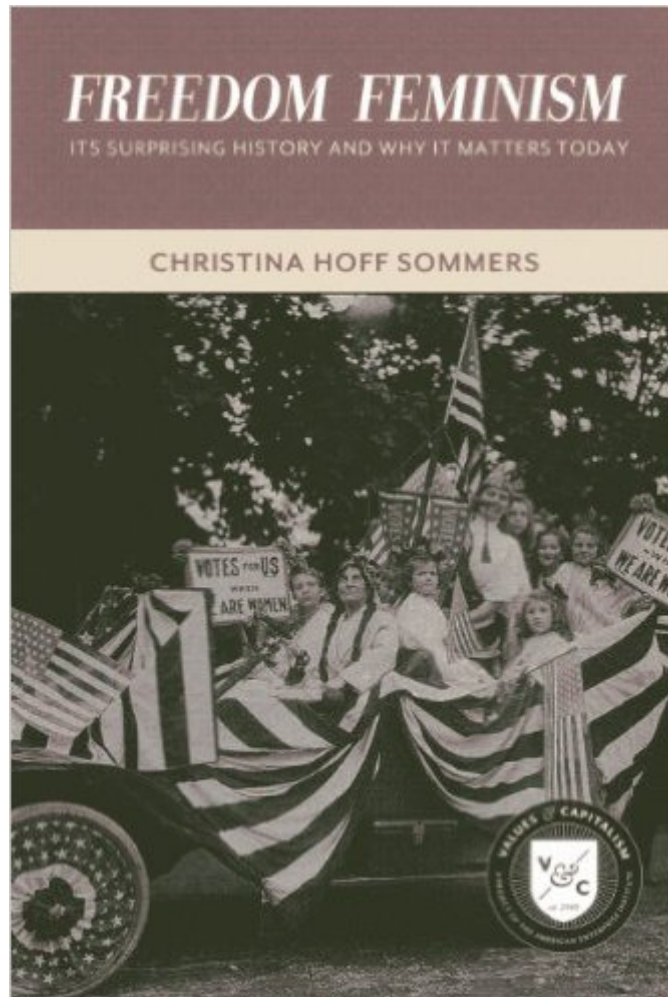


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Freedom Feminism: Its Surprising History And Why It Matters Today (Values And Capitalism)



Synopsis

Women's equality is one of the great achievements of Western civilization. Yet most American women today do not consider themselves feminists. Why is the term that describes one of the great chapters in the history of freedom in such disrepute? In *Freedom Feminism: Its Surprising History and Why It Matters Today*, Christina Hoff Sommers seeks to recover the lost history of American feminism by introducing readers to conservative feminism's forgotten heroines. More importantly, she demonstrates that a modern version of conservative feminism – in which women are free to employ their equal status to pursue happiness in their own distinctive ways – holds the key to a feminist renaissance. "Freedom Feminism" is a primer in the Values & Capitalism series intended for college students.

Book Information

Series: Values and Capitalism

Paperback: 138 pages

Publisher: Aei Press (June 10, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0844772623

ISBN-13: 978-0844772622

Product Dimensions: 4.6 x 0.4 x 6.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars See all reviews (17 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #197,389 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #48 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Specific Topics > Women in Politics #366 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Women's Studies > Feminist Theory #448 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Specific Topics > Civil Rights & Liberties

Customer Reviews

Are you a feminist? Chances are that you would say 'no'. Christina Hoff Sommers starts off her book, *Freedom Feminism*, with this valid point: most women today wouldn't call themselves feminists. Feminism has become an extreme, radical, taboo philosophy associated with angry, anti-men gender studies professors and not the historical advocates of women's rights like Susan B. Anthony and Frances Willard. In her book, Sommers takes us through the history of feminism, gives reasons why feminism is so radical today, and inspires us to redefine feminism to include women of all walks of life. She teaches something that many didn't learn growing up: there is more than one

school of feminist thought. "Egalitarian feminism" is closer to today's modern feminism, which demands equality to men in all ways. Egalitarians believed that men and women are essentially identical, and they used a more secular, progressive way of thinking than other women of their time. "Maternal feminism" acknowledges natural gender roles in its ideology and states that women are equal, but different. They sought to expand and strengthen women's traditional roles, and interestingly, were more popular and accepted by the majority of women than egalitarian feminists were. Both types promote opportunity and freedom in education, work, communities, and marriage; however, maternal feminism is ignored and even denounced by women's studies professors and modern feminists. Sommers gracefully accepts the challenge of confronting this blatant bias and provides common sense answers to some important questions about femininity and feminism. She makes it easy for anyone reading the book to understand: when women are free, many of them still value a home life compared to their risk-taking male counterparts.

Christina Marie Hoff Sommers (born 1950) is a former philosophy professor in Ethics at Clark University and is now a resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research. She has written other books such as *Who Stole Feminism?: How Women Have Betrayed Women*, *The War Against Boys: How Misguided Policies are Harming Our Young Men*, *One Nation Under Therapy - How the Helping Culture Is Eroding Self-Reliance, Vice and Virtue in Everyday Life: Introductory Readings in Ethics*, *Right and Wrong: Basic Readings in Ethics*, etc. She wrote in the Introduction to this 2013 book, "Most American women, including those strongly committed to equality, do not think of themselves as being in thrall to a mass delusion or held down by a system of global oppression. Asian, black, Latino, and white women want their basic rights, but [bell] hooks's call to bring down the ruling capitalist patriarchy is off-putting to most of them. To identify oneself as a feminist these days is to claim association with a dire worldview."

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