

Berenice Rodriguez

Professor Hays

Rhet 105

5, October 2018

How Conservative Feminism is not Self- Contradiction

Some might argue that a woman cannot be both conservative and feminist because conservatism does not coincide with feminist ideologies of economic, social, and political equality, which is innovative and constantly changing. However, gender does not determine a woman's political or feminist ideology, therefore a woman can be both conservative and feminist.

Burrell, Barbara C. *Women and Political Participation: a Reference Handbook*. ABC-CLIO, 2004.

In this book, Burrell addresses the way in which women became involved in politics and how it is important for women to continue to question and change political events. She also makes it clear that every woman and feminist have their own way of viewing and defining politics based on their culture and values. She states that women can have similar or different ideologies from men, making them either more or less inclined to participate in political movements. She continues to address the way in which feminist movements can adversely affect the individual lives of women. She also uses data to explain how the participation of women in elections varies due to different circumstances. For example, she analyzes data, that indicates

how women were more likely to vote for a Republican president during the 1950's, due to Eisenhower's tactic of appealing to a feminine vote.

Rodriguez 2

This is a scholarly source because the author uses various sources to back up her claims and evidence. She also uses current sources and cites them, which makes her a more credible secondary source. I chose this source because it includes various data that is not biased and has explanations as to what the data shows and how that certain data came to be. Not only does this book cover a woman's point of view in participation in politics, but it also shows the effects of diversity and that women, like men, can and do have similar interests based on their background and issues they care about, despite being feminists or not.

Finneman, Teri Ann. *Press Portrayals of Women Politicians, 1870s-2000s: from "Lunatic" Woodhull to "Polarizing" Palin*. Lexington Books, 2015.

In this Book, Finneman demonstrates the way women politicians have been perceived and labeled based on their characteristics, physical appearance, political views, etc. In her fifth chapter, she shows how a woman politician, Sarah Palin, was depicted to have male characteristics based on the things she wore. She also identifies how different sources subject Sarah Palin to a few short words, that made it seem like her qualities made her a stereotypical Republican politician. This can also be seen through the different perspectives Finneman uses to address a feminist Republican woman. Chapter five also gives a further background of Sarah Palin's upbringing and how she views herself as a feminist.

This is a credible and scholarly source because the author uses many sources throughout the fifth chapter with proper citations. This source is recent and focuses on a modern perspective

on women and politics. I chose this source because it concentrated on women being political figures regardless of what people depict them to be. I also thought this was a good source

Rodriguez 3

because it included photography as a source to further demonstrate how the public can deem something to be fit or not based on the photograph.

Knott, Sarah. "Female Liberty? Sentimental Gallantry, Republican Womanhood, and

Rights Feminism in the Age of Revolutions." *William & Mary Quarterly*, vol. 71, no. 3, July 2014, pp. 425–456. *EBSCOhost*, doi:10.5309/willmaryquar.71.3.0425.

In this essay, Knott unfolds the early 18th-century revolutionary period in which women were seen as the stereotypical wife who was not as involved in politics, throughout that time period women did not play a big role in politics. She explains that there are many layers to what a woman could actually do and hold a greater purpose through the lives of two women who lived and encountered different experiences throughout the American and French Revolution. Through their perspectives, she analyzes the awakening of feminism. In another sense, the lives of these women open power tendencies through their sexuality while being surrounded by powerful political figures. She shows how women worked beyond the scope they were given by rejecting reforms and participating in activism at a time where both Liberals and Republicans rejected women.

This is a scholarly source, as Knott is a professor at the University of Indiana, and she uses primary sources to conduct a secondary source about how women's lives in the early 18th century who live throughout the American and French Revolution justify feminism. She is not biased because she is simply telling someone's life story, the people who lived during the

story might have a biased opinion as to how they viewed men because of the way they were treated and outcasted from political activities. The idea that women were excluded from political

Rodriguez 4

affairs adds more evidence to Knott's notions. The reason as to why I was intrigued to use this source was because it is peer-reviewed and she clearly focuses on both liberal and republican men who disregard feminism, although this does not coincide with modern political views, it explains its origins.

McCarver, Virginia. "The New Oxymoron: Socially Conservative Feminism." *Women & Language*, vol. 35, no. 1, Spring 2012, pp. 57-76. *EBSCOhost*, search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=asn&AN=77928146.

In this article, McCarver examines Sarah Palin to give a new light to what feminism has evolved to be. She also shows underrepresentation of women in the Republican party, by looking at past candidacy and what the public wanted in 2008. It is evident that the public was not pressed on women's issues because there were people who subjected women to only fit a certain social construct, making it apparent by continuing the examination of news. McCarver suggests that there is a need for more representation of women in the Republican party as it would finally be an adequate voice to be heard for women's issues. She also states what feminism really means for people to not label the ideal feminist because feminism should be about equality. She also uses other sources that denote her comments on feminism and conservative ideologies by using quotation of people who are concerned about how conservatives do not represent equality for women, specifically with the issue of abortion. Yet she believes that it is necessary for there to be differing views.

