

OUTLINE FOR STUDY OF WOMEN'S SITUATION

(frame provided by G.Girardi,
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The problem of women's liberation can be approached in different ways, according to different basic options. It can be studied via:

- 1) an essentially psychological approach (cultural, etc.)
- 2) a liberal political approach (promotion of women within the system)
- 3) a revolutionary political approach (inseparable from a global transformation of the system)

(Resemblances to concepts of the "sexual revolution":

- 1 - psychological and cultural level
- 2 - liberal policy (Scandinavian)
- 3 - as part of a global cultural revolution)

As to analysis, two steps should be envisaged:

- I - analysis of the condition of women;
- II - analysis of the process of women's liberation.

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I - Analysis of the Condition of Women

1) Economic analysis of:

a) the facts of the economic situation:

- of those who work
- of those who do not work
- type of work
- working conditions

b) the relation between the facts and the root of the system:

- in the capitalist system
- in the economies which preceded the capitalist economy

2) Socio-political analysis of:

a) the situation on the legal level:

- inferiority of women on the legal level, in the family, in society (the head of the house); treatment of women as minors
- legislation relating to sexuality: contraception; abortion;



adultery; divorce

- b) the practices of discrimination:
- going from a formal (legal) equality to a real equality, promotion from a legal status to an actual equality (why does this situation exist in these countries?)
- c) economic bases for this situation:
- in any system women are "things" that men possess. What are the intrinsic reasons for this situation in the systems?
- d) political bases:
- the authoritarian structure of society in relation to the inferiority of women.
- 3) Analysis of cultural aspects:
- a) the image of women stereotypes of the "essence of women", the "specificity" of women etc.
- image of women as a tool of the dominant ideology (both in capitalist and socialist countries)
- b) education as a vehicle for transmitting ideology on women (school, family, mass media)
- e.g. the influence of "exceptional women" in popular imagination because they are presented as "exceptions".
- c) patterns of behaviour:
- predisposition of women to consider themselves intellectually inferior and incapable of cultural creation;
 - analysis of language (the masculine character of language, generalizations and semantics)
- d) psycho-sexual structures:
- structure of the family
 - domination relationships
 - dependency of women
- 4) Analysis of the religious level:
- a) women in religions (Islam etc)
- b) women in Christianity, the Church
- sexual discrimination in the Church and its theological foundations
 - the Christian sexual morality



- the "masculine" image of God, the angels, etc
- theology of women
- the priesthood of women, other "functions" in the Church and their theological reasons

N.B. This same analysis should be done in the context of the situation of women in the socialist countries. There we should ask:

- What has changed?
- What didn't change?
- Can one speak of a qualitative change?

II - Analysis of the Process of Women's Liberation

1) The history of the women's emancipation movements:

- how are they presented historically?
- what are their main tendencies?
- critique of a liberation projects which do not have a revolutionary perspective (because they haven't gone to the root of the problem)

2) Critique of a sexual revolution on a purely psychological or psychoanalytic level

3) Critique of a liberal political project (gaining equality within the system)

4) Critique of a socialist project which considers the liberation of women as obvious and does not see the specificity of this struggle

5) Objectives of women's movements

- relation between women as subjects and the people as subjects
- recognition of solidarity between the forms of domination

6) Organization for women's liberation

- mixed or women's groups
- relations with revolutionary parties
- revolution as a whole or in sectors which have been analysed taking women as subject.

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