

# Women and the Postwar Right: Politics and Society in Modern America

By Leila J. Rupp



In the years following World War II, American women found themselves at a crossroads. The war had brought them new opportunities for work and education, but it had also reinforced traditional gender roles. As the nation rebuilt, women faced a choice: should they embrace the new freedoms they had gained, or should they return to the more traditional roles that had been assigned to them before the war?



## Mothers of Conservatism: Women and the Postwar Right (Politics and Society in Modern America Book 84)

by Michelle M. Nickerson

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 2051 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 264 pages  
X-Ray for textbooks : Enabled



In *Women and the Postwar Right: Politics and Society in Modern America*, Leila J. Rupp argues that women played a central role in the rise of the postwar right. She shows how conservative women mobilized to defend traditional gender roles and to oppose the feminist movement. Rupp's book is a major contribution to our understanding of the history of women in America and the history of the postwar right.

### **The Postwar Consensus**

In the aftermath of World War II, there was a widespread belief that the United States had entered a new era of prosperity and stability. This postwar consensus was based on a number of factors, including the nation's economic growth, the expansion of the suburbs, and the rise of a new consumer culture. The postwar consensus also included a strong commitment to traditional gender roles. Women were expected to be wives and mothers first and foremost, and their role in the public sphere was seen as secondary.

## **The Challenge to the Postwar Consensus**

The postwar consensus began to break down in the 1960s. The feminist movement challenged traditional gender roles and demanded greater equality for women. The civil rights movement challenged racial inequality, and the Vietnam War challenged the nation's foreign policy. These challenges led to a period of social and political upheaval that lasted throughout the 1960s and into the 1970s.

## **The Rise of the Postwar Right**

The rise of the postwar right was a reaction to the challenges to the postwar consensus. Conservative women were alarmed by the feminist movement and the other social and political changes that were taking place. They organized to defend traditional gender roles and to oppose the feminist movement. The postwar right also opposed the civil rights movement and the Vietnam War.

## **Women and the Postwar Right**

Women played a central role in the rise of the postwar right. Conservative women were motivated by a number of factors, including their opposition to the feminist movement, their support for traditional gender roles, and their fear of social and political change. Conservative women organized to defend their traditional roles and to oppose the feminist movement. They also supported the postwar right's opposition to the civil rights movement and the Vietnam War.

## **The Legacy of the Postwar Right**

The postwar right has had a lasting impact on American politics and society. Conservative women have continued to play a major role in the

Republican Party and the conservative movement. They have been successful in promoting their views on gender roles, abortion, and other social issues. The postwar right has also helped to shape the nation's foreign policy, particularly its opposition to communism and its support for the military.

*Women and the Postwar Right: Politics and Society in Modern America* is a major contribution to our understanding of the history of women in America and the history of the postwar right. Rupp's book shows how conservative women played a central role in the rise of the postwar right and in shaping the nation's politics and society for decades to come.



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