

Trickle-Down Feminism

Unpacking an article

1. What is the problem?

a. who/what/when/where/why

2. Why should something be done?

a. According to Jaffe/according to you

Initial considerations

- Sarah Jaffe -- “an independent journalist covering labor, economic justice, social movements, politics, gender, and pop culture”
- Written in winter of 2013 for **Dissent Magazine**, “a quarterly magazine of politics and ideas” or “a pillar of leftist intellectual provocations” (NYT)
- Article title
 - “trickle-down” -- refers to the neoliberal economic policy popularized by Ronald Reagan in the 80s (widely discredited as ineffective)
 - “feminism” -- TOO MANY THINGS TO DEFINE IN ONE SENTENCE but, broadly, an array of ideologies, politics, practices, and beliefs that work toward political and social equality for all genders, traditionally aligned with “women’s rights” movements

Words that Stick Out (or “Keywords”)

- Domestic worker
- Deunionization
- “Glass ceiling”
- Minimum wage
- The Great Recession
- Low-wage service work
- Gendered work
- Labor organizing
- Immigrants
- Cycle of violence
- “Pink collar”
- Caring professions
- Teachers’ union
- Striking
- Labor protections
- “War on women”
- Wages for Housework movement
- Capitalist society
- Fair Labor Standards Act
- Paycheck Fairness Act
- White-collar work
- Women’s suffrage
- Trade union organizing
- “Labor feminists”
- Picket line
- Paid sick leave

Name Checks

- Sheryl Sandberg
- Christine Lagarde
- Marissa Mayer
- Laurie Penny @ New Statesman
- Heather Boushy @ Slate
- Ai-Jen Poo
- Betty Friedan
- Bethany Moreton
- Nicholas Kristof @ New York Times
- Dana Goldstein
- Gloria Steinem
- Selma James
- Barbara Ehrenreich
- Marilyn Sneiderman
- Mother Jones
- Lucy Parsons
- Emma Goldman
- Daniel Katz
- Nancy Astor
- Alva Vanderbilt Belmont
- Dorothy Sue Cobble
- Cecile Richards

Organizations & Publications

- Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law
- **Institute for Women's Policy Research**
- National Domestic Workers Alliance
- **Coalition of Labor Union Women**
- National Organization for Women
- **Avodah, the Jewish Service Corps**
- National Labor College
- **Planned Parenthood**
- National Women's Law Center
- **Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce**
- Hanna Rosin's *The End of Men*
- **Betty Friedan's *Feminine Mystique***
- Bethany Moreton's *To Serve God and Wal-Mart: the Making of Christian Free Enterprise*
- **Dana Goldstein's *The Teacher Wars***
- Selma James's *The Power of Women and the Subversion of the Community*
- **Barbara Ehrenreich and Arlie Hochschild Russell's *Global Woman***
- Dorothy Sue Cobble's *The Other Women's Movement*

Final considerations

Author's intent? (What does Sarah Jaffe want?)

Audience? (Who is Sarah Jaffe talking to?)

Overall effect? (What do you walk away thinking?)

Disagreements? Weaknesses? (What didn't you believe? What's missing?)

.... What's next?