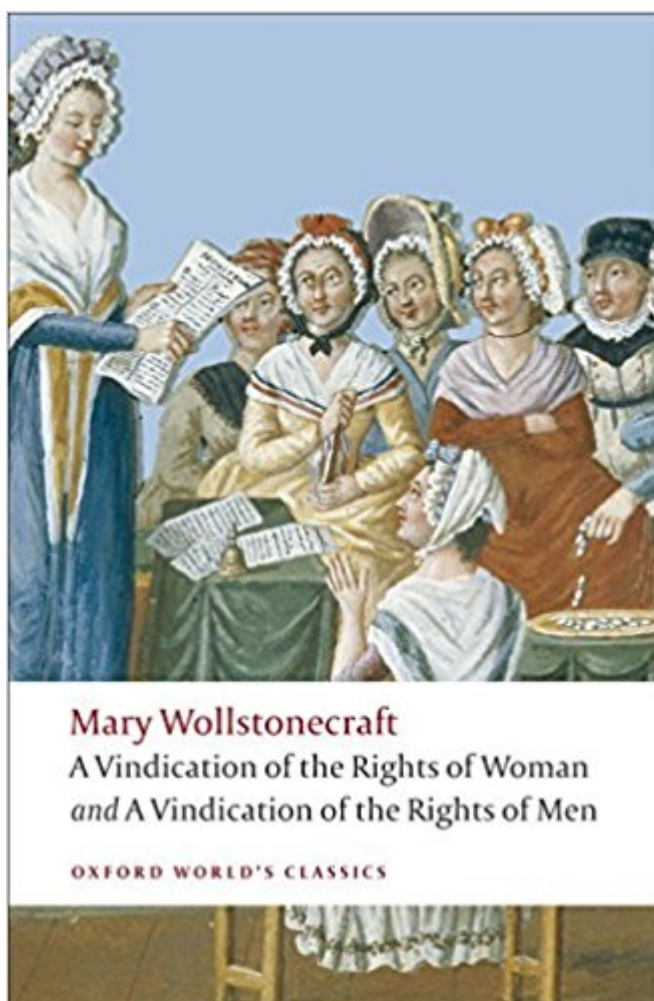


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# A Vindication Of The Rights Of Woman And A Vindication Of The Rights Of Men



## Synopsis

This volume brings together the major political writings of Mary Wollstonecraft in the order in which they appeared in the revolutionary 1790s. It traces her passionate and indignant response to the excitement of the early days of the French Revolution and then her uneasiness at its later bloody phase. It reveals her developing understanding of women's involvement in the political and social life of the nation and her growing awareness of the relationship between politics and economics and between political institutions and the individual. In personal terms, the works show her struggling with a belief in the perfectibility of human nature through rational education, a doctrine that became weaker under the onslaught of her own miserable experience and the revolutionary massacres. Janet Todd's introduction illuminates the progress of Wollstonecraft's thought, showing that a reading of all three works allows her to emerge as a more substantial political writer than a study of *The Rights of Woman* alone can reveal. About the Series: For over 100 years Oxford World's Classics has made available the broadest spectrum of literature from around the globe. Each affordable volume reflects Oxford's commitment to scholarship, providing the most accurate text plus a wealth of other valuable features, including expert introductions by leading authorities, voluminous notes to clarify the text, up-to-date bibliographies for further study, and much more.

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## Customer Reviews

`... this edition does away with the idea of M. W. as Tom Paine in *Skirts*. Her mind is deeper and richer than his; her transmutation of the turmoil of her experiences during the revolutionary period in

France is remarkable.' The Observer

Janet Todd is Professor of English Literature at the University of East Anglia.

