

(Read now) A Vindication of the Rights of Woman

A Vindication of the Rights of Woman

Mary Wollstonecraft

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Mary Wollstonecraft : A Vindication of the Rights of Woman before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Vindication of the Rights of Woman:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Learn about pre-Regent women's rights (or lack thereof)By MSmurfIt'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.4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Great read - one of the first feministsBy Threepence WorthThis 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! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. EducatingBy Ann Cooper This book was mentioned in *Founding Mothers*, by Cokie Roberts, as an essential piece of writing from the mid 1700s. So I tried to read it. It is a long and rambling diatribe against the fact that women of the time, or at least the upper class ones, were valued not for themselves, their ideas or their common sense, but as decorative and submissive male appendages, forever prevented from attaining their true potential (and values more for youth and beauty than more lasting assets). Oddly, the impression from reading "*Founding Mothers*" mothers, about the women behind the men who broke from England to form the United States, was of an intrepid and capable bunch of women, quite unlike the most of the 'ladies/women' portrayed in this famous early-feminist lecture.

A Vindication of the Rights of Woman, published in 1792, argues for the equality of woman, and is widely considered to be the seminal work in modern Western feminism. A table of contents is included.

"Mary Wollstonecraft's words ring as true today - and are as little heeded by government - as when she wrote them, 200 years ago, in her *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*" Guardian "The first pebble in the later avalanche of the women's rights movement" -- Melvyn Bragg Guardian "The first great piece of feminist writing" Independent "Changed the world for generations of women to come" Sunday Times "A book that was bold in its time and is now considered the notable forerunner of the women's movement" New York Times About the Author MARY WOLLSTONECRAFT was born in 1759 in Spitalfields, London. After an unsettled childhood, she opened a school following which, her first work, "*Thoughts on the Education of Daughters*," was published in 1787. After a stint as governess in Ireland, she continued to write and published several other works including "*Mary*" (1788), "*A Vindication of the Rights of Men*" (1790) and her most famous, "*A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*" (1792). That year she travelled to Paris where she met Gilbert Imlay, by whom she had a daughter, Fanny. Her travels around Scandinavia with her baby daughter in 1795, inspired her travel book "*Letters Written during a Short Residence in Sweden, Norway and Denmark*," but on returning to London Imlay's neglect drove her to two suicide attempts. In 1797 she married William Godwin, and had a daughter, the future Mary Shelley. Wollstonecraft died of septicaemia shortly after the birth.