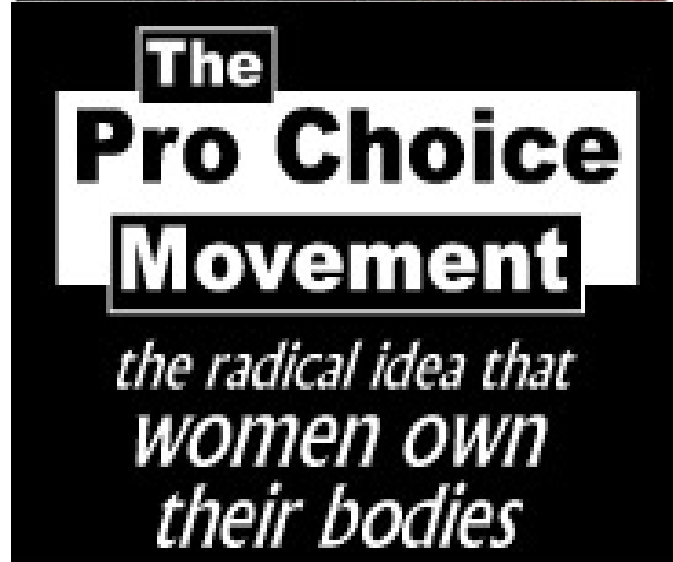
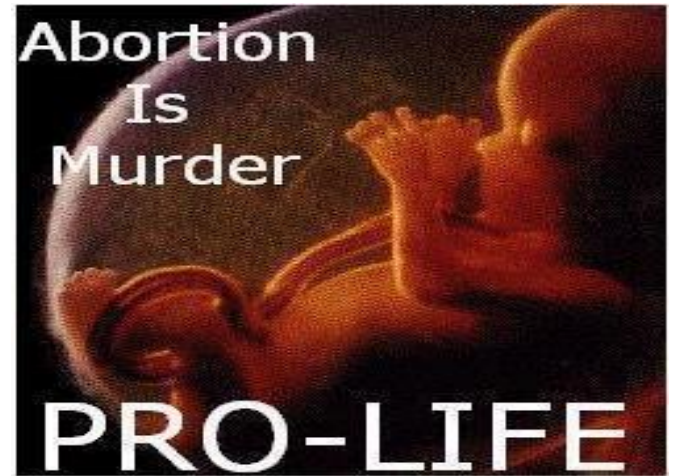




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# Abortion

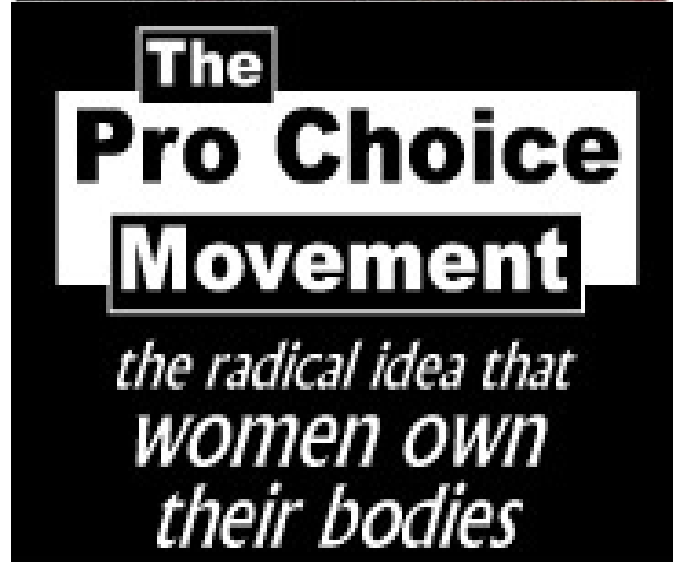
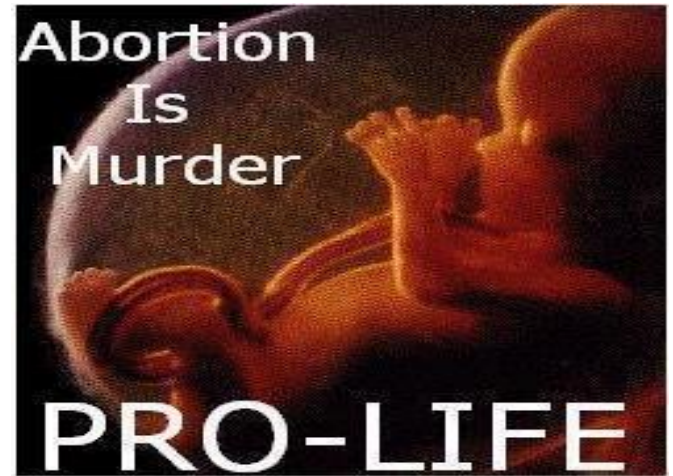
- Groups like NOW campaigned for the right to abortion, because it was a woman's body and life that were affected by the pregnancy.
- The issue soon became a struggle between **the rights of the woman vs. the rights of the unborn child.**



