

Social Reforms Packet

Task 1:

Read the following articles on the website and answer the questions that accompany them at the end.

1. 1833- Declaration of Sentiments-Anti Slavery
2. 1845- Narrative of the Life of Fredrick Douglass
3. 1848-Declaration of Sentiments-Seneca Falls Convention

Task 2: Cult of Domesticity (1829)

Excerpt from *Domestic Duties, Or, Instructions to Young Married Ladies, on the Management of their Households, and the Regulation of their Conduct in the Various Relations of Married Life* by Mrs. William Parkes (1829)

“In our various conversations, we have been led to [see] the influence which women have over the well-being and happiness of society. Individually, the extent of our power is limited, but [as a group] we hold in our hands the happiness or misery of [many people] and even of unborn generations, our children handing down to their children the values, good qualities or defects which we have given them. A woman’s responsibility, considered [one by one], is limited to one family and to one circle in society; but the effects of fulfilling or neglecting those duties are way beyond belief. Perhaps this view may make but little impression on our minds, as we are more affected by present than by future consequences, but still it must please us to know that the good influence [our children] enjoy in their lives will carry its benefits down to their descendants.”

1. In what ways does this text reflect the cult of domesticity?
2. According to the author, how does a woman’s influence extend beyond her family? In what ways do they affect future generations?
3. What class of women held this view of womanhood? Why was it not as possible for others?
4. What changes in family practices made this type of approach to parenting possible for women?
5. Do you think that this view about the role of mothers is still in use today? Explain why or why not.

Task 3: Answer the Short Answer Questions:

1. Use the timeline to answer A, B, & C:
 - a. Explain one specific similarity between two of the following:
 - i. Abolition Movement
 - ii. The Women’s Rights Movement
 - iii. The Temperance Movement
 - b. Explain one specific difference between two of the choices above:
 - c. Select one of the topics and defend the position that it was the most successful movement citing historical evidence.

Much has been written and spoken in woman's behalf, especially in America; and yet a large class of females are, and have been, destined to a state of servitude as degrading as unceasing toil can make it. I refer to the female operatives of New England... who are in fact nothing more nor less than slaves ...to a system of labor which requires them to toil from five [a.m.]until seven o'clock [p.m.], with one hour only to attend to the wants of nature, allowed...

...Then too, when she is at last released from her wearisome day's toil,... she must... be subjected to the manifold inconveniences of a large crowded boarding-house...that...will not ensure to her the common comforts of life; she is obliged to sleep in a small comfortless, half ventilated apartment containing some half a dozen occupants each...

...we will soon show these drivelling cotton lords, this mushroom aristocracy of New England, who so arrogantly aspire to lord it over God's heritage, that our rights cannot be trampled upon with impunity; that we WILL no longer submit to that arbitrary power which has for the last ten years been so abundantly exercised over us.

From a tract written by women workers in a Lowell, Massachusetts textile mill, 1845

2. Answer A, B, & C:
 - a. Briefly describe the main point of this passage.
 - b. Briefly explain this passage in the context of ONE of the following.
 - i. Development of labor systems
 - ii. Gender roles and women's rights
 - iii. Internal migration patterns
 - iv. The demands of regional economic specialization
 - c. Provide ONE piece of evidence not included in this passage to support your assertion