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n essay on, "less files du roi", "⁵madam c.j. Walker" and "²the feminine mystique"

²
Madam C.J. Walker was born in ⁴the year 1867 and her parents were sharecroppers. Her family had six children whereby, Robert enslaved her older siblings on a Parish plantation. She was born after signing of emancipation Proclamation and therefore ²she was ²the only child in her family who was ⁴born free from slavery. As an orphan at the age of seven she had no opportunity. At the age of ten she was working as a domestic servant. By the age of fourteen she got married to escape her abusive brother-in-law and by age twenty she was a widow. Sarah and Moses her first husband were blessed with one child A 'Leila McWilliams. She got married to a second husband who sooner than expected turned out to be bad. In the year 1888 CJ Walker worked hard to make ⁴enough money to educate her daughter formally. She used to sing at ⁴St. Paul African Methodist Church where ²she used to wish to live as an educated person. She learned on how to care hair ²from her brothers who were barbers at St. ²Louis. In 1904, ²she was employed as sells agent by ²Annie Malone African-American hair care investor. Sales were low since African-Americans were ignored. While working for ⁶Annie Malone she started learning and later developed her own product line. ⁶C. J Walker met ¹ad salesman who later ¹become her third husband. In 1906, ¹she marketed as independent ¹hairstresser of cosmetic creams. Her husband ¹was a business partner and provided advertising knowledge. She also educated other black women on how to grow their hair. She championed for black women economic freedom whereby she opened training college. In order to increase black women's hair care empire she trained twenty thousand women the Walker System a method used to promote hair growth. He did not only train women on grooming and sales but also she trained ¹other black women on ¹how to budget and built ¹their own ¹businesses. She also ¹encouraged black women ¹to become financially stable. C. J walker gave ¹prizes to women who made ¹the largest sales contribution ¹and charities. Even after her death, her name was widely known because her company expanded to other countries Panama,

Jamaica, Cuba and Costa Rica.

Betty Friedan was feminine who published, “The Feminine Mystique”. In her book she explained the barbaric challenges facing women in American society even after the 2nd World War. She used the word feminine mystique to elaborate the societal view that women found satisfaction through marriage, sex, domestic chores and upbringing of children alone. The general view in the society was that women were not interested in higher education, careers and politics but instead they got complete satisfaction in the domestic sphere. She further argued that many housewives were not satisfied with the kind of lives they live, but they faced challenges articulating their opinions. She further cited that feminine mystique violated the basic woman urge to grow. Because women are in a deep problem, unhappy and therefore children were to grow up with stressed up mothers. She viewed that feminine mystique hurt women personally and professionally. According to her, both men and women identity °were earned through personal achievements basically through career. Friedan also focused on the position of women after the 2nd World War where she points out those women had taken jobs done by men when their men had left to fight in the war but after their return they expected women to step back home and perform the feminine activities. Due to cold war during the 1950s, America encouraged nuclear families together with domestic space was part of ideological war against Soviet Russia. The white middle class women were deemed warriors in that war where they represented the feminine and proved superiority of the American Capitalist society.

Files du roi refers to girls and women who were recruited by the government and whose travel was paid by the king. The King’s Daughter referred to almost 800 young women of French. It was the plan of the president Louis XIV of France to increase France’s population. He promoted marriage and birth of children. Girls who migrated to New France before and after the said time were not considered to be files du roi. At start New France had

a high number of men: priests, soldiers and fur traders. It became an agricultural colony and by 17th century there were very few women to match the number of men. To solve the imbalance, King paid passage of about 800 young girls and women. They were aged 12 and 25 years and they were expected to give a letter of reference written by parish priest. Kings daughters was used which meant that they were not royal or noble. Majority of those recruited come from humble families. File du roi were supported by king in several ways. Dowry for each woman was also paid by the Crown. Majority of them did a church wedding witnessed by priest and witnesses. Marriage contracts were to protect woman in terms of finance or anything else. It was not easy for women to adjust to agricultural life because majority of them came from urban centres and did not know on how to farm. It was a challenge and therefore later they recruited more rural girls. Quite a good number did not marry in New France, they had changed their decisions.