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# Abortion

- From 1965 onwards, some states brought in laws that allowed abortions for **more reasons** than just saving a mother's life.
- Then in 1973, the case of **Roe v. Wade** was taken to the Supreme Court fighting for a woman's right to have an abortion.





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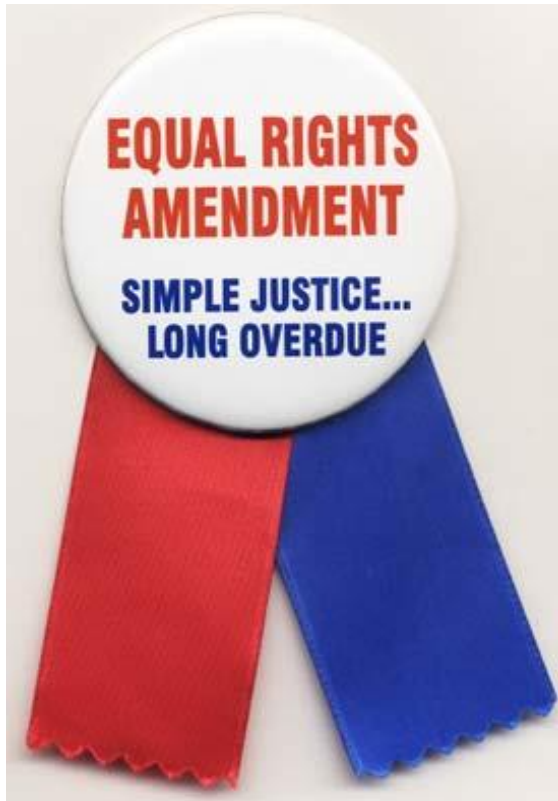
# Abortion

- The decision was that for the first 12 weeks, a **woman now had the right to choose an abortion**, in any state.
- The the next 12 weeks, the state could allow abortion depending **on individual cases**.
- For the last 12 weeks the mothers life had **to be at risk**.
- **Abortion was now legal** but anti-abortion groups did not give up the fight to stop it.

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# The Equal Rights Bill (ERA)

Research the Equal Rights Amendment and make a list of its key provisions?



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# Phyllis Schlafly

- 1972 **Phyllis Schlafly** set up **STOP** (Stop Taking Our Privileges) to campaign against ERA.
- Schlafly was a married lawyer who had once run for Congress in 1952. She **opposed women's lib** as damaging to family values.

Why do you think there were people like Phyllis who were against the women's movement?





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# Phyllis Schlafly

- Schlafly argued against ERA because she said it would **remove privileges that many women wanted** (e.g. exemption from conscription to the army)
- She also argued that many **poorer women who wanted to be wives and mothers** would be disadvantaged by the amendment.
- Her campaign **convinced states that there was considerable opposition to ERA** as well. Only 30 ratified the amendment. It was not passed.



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## Summary – Why did women oppose the women's movement?

1. Some believed that NOW was **dominated by white, middle-class females** that working class women couldn't relate to.
2. Others objected to the **extreme demands and methods** of the women's lib movement.
3. A number **genuinely believed in** and accepted the **traditional role of women**.
4. Some women were **anti-abortion**.
5. Movement did not seem to be doing enough to **help poor women**.