

**GRADE 12 HISTORY****IF. FAMOUS WOMEN LEADERS / FEMINISTS****a) GLORIA STEINHEIM**

Gloria Steinem is a writer, lecturer, editor, and feminist activist. She travels in this and other countries as an organizer and lecturer and is a frequent media spokeswoman on issues of equality. She is particularly interested in the shared origins of sex and race caste systems, gender roles and child abuse as roots of violence, non-violent conflict resolution, the cultures of indigenous peoples, and organizing across boundaries for peace and justice. She now lives in New York City, and is currently at work on *Road to the Heart: America As if Everyone Mattered*, a book about her more than thirty years on the road as a feminist organizer.

**Gloria Steinem**

**Event: Women Strike for Peace and Women Waging Peace Organization Luncheon  
New York, New York, June 8, 1973**

**b) BETTY FRIEDAN**

Writer, feminist and women's rights activist, Betty Friedan was born on February 4, 1921, in Peoria, Illinois. In 1963, she published *The Feminine Mystique*, which explores the idea of women finding fulfillment beyond traditional roles. Friedan co-founded the National Organization for Women (NOW) in 1966, and served as its first president. She published *The Second Stage* in 1982 and *The Fountain of Age* in 1993. She died on February 4, 2006, in Washington, D.C.



**The core of her thesis is that woman's problem today is not sexual but a problem of identity. "Our culture does not permit women to accept or gratify their basic need to grow and fulfill their potentialities as human beings, a need which is not solely defined by their sexual role."**

**c) BELLA ABZUG**

Bella Abzug, a 1947 Columbia Law School graduate admitted to the New York Bar in 1947, was known for her work in the peace movement, for civil liberties, and later in feminism. In 1970, Bella Abzug was elected to the U.S. Congress from New York. In Congress, she was especially noted for her work for the Equal Rights Amendment, national day care centers, ending sex discrimination, and working mothers' priorities. Bella Abzug also worked against American involvement in the Vietnam War



UN Secretary General U Thant, Bella Abzug, Amy werdlow. (left to right) Event: Women Strike for Peace Nations honor on WSP 10th anniversary. United Nations, New York, New York, December 18, 1971.

**d) SIMONE DE BEAUVOIR**

Born in Paris, de Beauvoir was a French writer, intellectual, existentialist philosopher, political activist, feminist, and social theorist.

She studied philosophy at the Sorbonne where she met Jean Paul Satre. The two had a relationship, but she refused to marry him in defiance of convention.

She wrote many books, most famous of which is probably "the Second Sex".

**e) THE RED STOCKINGS**

"Redstockings" was a name taken in 1969 by one of the founding women's liberation groups of the 1960's to represent the union of two traditions: the "bluestocking" label disparagingly pinned on feminists of earlier centuries--and "red" for revolution.

Redstockings women would go on to champion and spread knowledge of vital women's liberation theory, slogans and actions that have become household words such as consciousness-raising, the personal is political, the pro-woman line, sisterhood is powerful, the politics of housework, the Miss America Protest, and "speakouts" that would break the taboos of silence around subjects like abortion.