It's nice not to have to trudge through a read. My norm seems to be expletive-laced grumbling while the last page can't come soon enough. Wollstonecraft has been a breath of fresh air. I have to admit that I went into it with bias. I've read so many male philosophers, probably because women at the time weren't taken seriously, as what happened with Wollstonecraft and the ridicule she received. I was nervous that it was going to be trite and overly emotional. It was an extraordinary blend of reason and sentiment. Her style is poetic. At times, it feels it almost has a sing-song way about it. Her ability reminds me of Jane Austen and makes it very hard to put the book down. I wonder how much Austen lifted from Wollstonecraft considering there was a section on *Sense and Sensibility* and *Pride and Prejudice*. Her philosophy is intriguing. Wollstonecraft was quite ahead of her time. She felt that women were trapped in an eternal childhood in the way they were treated by their other halves. This left them unable to be good wives much less good mothers. She makes the argument that not only can women reason, but they can be employed in any field. She envisions a time where boys and girls, rich or poor, can be educated together. As an aside, I don't think the public school system has worked out so well. I attended a joke of a school. That is why I am grateful to have the opportunity to homeschool. Even if you disagree with her assessment that children should be publicly educated, her main point is that boys and girls alike can be educated the same. She actually advocated for a private/public school mix. I'm not sure that our modern day system would meet her vision at all. The *crÃªme de la crÃªme*? Pages upon pages of attacks on Rousseau. I think I've formed a personal vendetta against Rousseau so when she blasts his inane philosophy for nearly 1/3 of the book, it could only bring a sense of sweet justice. If you're no fan of Rousseau, it's worth the read just for that. Ya know, the guy who created Civil Religion. The guy who wrote books about how children should be educated then abandoned all 5 of his newborn children to a foundling hospital. The guy who said women were created for his pleasure. Yeah, it's a pretty epic takedown. Enjoy.

It's dreadful to read at times because it kind of makes you want to travel back in time and slap some sense into men and how dreadful the patriarchal system was. BUT... It's a great book. I bought it for my thesis on the patriarchal system in Regency England and this book, while showing Mary Wollstonecraft's very clear point of view on her society, provides a lot of information and detail that

shows what life was like at that time (or a few years before, but it's basically the same era). A must if you're into history, women's rights or the likes. If you're thinking about getting it for a paper or thesis or something, go for it.

This book is simply amazing for the author's thinking on women's rights (and responsibilities). I can't believe that such a forward thinking woman was writing in the 1700s. Her clear view of women's rightful position in society, as opposed to their actual position, is made evident at every turn. Her ideas on education - for girls and boys - must have seemed bizarre for her time, but her arguments in favour of her theories are sound and endorsed by modern education philosophies. My only criticism is that she is verbose and repetitious and some of her sentences are over a page long! Well punctuated and quite correct as to grammar, they seem to go on and on. I loved this book and have written down many quotes to keep. One in particular, where she describes foolish women foregoing the joys and duties of motherhood and marriage as chasing the ephemeral "pleasures that sit lightly on the wing of time". What a delightful turn of phrase!

Pankhurst of the early 20th century is considered the first woman to stand up for women's right. **WRONG.** Britain and later America owe its equality for women revolution to Mary. This small easy to read book is a must, not just for the activist, but for every woman young and old. Mary was entranced with the French Revolution before it's twisted evil side took over. She sat amongst men to discuss and write how the equality of women should be as important as the equality of the social classes. When the French Revolution betrayed its humble noble origins with a blood lust for vengeance, Mary returns to England to continue to write for the equality of women nearly 100 years before the women's rights movements of the early 20th century. The book and her life have several twist and turns that make for a great movie someday but for now it's a great read. I have no daughters but had I Daughters I would include this as part of their summer reading or for social studies reports during the school year.

Years ago, Academia established the content, essence & historical significance of Mary Wollstonecraft's 'A Vindication of the Rights of Woman'. With that in mind, I am most definitely NOT qualified to go into any great detail. Other contributors at your fingertip have approached & covered their angles/ thoughts aptly. 'A Vindication of the Rights of Woman' is Mary Wollstonecraft's best known and most celebrated literary achievement. It is... "the first feminist manifesto in the history of human rights." . Mary W.'s declaration presents, subscribes TO and defends the equality OF ALL.

\*(save what SHOULD BE irrelevant to physical frame) It calls for each of us to 'recognize' & in doing so, choosing... to strive for improvement. Not only towards Women's struggles for Equality but in overcoming Man's shortcomings in denying Gender Equality. EDUCATION & Opportunity For EQUAL EDUCATION Is The Key To Much. ----- Five stars cannot rate this book.

I love this book. It is so well written that the prose in and of itself is a joy to read. The ideas and principles it teaches are timeless. This is pure feminism minus modern day politics and hullabaloo! I wrote a paper about this text for a college level philosophy class comparing Wollstonecraft's feminism to Plato's feminism.

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