

Chapter 12: Feminism

- Feminism has no single definition.
- Feminism is concerned with equality, justice, and the elimination of women's subordination and oppression.
- Feminism and feminist movements struggle with issues of inclusion and exclusion, specifically regarding race, sexuality, class, and geographic location. By asking not only 'where are the women?', but also 'which women are where?', feminism and feminist movements work towards overcoming exclusions.
- Without feminism and feminist movements, women's experiences and roles would have remained of little importance or interest to states.
- Feminism and feminist movements have succeeded in radically changing the understanding of international organizations and states regarding women's significance for and contribution to international politics.
- Feminist international relations theories are deconstructive and reconstructive.
- Prior to the late 1980s, international relations theories did not consider the role of gender or of women.
- Feminist international relations theories introduced the study of gender and of women and prompted a critical analysis of the existing discipline, and its fundamental concepts, such as states and power, as defined by realism, liberalism, and its derivatives.
- Gender is not a synonym for women, but includes both men and women in its purview.
- Feminist international relations theories conceptualize the state as a gendered organization of power.