



Language

In the 1990s and at the turn of the millenium many young women in countries where they enjoyed full access to education, formal equal rights at work and personal freedom seemed to turn against the feminism of the second wave. Some who still believed feminism was important reassessed its relevance to their times and articulated a set of ideas usually labelled 'third wave feminism'. This was primarily a theoretical tendency, influenced by postmodernism, arguing that 'women' could not be understood as a single category and stressing the diverse identities and experiences of women. The third wave also rejected what it saw as the sexual puritanism of the 'second wave', engaged with popular culture, including its projections of 'strong' women, and tended to prioritise narratives of personal experience. This theoretical strand did reflect a real trend for diverse groups to organize under the banner of feminism – for example African American women in the USA, and some writings explored the position of lesbians and transgenders. But third wave feminism was not primarily a call to action, unlike the 'fourth' wave of activism, embracing a new generation of young women, that came to the fore by the second decade of the 21st century.

Eltahawy, Mona, [Headscarves And Hymens. Why The Middle East Needs A Sexual Revolution](#) [1], London, Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 2015, pp. 256

Human rights activist and journalist, Mona Eltahawy, contextualizes Middle Eastern women's repression in a net of political, cultural and religious forces that undermine the possibility of a new Arab Spring emerging as an organic revolutionary process for the upholding of human rights in the MENA region.

Findlen, Barbara, [Listen Up: Voices from the Next Feminist Generation](#) [2], [1995], (expanded edition), Settle, Seal, 2001, pp. 300

Collection featuring writers and activists – including Rebecca Walker, Nomy Lama and Inga Musci – and editors of several women's periodicals – discussing range of issues.

Gillis, Stacy ; Howie, Gillian ; Munford, Rebecca, [Third Wave Feminism: A Critical Exploration](#) [3], (expanded 2nd edition), New York, Palgrave Macmillan, 2007, pp. 344

Wide range of theoretical perspectives organized in 3 parts: Generations and Genealogies; Locales and Locations; Politics and Popular Culture. Part II includes essays on 'Imagining Feminist Futures: The Third Wave, Postfeminism and Eco/feminism' by N. Moore, and 'Global Feminism, Transnational Political Economies, Third World Cultural Production' by W. Woodhull.

Heywood, Leslie ; Drake, Jennifer, [Third Wave Agenda: Being Feminist, Doing Feminism](#) [4], Minneapolis MN, University of Minnesota Press, 1997, pp. 232

Wide range of theoretical perspectives organized in 3 parts: Generations and Genealogies; Locales and Locations; Politics and Popular Culture. Part II includes essays on 'Imagining Feminist Futures: The Third Wave, Postfeminism and Eco/feminism' by N. Moore, and 'Global Feminism, Transnational Political Economies, Third World Cultural Production' by W. Woodhull.

Snyder, Claire, [What is Third Wave Feminism? A New Directions Essay](#) [5], Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society, Vol. 34, issue 1 (Autumn), 2008, pp. 175-196



Clear critical analysis of third wave feminism, which also provides a list of relevant texts

Source URL (retrieved on 18/04/2024 - 04:15):<https://civilresistance.info/section/f-feminist-movements-and-protests/f4-feminism-west-third-fourth-wave/f4a-third-wave-1990s>

Links

[1] <https://civilresistance.info/biblio-item/2015/headscarves-and-hymens-why-middle-east-needs-sexual-revolution>

[2] <https://civilresistance.info/biblio-item/2001/listen-voices-next-feminist-generation> [3]

<https://civilresistance.info/biblio-item/2007/third-wave-feminism-critical-exploration> [4]

<https://civilresistance.info/biblio-item/1997/third-wave-agenda-being-feminist-doing-feminism> [5]

<https://civilresistance.info/biblio-item/2008/what-third-wave-feminism-new-directions-essay>