Feminine Mystique was flawed this is because Friedan argued that woman were denied chance to attend college in order to better their careers. There where more woman in the workforce than they were during mid-1950s. It was further claimed that Friedan was racist and also put focus on class. They were not all applicable to African- American and other women in the world who were working. It was further seen that Friedan lied on the issue of a suburban mother and housewife. It saw that Friedan had a bitter attitude towards the way men treat woman particularly on gender roles. Despite being criticized she inspired many women to think of their identities and public positions. It was the first book of its kind and therefore Friedan has issued more additions together with other additions to better it. According to C. J Walker racism is real and it is her main theme. It is seen that the white people were more privileged. The black Walker is being discriminated by the white group as a sales agent particularly when she claims that the blacks were highly avoided. Later Octavia Spencer who is white becomes her business rival and accuses her of stealing her hair care

formula which has been in use for more than 100 years. She expresses unhappy tone particularly if we could focus on her early life. According to her all women can be millionaire, what matters is the one who got their first. She is criticized for associating white people with racism.

United States in the 18th and 19th century the idea of separate spheres dominated whereby they advocated for gender roles. It is this idea which influenced other countries to promote gender roles too. Even to present, people are puzzled on what should be roles for woman and man roles. Gender roles were divided into unique and separate spheres whereby woman was expected to take a private sphere that is to take care of the homes. Man was supposed to take a public sphere which includes politics, public social, cultural activity and economic life which had a widening gap due to industrial revolution progress.

It is believed that role division was occurs naturally within each gender. Women were not allowed to take public roles and if any of them did public roles was seen as unnatural, and they were believed to have cultural implications. Woman was viewed as dependents until marriage and after marriage. Women had no personal rights that is property and economic rights. It is the idea that woman sphere was home and public was a place of man. Writers of that time viewed that gender roles depended on nature despite modern world which is focussing on separate sphere. It is the culture and social attitude that brought about gender roles.

Through history even though woman have no role in public it is clear that they are in a position to do better in public roles. Rosenberg published disorderly conduct book, her ideas included how woman in a separate sphere build women's culture, how women had no room for social life, education, economic, political and to the extent medical freedom. She further wrote a book separate ideology in 1982, Beyond Separate Spheres: Intellectual Roots of Modern Feminism. She was interested in exploring the challenges as a result of separate

spheres' ideology. Her book focused on how woman challenged home as their sphere. She further wrote on how slaved women, women married to slave holding class, daughters and some poor woman. Since women were dis empowered therefore there was no woman. There is also another book on the well-off women. In all these publications, cultural ideology of separate spheres is the center of everything. They show that woman is of private sphere and should not be allowed to take public roles which were strictly for men.

There are several authors focusing on the widening women's sphere. Frances Willard used separate sphere idea to explain his reforms thus undermining ideology. He viewed his work as housekeeping, and he took initiative in politics, public social and cultural advancement which later become social feminism. There is a room for another interpretation due to the fact that world is dynamic and everything is changing. It is clear that woman have stood their ground to shape their social, political status in North America.

Intellectual property by women in the late days is a clear example that woman are taking active roles in shaping their social and political status. Through participation in artistic production they are transforming traditions which viewed woman as housewives. It is in the 19 century were woman began to challenge domestic assignments and their social status. The literacy era and possession of intellectual property is seen as a revaluation of traditional gender roles. This literature gave woman an advantage in Northern America and it withdrew some powers from men.

In 20th century woman have politics which can be viewed as a national reform and modernization. Woman engaging in politics is positive for shaping their status. It is during this time when anarchy leadership threatened the state and all other forms of democracy. Women were at the lead of the emerging resistance. Buenos Aires people were transformed by women resistance. The working class of woman and foreigners were suspected of destroying the forces of modern society. Women were active in organizing strikes and all

forms of sabotage. Woman tenants struck in demand of rent stabilization in their neighborhoods. It is clear that woman have stood firm to fight for their political and social class.

Another aspect in which women have demonstrated their active support to attain political and social class is through fight for equal rights and peace in 1928 to 1938. Feminists were much concerned with the idea of peace. During Women's meeting in Washington in 1916 woman promised their solidarity and commitment in ensuring perpetual peace. In 1928 many women groups advocated for equal rights and peace.

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PAGE 1

PAGE 2

PAGE 3

PAGE 4

PAGE 5

PAGE 6

PAGE 7

PAGE 8