

Section VIII: Historical Events

| | Cultural | Political/Legal | Economic | Other |
|------------------|---|---|--|---|
| 1900-1950 | <p>Carry Nation, one of first women activists – wages campaign against saloons</p> <p>American Boy Scouts founded–1910</p> <p>American Girl Scouts founded –1912</p> <p>Kinsey Report published–1948</p> | <p>The 19th Amendment to the Constitution is ratified guaranteeing women the right to vote–1920</p> <p>Nellie Taylor Ross elected as the first woman governor–1924</p> <p>The Equal Pay for Equal Work bill is introduced To Congress –1945</p> | <p>Depression and financial panic started–1907</p> <p>Stock Market crash–1929</p> <p>Great Depression 25% unemployment–1932</p> <p>Gold standard abandoned–1933</p> <p>National minimum wage –1938</p> | <p>First successful flight–1903</p> <p>The first telephone talk–1915</p> <p>The first sound-on-film motion picture–1923</p> <p>First atomic bomb–1945</p> |
| 1950s | <p>Montgomery bus boycott–1956</p> <p>Rock & Roll music takes a hold in the late 1950s</p> <p>Suburban population increased 44% during the 50s.</p> <p>The first lesbian organization founded–1955</p> | <p>Segregation banned–1954</p> <p>Interstate Highway System begun–1956</p> <p>Civil Rights Commission Set up –1958</p> <p>The number of men And women voting is equal for the first time–1957</p> | <p>Recession–1953-54 6% unemployment</p> <p>Recession–1958-59 7.5% unemployment</p> <p>Micro-chip–1959</p> <p>Photocopier–1959</p> <p>Mainframe computer use by business spreads</p> | <p>Pocket-sized transistor radios developed–1952</p> <p>Television broadcasting became nationwide–1952</p> <p>Jet air travel began</p> <p>Baby boom peaked–1957</p> |
| 1960s | <p>Rachael Carson's <i>Silent Spring</i> launches Environmental movement–1962</p> <p><i>The Feminine Mystique</i> by Betty Friedan–1963</p> <p>Mini skirts spread from England to U.S.–1965</p> <p>Woodstock–1969</p> | <p>School Prayer banned–1963</p> <p>Vietnam War–1964-73</p> <p>NOW founded–1966</p> <p>Endangered Species Act–1967</p> <p>Truth in Lending Act–1968</p> | <p>Recession–1960-61 7% unemployment</p> <p>Typewriter–1961</p> <p>Microwave oven–1967</p> <p>Pampers introduced–1968</p> <p>Recession–1969-70 7% unemployment</p> | <p>Birth Control pills approved for marketing in the United States–1961</p> <p>Griswold v. Connecticut, Supreme Court overturns state laws prohibiting the prescription or use of contraceptives by married couples</p> |

Note: Sharon Couchoud provided research assistance for this compilation of landmark events.

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|--------------|---|---|---|---|
| 1970s | <p>Spread of no-fault divorce</p> <p>The National Black Feminist Organization–1973</p> <p>The National Association of Working Women–1973</p> <p>Concerned Women for America–1978</p> | <p>Clean Air Act–1970</p> <p>New York liberalized Its abortion law–1970</p> <p>Roe v. Wade abortion legalized–1973</p> | <p>Wage and Price Controls–1971</p> <p>Federal Express–1972</p> <p>Recession–1973-75 9% unemployed 12% inflation</p> <p>2nd oil price hike–1978-79 14% inflation</p> | <p>The United Nations "Decade for Women" begins–1976</p> <p>CAT scanners introduced– 1974</p> <p>Word processors–1974</p> <p>Walkman portable radio introduced–1979</p> |
| 1980s | <p>Political Correctness spreads through American Universities</p> <p>AIDS epidemic hits U.S.</p> <p>Testing of the abortifacient RU486 begins in France & China in 86'and is approved in 88'</p> | <p>Sandra Day O'Conner, first woman appointed to the Supreme Court–1981</p> <p>Surgeon General's report On smoking–1982</p> <p>The Supreme Court rules sexual harrassment illegal in workplace–1986</p> | <p>Recession–1980 8% unemployment 12.4% inflation</p> <p>Cellular phones–1983</p> <p>Macintosh computer</p> <p>Compact disc–1985</p> <p>Stock market crashes largest one-day loss in history–1987</p> | <p>MRI machines–1982</p> <p>Space shuttle Challenger explodes killing entire crew–1985</p> <p>FDIC takes over 80% of Continental Illinois Bank assuming a record of \$4.5 billion of loans–1985</p> |
| 1990s | <p>Christian Coalition develops into a strong political force</p> <p>Allegations of sexual harassment are the focus of the Senate confirmation hearing of Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas–1991</p> <p>The Supreme Court rules that college athletic programs must actively involve equal numbers of men and women to qualify for federal support</p> <p>Senate fails to convict President Clinton on either of the two articles of impeachment–1999</p> | <p>Congress adopts the Gender Equity in Education Act</p> <p>Americans with Disabilities Act–1990</p> <p>A record number of women run for public office and win in 1993 20.4% of state legislators; 3 governors, 11 lieutenant governors, 8 attorneys general, 13 secretaries of state, 19 state treasurers. 6 women in Senate, 48 in the House</p> | <p>Recession –1990 8% unemployment</p> <p>Dow declines 634 points July-October–1990</p> <p>Gulf War–1991</p> <p>NATO bombs Serbia over ethnic cleansing in Kosova–1999</p> | <p>Internet expands Dramatically</p> <p>U.S. prisons have 1.3 million inmates twice as many in 1980</p> <p>U.S. women attain success in Olympics</p> |