



Tidal Wave : How Women Changed America at Century's End

By Sara M. Evans

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Forty years ago few women worked, married women could not borrow money in their own names, schools imposed strict quotas on female applicants, and sexual harassment did not exist as a legal concept. Yet despite the enormous changes for women in America since 1960, and despite a blizzard of books that continue to argue about women's "proper place," there has not been a serious, definitive history of what happened -- until now. Sara M. Evans is one of our foremost historians of women in America. Her book "Personal Politics" is a classic that captured the origins of the modern women's movement; its successor, "Born for Liberty," set the standard for sweeping histories of women. In "Tidal Wave" Evans again sets the standard by drawing on an extraordinary range of interviews, archives, and published sources to tell the incredible story of the past forty years in women's history. Encompassing both the so-called Second Wave of feminism's initial explosion in the 1960s and 1970s, and the Third Wave of the 1980s and 1990s, she challenges traditional interpretations at every step. She shows that the Second Wave was beset by fragmentation and infighting from the beginning; its slogan, "the personal is political," was both a rallying cry and the seed of its self-destruction. Yet the Third Wave has been surprisingly strong, and almost all women today might be thought of as feminists -- in practice if not in name. From national events, and from leaders of institutions such as NOW and Emily's List to little-known local stories of women who simply wanted more out of their lives only to discover that they were creating a movement, "Tidal Wave" paints a vast canvas of a society in upheaval -- from politics to economics to popular culture to marriage and the family. Today, Evans argues, the women's movement is as alive and vital as ever, precisely because it has enjoyed such stunning success. Though not all women are comfortable with the term "feminist," the vast majority hold jobs and enjoy previously unimaginable personal freedoms. Never before in American or world history have women experienced full and equal citizenship and opportunity. At last, the extraordinary story can be told.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Evans, who has taught women's history at the University of Minnesota since 1976 and written several books on feminism, including *Born for Liberty and Personal Politics*, has attempted here the nearly impossible: to write a nonpartisan, totally inclusive account of modern (i.e., 1960-2002) feminism in America. A movement with slogans like "the personal is political"; which demanded, at times, self-criticism and anti-elitist nonleaders; and generally rejected party-line politics is necessarily a difficult one to document, much less to summarize. But Evans is determined to write down as much of this history as possible, "to affirm for future generations that they do indeed have a history, by turns glorious and distressing, on which they can build." She sees feminism as a rising tide in the late 1960s and '70s, engendering an undertow pulling women back in the '80s, resulting in a resurgence of women in the '90s. Evans views the women's movement as a "tidal wave" destined to prevail (even if the steady in-and-out of tides might also suggest the power of the status quo). She lays out her chapters chronologically, with a wealth of detail on people, ideas, organizations and acronyms, all carefully identified. Personal accounts of the movement, like Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz's *Outlaw Woman*, are more engaging than this condensed, encyclopedic overview; still, it will be a useful textbook for women's studies classes.

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From [Booklist](#)

Astronauts and senators, CEOs and surgeons: the roles for women in society today are impressive and, perhaps in certain quarters, taken for granted. Evans is here to remind us that things were not always this way. After the suffrage movement of the early twentieth century obtained for women the right to vote, the impetus to achieve other forms of equality languished until the 1960s, when a combination of circumstances and attitudes coalesced to accelerate the women's movement into what Evans terms the "second wave." Like a tidal wave in nature, the feminist movement in the late twentieth century started out as a groundswell, a powerful grassroots effort to raise the collective and individual consciousness of a nation. Evans, with an intimate "behind-the-scenes" approach, analyzes how and why disparate and diverse factions operated independently and simultaneously toward divergent, but ultimately corresponding, goals. Meticulously researched and with an unequivocal respect for detail and balance, Evans offers a comprehensive and compelling historical overview of the status and role of women in contemporary society. *Carol Haggas*
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Review

Estelle B. Freedman Author of *No Turning Back: The History of Feminism and the Future of Women*
Grounded in vivid, concrete stories about activists and organizations, *Tidal Wave* gives clear shape to the complex history of second-wave American feminism, from its dazzling origins in the 1960s, through the growing pains and conflicts of subsequent decades, to its entrenchment by the end of the century. This comprehensive and compelling account will surely influence historical interpretations and political accounts of feminism, both inside and outside the classroom. -- *Review*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Molly Cooper:

Do you have favorite book? For those who have, what is your favorite's book? Guide is very important thing for us to be aware of everything in the world. Each reserve has different aim as well as goal; it means that guide has different type. Some people truly feel enjoy to spend their the perfect time to read a book. These are reading whatever they take because their hobby is reading a book. How about the person who don't like reading a book? Sometime, man or woman feel need book whenever they found difficult problem or perhaps exercise. Well, probably you will need this Tidal Wave : How Women Changed America at Century's End.

Thelma Brady:

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Henry Brown:

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Helen McClain:

Playing with family in a park, coming to see the sea world or hanging out with pals is thing that usually you may have done when you have spare time, in that case why you don't try issue that really opposite from that. A single activity that make you not experiencing tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you already been ride on and with addition info. Even you love Tidal Wave : How Women Changed America at Century's End, it is possible to enjoy both. It is excellent combination right, you still want to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh come on its mind hangout men. What? Still don't understand it, oh come on its referred to as reading friends.

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