

Study Questions on Twentieth-Century Feminism

__ Film: Rosie the Riveter

- How did the film illustrate the cycles of advancement and backlash that Faludi chronicles?
- What did Rosie teach you about the inter-connection of race and gender?
- What did the film teach you about the government's attitudes towards women?

__ Excerpt from Faludi, Backlash, Chapter III (X)

- Chart out the pattern of women's movements and backlashes outline by Faludi. What did women gain and Lose on each major turn of the spiral?
- What are the repeated methods and messages used in backlashes to limit gains in women's freedom?
- What are the positive, pro-women vectors/ trend that keep women moving towards full equality?
- What are the factors which fuel the current backlash against feminism and women's rights?

__ Roe v. Wade, RCG 434 __ The ERA, RCG 434 __ Chronology of 3rd Wave Feminism (Xerox Book)

- If nineteenth century feminists concentrated on getting women property rights, divorce and child custody rights, the vote, access to higher education, and access to the professions, what did twentieth-century feminists concentrate on? Outline the major interests of Third Wave feminism.
- What are the 6-10 most important events, court-cases, and/or laws for increasing women's rights in the last three decades?

__ Pollock, "Gender, Justice, and Social Control" (X)

Beginning of the Twentieth Century, New Feminism and Family Values, Women as Criminals, Women as Victims, Women as Professionals, Conclusion (pp. 13-32) Xerox Book

- What were some of the areas of reform that marked a surge in women's rights at the beginning of the 20th century?
- What is the problem with protectionist legislation?
- What does Pollock's article show about the relative success of *equality feminism* (attempt to get equal rights for men and women) and *difference feminism* (attempt to get special rights for women based on their difference from men)?
- What happen to women during and after WWII?
- How is the "family values" agenda a return to earlier views of women?
- What changes have occurred in the treatment of domestic violence and rape?
- How has women's situation in the workplace changed in the later 20th century?
- What are some of the similarities in myths about battered women, women who are raped, and sexual harassment?