
On page 521 of *The Feminine Mystique*, Betty really shows how her book “galvanizes” the women’s movement by stating, “Society had to be restructured so that women, who happen to be the people who give birth, could make a human, responsible choice whether or not—and when—to have children, and not be barred thereby from participating in society in their own right. This means the right to birth control and safe abortions”. Betty Friedan is the founder of radical pro-abortion organizations National Organization of Women (NOW) and the National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL).

Page scan from the GSUSA curriculum:


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they have the training and opportunity and skills that come from participating in it.

Women also had to confront their sexual nature, not deny or ignore it as earlier feminist had done. Society had to be restructured so that women, who happen to be the people who give birth, could make a human, responsible choice whether or not—and when—to have children, and not be barred thereby from participating in society in their own right. This meant the right to birth control and safe abortions, the right to maternity leave and child-care centers if women did not want to retreat completely from adult society during the childbearing years; and the equivalent of a GI bill for retraining if women chose to stay home with the children. For it seemed to me that most women would still choose to have children, though not so many if child rearing was no longer their only road to status and economic support—a vicarious participation in life.
Betty Friedan Interview

Betty Friedan is the Founder of the National Organization for Women, the National Women's Caucus, and the National Abortion Rights Action League. She is a Visiting Professor at New York University and the University of Southern California.

She is the author of The Feminine Mystique; It Changed My Life: Writings on the Women’s Movement; Beyond Gender: The New Politics of Work and Family; The Fountain of Age.