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## ON SOME OF THE PREREQUISITES FOR THE EMERGENCE OF GENDER THEORY

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*Abstract.* The article analyzes the historical, economic, theoretical and methodological prerequisites for the emergence of gender theory. The author also examines the phenomenon of the influence of feminist ideas on the development of the theory of gender.

*Keywords:* gender theory, influence of feminist ideas, development, social antagonism, social organization, aspects,

Gender stratification of society generates a kind of social antagonism between women and men, which can be eliminated not simply by overcoming class distinctions and "vertical" property relations (which Marxists insisted on), but rather by overcoming "horizontal" relations of male ownership of women's labor force, masculinist ideology, and the patriarchal principle of social organization.

The cutting off of the gender aspects of the analysis of society, which is characteristic of Marxist theorists of the women's question, not only impoverished their theoretical concepts, but also led later to significant deformities in the social policy of "real socialist" society.

The twentieth century was a time of tumultuous social processes. Capitalist production drew huge masses of people into its orbit, and in order to increase its efficiency it needed cheap labor hands. Women's hands were not the least of these. Women began to emerge from the private, "invisible" sphere of public life into the "visible" sphere - public production.

Emerging democratic regimes put the recognition of women's suffrage and other legislative rights on the agenda. The first wave of the women's movement that rose in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries pushed them to do so. During this period, in many countries of the world, women gradually gained not only the rights to participate in political life, but also the rights to higher education. Neither economics, nor politics, nor education could be conceived of without women's participation and representation.

The 1917 revolution in Russia, the formation of the Soviet Union, and the Soviet policy of so-called "state feminism" were powerful impulses for women's involvement in social processes and their gaining significant public positions around the world.

The "general-methodological" atmosphere of the new century - the acceleration of the pace of life, the destruction of monolithic systems in state institutions, science and culture, the emergence of various directions, currents in politics, economics, sociology, etc., contributed greatly to the conceptualization of research related to gender issues.

The indirect dependence of male or female character traits on biological sex has already led researchers to reflect on the "nature" of masculinity and femininity. Otto Weininger, in his work "Gender and Character" (1903), pointed out that "the main thing is the bisexuality of every human being, the presence in it of different proportions of both male and female character traits". which placed him among the most eminent researchers of human nature.

The studies of the anthropologist Margaret Mead, who published *Growing Up in Samoa* (1928), *Sex and Temperament in Three Primitive Societies* (1935), and *Men and Women* (1949) in the 1930s and 1940s, became the basic cross-cultural research on which proponents of gender as a cultural, social construct relied. Mead came to the conclusion that one cannot speak of natural assignment, but only of the cultural determinism of male and female behavioral stereotypes. The non-traditional distribution of male and female roles was also found in North American Indian cultures, which allowed us to talk about societies with a non-traditional system of gender roles.

The traditional analysis of history, which reflected mainly "the history of men" because it studied the socio-political sphere, the actors of which were primarily and primarily men, could hardly change the assessment of the role of the sexes in history. The potential charge for the inclusion of women's history in the historical canon was the shift of researchers' interest from the study of ideological constructions to the history of mentalities, worldviews.

At the turn of the 20-30s a historical movement called the "New Historical Science" or the "Annales School" emerged. Its founders L. Febvre and M. Bloch and prominent representatives (F. Braudel, J. Le Goff and others) not only shifted the emphasis of historical research, but fundamentally changed the approach to it. They tried to look at and see history as a whole, without dividing it into economic history and cultural history, history of religion and history of everyday life, etc. The Annales school made the subject of their interest not only in ideological and political phenomena and processes that were "in plain sight," but also in the often hidden from historical review "structures of everyday life" (F. Braudel), where the lives of most women were lived.

The works of T. Parsons, especially the joint work of T. Parsons and R. Bayles, where they formulated their paradigmatic gender-role approach, had a great influence on the comprehension of relations between the sexes.

The initial basis of the gender-role approach is an implicit recognition of biological determinism of roles. According to this approach, women play an expressive role in the social system, and men play an instrumental role. Expressive role means, formally speaking, caring, emotional work, maintaining the psychological balance of the family.

This is the sphere of a woman's responsibility.

The instrumental role is to regulate relations between the family and other social systems, it is the role of the provider, protector.

Types of role behavior are determined by social position, role stereotypes are learned in the process of interiorization of norms or role expectations. The system of sanctions, positive and negative reinforcements provides the correct fulfillment of a role.

Understanding that "women's" and "men's" problems are universal, rooted in gender discrimination and that their division into "women's" and "men's" is conditioned by the socio-cultural environment has led scientific knowledge to a new direction, associated with the concept of gender or social gender.

Consideration of the category of gender as a tool of sociological analysis allows us to distinguish several aspects of the problem of gender dimension of the structural and functional organization of society. The conceptual aspect of the problem implies analysis of the social space and women's place in it, consideration of the gender manifestation of social theory and activity. The subjective aspect implies revealing the mechanisms of reproduction of gender asymmetry in the structures of society, the possibility of influencing social processes and women's leadership.

The decisive role in the formation of gender theory as a fundamentally new scientific paradigm in gender studies was certainly played by feminism, which emerged as an alternative philosophical concept of social development.

Feminism emerged as a reaction to New European determinism, which set a "male" image of rationality, as a reaction of women to the dominance of masculinity (norms, evaluations, patterns of behavior, forms of resolution of cultural issues, etc.) in modern civilization.

The social prerequisites for the emergence of feminism were the secularization of society and the breakdown of its feudal and class organization, the development of industrial civilization, and the involvement of women in wage labor, which created the preconditions for the fundamental transformation of women into owners - at least of their own labor hands, which they could sell independently of their husband or father in the labor market.

The intellectual prerequisites of feminism were critical socio-philosophical and political conceptions of eighteenth- and twentieth-century society. In this connection, it is worth mentioning, firstly, the liberal concept of F.D. Locke, J.J. Rousseau and J.S. Mill, in the framework of which the foundations of the theory of human rights were developed.

Secondly, it is the theories of utopian socialism of Charles Fourier, C.A. Saint-Simon and R. Owen, as well as theories different in their content and orientation, in which human sexuality began to be considered for the first time in social and political contexts (works of Z. Freud, W. Reich, H. Marcuse, M. Foucault, J. Derrida and J.-F. Liotard).

Thus, feminism saw its mission in proving that sex is not reducible exclusively to primary and secondary sexual characteristics, but that it permeates all spheres of social and cultural life.



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