

## Women's demands

- Women were no longer content to be tied to the home.
- They wanted careers and campaigned against unfair treatment
- Discrimination was clear - low women's wages, overt sexism in society (e.g. Miss America).
- Demanded right to control their own fertility (birth control).

## Part of the wider struggle

- Slow progress - limited change only seen during 1960s.
- The 1960s saw the growth of the protest movement.
- People protested against the 'established order'. The demands and struggle for a better society.
- Womens' movement clearly part of this wider struggle.

## Impact of WWII

- During WWII women in America had been given new roles, responsibilities and opportunities.
- Post WWII - men simply expected women to return to their 'traditional roles'.
- Friedan's book - the "Feminine Mystique" - influenced a whole generation of women.

How successful was the Women's Movement?

## Developments during 1960s

- The birth control pill became available after 1960.
- 1961: JFK appointed Eleanor Roosevelt to lead Commission of "Status of Women".
- 1963: Equal Pay Act - men and women to be paid the same for the same job.
- 1966: National Organisation of Women set up (40,000 members by 1970)

## Developments during 1970s

- 1972: Educational Amendment Act - banned all forms of gender discrimination in education (including school books).
- 1976: women admitted to elite academies for Army and Naval officers (West Point and Anapolis).

## Success?

- Women gradually became much more aware of their rights.
- Women's pay gradually improved.
- Society became aware of sexual discrimination and saw it was wrong.
- However, despite progress all these issues continue to exist in today's society.

