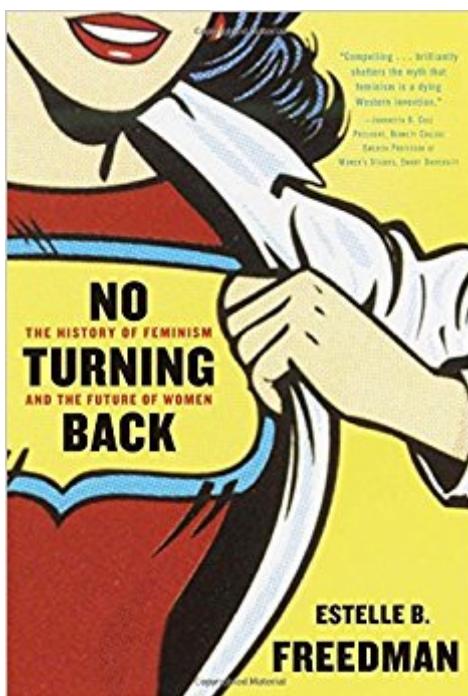


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# No Turning Back: The History Of Feminism And The Future Of Women



## Synopsis

â œOn the situations of women around the world today, this one book provides more illumination and insight than a dozen others combined. . . . Freedmanâ ™s survey is a triumph of global scope and informed precision.â •â “NANCY F. COTT Professor of History, Harvard UniversityRepeatedly declared dead by the media, the womenâ ™s movement has never been as vibrant as it is today. Indeed as Stanford professor and award-winning author Estelle B. Freedman argues in her compelling book, feminism has reached a critical momentum from which there is no turning back. Freedman examines the historical forces that have fueled the feminist movement over the past two hundred yearsâ “and explores how women today are looking to feminism for new approaches to issues of work, family, sexuality, and creativity.Drawing examples from a variety of countries and cultures, from the past and the present, this inspiring narrative will be required reading for anyone who wishes to understand the role women play in the world. Searching in its analysis and global in its perspective, No Turning Back will stand as a defining text in one of the most important social movements of all time.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In the preface to her engaging narrative history of feminism, *No Turning Back*, Estelle Freedman thanks a woman we should all thank, someone who asked her to recommend one book that best presented feminist scholarship to date. Realizing that her only suggestions would require the woman to read extensively across a range of disciplines, Freedman set out to provide that book herself. The result is an expansive but eminently readable history of feminism, its political roots and

objectives, and the case for its centrality to the future of women. While displaying an in-depth knowledge of her field in discussing women's rights, work, and the more recent history of women's political strategies, Freedman also demonstrates a willingness to engage in critical thinking beyond her own sphere and range; she explores subjects ranging from the development of labor and social roles across centuries and cultures to the ways in which race, class, and other social hierarchies inform and define different "feminisms." Acknowledging that her book does not "tell a single, unified history of revolutionary triumph," Freedman examines issues related to politics, economics, race, relationships, health, sexuality, and violence within the context of feminist history. Though it could have been a dry polemic, *No Turning Back* is, instead, an enthusiastic look at how and why feminist ideas have remained a part of the political landscape since their emergence. Freedman not only recognizes the complex processes of adaptation and redefinition that feminism has undergone, but proposes that this malleability is what has enabled the movement to withstand the test of time. For an obviously impassioned (but still well-reasoned and solidly supported) presentation of the story thus far, Freedman's answer to this book's instigator should now be an easy one. --S. Ketchum

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Stanford historian Freedman (*Intimate Matters: A History of Sexuality in America*) offers a comprehensive, accessible synthesis of interdisciplinary feminist scholarship, placing feminism in a global, historical framework. Freedman begins with theories of the emergence and diversification of patriarchy, outlining the ways that urbanization, colonialism, capitalism, and industrialization have intensified gender segregation and gender, race, and class hierarchies. Women's resistance to male oppression also takes many forms specific to national identity, ethnicity, and class. As Freedman points out, feminism appeared after 1800 in Europe and North America, when capitalism and republicanism emerged, creating "both the need for feminism and the means to sustain it." But while feminism was already an international movement by 1900, after 1970 it became pervasive, and Freedman's discussion encompasses not only national and cultural differences but also feminism's expression in the multiplicity of women's activities, ranging from waged work to reproduction to artistic creation. As women's political movements define much of the global agenda for the 21st century, Freedman concludes, "the quest for universal recognition of women's equal worth is not likely to be reversed." Recommended for all libraries. Cynthia Harrison, George Washington Univ., Washington, DC

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This was a great way to quickly dive in and understand feminist topics. It covers the history and complexities of feminism.

As a woman who swore she would never wear the label "feminist" - I have to say that I am not only willing but proud to call myself a feminist. While this may not be earth shattering or an intellectual history (as another review mentions), this is a great place to start or even expand upon one's understanding of feminism. This book spoke to every aspect of my life and experience as a woman. It helped continue my healing as a survivor of rape and domestic violence while opening new doors and new possibilities.

So happy to have this. Shipped promptly, great and important read.

Estelle Freedman is a highly regarded historian who teaches at Stanford. She has been involved with feminism and women's history since she was in college in the 1970s. In this book she brings together a wide variety of information about women and the various ideas and actions of those who have fought against men's privileged positions around the globe. As an historian, she structures her account chronologically, starting with women before the emergence of feminism. Then she focuses on the various issues with which feminists have become involved in the USA and globally. What I found so impressive about Freedman's book was the way in which she combined so much information and so many different types of feminism into a coherent narrative. She presents feminism as always re-defining itself, and she explains the strengths and weaknesses of various approaches without rejecting any of them. For her, feminism is big enough that conflicts among feminists can be understood and accepted, not demonized as they have often been in the past. Read more on my blog: [...]

A+

great book

I initially read this book a few years ago and enjoyed reading it thoroughly! This book is packed with plenty of information about the history of feminism and the future of women living around the world. This book discusses such topics as "gender and power", "gender and violence", "women's rights", "Reproduction: The Politics of Choice", the "economic gender gap", just to name a few of the topics

explored and discussed by the author. I liked reading this book because I felt it was very well written and researched. "No Turning Back" provides the foundational knowledge for further exploration of feminism. I highly recommend reading this book, especially if you want to learn the basics of feminism!

We did not read the whole book during class, but the parts we did read were pretty good and educational.

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