This source is an academic scholarly journal and secondary source, it is credible because the author, McCarver, focuses on the public's perspective. She also includes her opinion which

Rodriguez 5

she found controversial and her article is peer-reviewed. She realized that many people have a certain view of what feminism should be and that the public can't see how contradictory it would be to label what a true feminist is. She explains feminism is about equality. I agree with this source as I do believe there are many controversies within conservative feminism but it follows through with the idea that feminism is not self-contradictory within a woman. They should be able to have their own voice, which is what McCarver proved. She is a reliable source because she's involved in women studies and does not completely bias because she uses other sources to contradict her ideas, and examples to show how those ideas actually contradict each other which is why this article interested me.

Phillips, Anne. "Survey Article: Feminism and Republicanism: Is This a Plausible

Alliance?[pass:[*]]." *Journal of Political Philosophy*, vol. 8, no. 2, June 2000, p. 279.

EBSCOhost, search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=asn&AN=3334633.

In this article, Phillips demonstrates that women have proven to show interest in Republican issues and that it would be better for women to branch out, and not build a certain brand of topics that are for women only. She also examines how politics have changed throughout the early period and how that affected what politics is constituted on now. Politics began with people who wanted a choice and freedom, and somehow it evolved to economic growth and separation. Phillips uses examples of how the definition of freedom has also been misunderstood; in turn, this makes politics in the early stages seem inadequate because it did not

represent all as it should have, it represented the opposite. She also shows how early feminism contradicted liberal views by constructing a select tradition of women representation in politics.

Rodriguez 6

This source is reliable because it is an academic scholarly journal. Phillips has experience in political sciences and concentrates in political philosophy. Her article is also peer-reviewed. She has experience in the study of morals and theoretical issues about politics and life. Phillips did not show bias because she used sources that had clear definitions of what she was trying to prove and rooted her work from the early period of politics. The only way this source could be biased is due to the time lapse in which her focus is on. But I chose to include this source because it had interesting factors regarding the philosophical aspects and origins of a women's role in politics.

Strub, Whitney. "Republican Women: Feminism and Conservatism from Suffrage through the Rise of the New Right." *Journal of Social History*, vol. 42, no. 1, Fall 2008, pp. 183–194. *EBSCOhost*, search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=asn&AN=48105321.

In this article, Strub is a secondary source that analyzes a book about the process in which she identifies what Republican women undergo throughout the 1900's. She shows how women can also have Republican tendencies or ideologies through the act of participating in political conversations. She also proves that Republican women can have feminist tendencies due to their participation in political activism and being involved in politics around the time of the 1920's. Any motivation to be a part of political conversations made a

woman more aware throughout that time period which gave women more confidence and knowledge. She also states how women could join organizations that included both men and women.

Rodriguez 7

This source is scholarly and has been peer reviewed. Strub is a reliable source because she presents different sources and reviews essays on different aspects of the topic being represented. She is not biased because although she is a woman she is aware of the history and definitions of feminism without solely focusing on her opinion but on factual occurrences with cities and dates to which the events occurred. She clearly uses backing and evidence to prove her argument which is why this article interested me.

Wilhelm, Heather. "It's True: These Days Conservatives Can't Be 'Feminists'."

Chicagotribune.com, 28 May 2018,

www.chicagotribune.com/news/opinion/commentary/ct-perspec-wilhelm-conservatives-feminists-jessica-valenti-heather-wilhelm-feminism-0527-story.html.

In this article, Valenti, states that feminists are not capable of being conservative. She believes that conservative principles do not align with feminist principles. She also stated that conservative feminism has changed and does not fit everyone's agenda. She also says that, because feminism has changed and evolved from the earlier eras, it has reached its peak of empowerment. She does not believe that all women are undermined and continue to be by societies patriarchal views. She also compares feminism with being victimized.

This source is reliable and credible because this feminist writer has a somewhat strong bias against modern feminism. Through her own experiences, she defines her own version of feminism in her opinion and what her life has taught her. She also uses personal experience, as a primary source to show how women are victimizing themselves through the misuse of the term

Rodriguez 8

feminist. She doesn't clearly pinpoint why feminists can't be conservative but she uses relevant and modern observations to assess her claims on the definition of feminism.

VALENTI, JESSICA. "The Myth of Conservative Feminism." *New York Times*, vol. 167, no. 57968, 20 May 2018, p. 9. *EBSCOhost*, search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=asn&AN=129694409.

In this article, Jessica addresses the disappointment behind shaming conservative feminists. She focuses on women who have government professions. She also states how conservative male representative who has an upper hand is using women to seem less misogynistic and more inclusive in order to have an appeal. She also describes the way conservatives reach women by using phrases that persuade them to apply for a Republican party's political employment. She states that the Republican party is not inclusive when it comes to women being political figures. She also states that feminism does not have to be complex and confusing. She insists that there should be more representation of women in the Republican party to have a just and equal representation for everyone.

This source is a reliable and scholarly source that was not peer-reviewed. Yet it is from the 'New York Times' which is one of the reasons as to why I chose it. The New York Times is known for being more liberal, in this source, there is a bias on the Republican Party. The author gives their own opinion on conservative women on whether or not they are considered to be

feminists. I also chose this current source because it supports the idea of feminism being innovative and explains the way people approach feminism is different based on their intent.