Feminist Movement Essay, Research Paper

It was in the mid-1800s when the first signs of the feminist movement came

about. In 1861, a man named John Stuart Mill wrote The Subjection of Women, which

was said to have spawned the ideology of the Women?s Rights Movement (Ryan 11). He

discussed the role of women is society during that time, pointing out how the patriarchy

placed such an intense limit on what women could do. Patriarchy is the system in which

the male race governs societal views, and this practice has been in existence since the

dawn of time. This work raised the consciousness of many women, but the first hints of

an organized movement did not come about until the approach of the twentieth century.

It has been said the Black Abolition Movement was the encouragement that women

needed to go after what they believed in (Ryan 10). In 1898 came the beginnings of

Women?s Suffrage, which was the movement intended to allow women the right to vote.

During this time, over 500 separate campaigns were launched with the goal of attaining

this right. Females such as Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony spoke all over

the country on women?s rights and suffrage, gaining many supporters along the way

(Ryan 9). The National American Women?s Suffrage Association (NAWSA) was soon

formed, and Stanton was its first president. She helped to begin extensive mobilizing

efforts and put a strong foot forward in the suffrage movement (Ryan 22). When the

Nineteenth Amendment was passed, women nationwide rejoiced at their accomplishment

with the feeling that they had made a difference, and their feeling of inferiority had

subsided.

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