

Firstname Lastname

Professor Marron

FAS 204 Gender Relations

13 November 2013

### Antifeminist Movements

Newton's third law of motion states that for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction. On the surface it may not seem that this law has very much to do with feminist movements, but it does provide a correlation. For every feminist rising there has been a backlash, called anti-feminism that tries to prevent or reverse the movement's work. The Seneca Falls convention of 1848 represents one example during the first wave of feminism that came under assault (Wood 89). Suffragettes were told they were undermining their calling as mothers by vocalizing support for women's rights to higher education, landowning, and voting. Another example of anti-feminism was in the 1970s, when the Total Woman movement urged women to be more traditional and submissive to men (Wood 90). The ideology of staying traditional and opposing feminism became a large force in the STOP ERA campaign that strived to keep the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) from becoming ratified (Wood 90).

According to Susan Faludi, there are two sets of reasoning that embody anti-feminist movements. The first would be that feminism causes broken homes, delinquent children, and other gender-based problems that feminism strives to fix (Wood 92). This attitude claims that feminism encourages women to become "fast track achievers" with nothing but microwave dinners to come home to (Wood 92). These anti-feminists see the ultimate solution as renouncing feminism and continuing with a woman's traditional duties. The second mindset is the exact

opposite of the former, as it claims there is no longer a need for feminism (Wood 92).

Contradictory to the first group of anti-feminists, these claim that women have come so far in regards to opportunities and equal rights that there is no reason for feminists to continue their fight.

SAMPLE

Work Cited

Wood, Julia T. *Gendered Lives: Communication, Gender, and Culture*. 8th ed. Boston, MA:

Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 2009. 89-92. Print.

Smith, Lani T. *Gendered Free*. New York, NY: Smith, 2011. Print.

SAMPLE