

# wollstonecraft vindication of the rights of woman

Wollstonecraft Vindication of the Rights of Woman: A Groundbreaking Feminist Manifesto

**wollstonecraft vindication of the rights of woman** stands as one of the most influential texts in the history of feminist thought. Penned by Mary Wollstonecraft in 1792, this seminal work challenged the prevailing norms of her time, advocating for women's education and equality. More than two centuries later, its relevance remains undeniable as societies worldwide continue to grapple with gender equality and women's rights. Let's delve into why Wollstonecraft's treatise is considered a cornerstone of feminist literature and how it paved the way for modern discussions on women's empowerment.

## The Historical Context Behind Wollstonecraft Vindication of the Rights of Woman

To truly appreciate the impact of Wollstonecraft's work, it's essential to understand the societal backdrop against which it was written. The late 18th century was an era marked by Enlightenment ideals emphasizing reason, liberty, and progress. Yet, these progressive ideas often excluded women, who were largely confined to domestic roles and denied formal education.

Mary Wollstonecraft stepped into this intellectual climate with a bold challenge: if reason and education were the pillars of human progress, then women deserved the same access as men. Her book responded directly to contemporary works like Jean-Jacques Rousseau's "Emile," which advocated for male education but relegated women to the role of pleasing men. Wollstonecraft vindication of the rights of woman boldly disputed this limited vision, arguing that women are not naturally inferior but appear so due to lack of education.

## A Radical Call for Women's Education

Central to Wollstonecraft's argument was the belief that education was the key to women's liberation. She contended that women's perceived weaknesses were not innate but the result of an upbringing focused on superficial accomplishments and dependence. By denying women serious education, society perpetuated a cycle of ignorance and subjugation.

Wollstonecraft proposed a curriculum that went beyond mere "accomplishments" like music and embroidery. Instead, she urged for instruction in rational

thought, morality, and self-discipline. This, she believed, would enable women to contribute meaningfully to society—not just as wives and mothers but as independent, thoughtful individuals.

## **Key Themes in Wollstonecraft Vindication of the Rights of Woman**

Wollstonecraft's treatise is rich with themes that resonate far beyond her time. Here are some of the most significant:

### **Equality and Reason**

Wollstonecraft's insistence on equality was grounded in the Enlightenment principle that all humans possess reason. She argued that women's exclusion from education was a contradiction to this idea. If reason is universal, then women must be given the tools to develop their rational capacities.

This theme challenges the patriarchal status quo and invites readers to rethink gender roles not as fixed or natural but as socially constructed and changeable.

### **Critique of Gender Stereotypes**

Another powerful aspect of Wollstonecraft's vindication of the rights of woman is its critique of how society molds women into passive, decorative beings. She denounced the cultivation of "sensibility" that encouraged women to be overly emotional and dependent on male approval.

Instead, Wollstonecraft advocated for the cultivation of strength, virtue, and independence in women, emphasizing character development over superficial charm.

### **Women's Role in Society**

While Wollstonecraft acknowledged traditional roles such as motherhood, she expanded the conversation by suggesting that educated women would be better mothers, wives, and citizens. Her vision was not to reject femininity but to enrich it through knowledge and moral clarity.

This nuanced approach helped lay the groundwork for future feminist arguments that seek to balance personal and public spheres of life.

# **The Legacy and Influence of Wollstonecraft Vindication of the Rights of Woman**

The publication of Wollstonecraft's *Vindication of the Rights of Woman* marks a pivotal moment in feminist history. Although initially met with mixed reactions, her ideas gradually gained traction and inspired generations of activists and thinkers.

## **Impact on Later Feminist Movements**

Mary Wollstonecraft is often hailed as the "mother of feminism" due to her pioneering advocacy for women's rights. Her insistence on education and equality influenced 19th and 20th-century suffragists and feminist philosophers. Figures like Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Simone de Beauvoir drew upon her arguments to further the cause of women's liberation.

## **Modern Relevance**

Even today, Wollstonecraft's *Vindication of the Rights of Woman* continues to be cited in discussions about gender equality, women's education, and social justice. As debates around equal pay, representation, and empowerment persist, her work serves as a reminder of the foundational arguments for why women deserve equal opportunities.

## **Understanding Wollstonecraft's Style and Approach**

What makes Wollstonecraft's *Vindication* stand out is not only its content but also its engaging and passionate style. Unlike some philosophical treatises of her time, her writing is direct, conversational, and often personal, which helps connect with readers.

## **Using Reason to Appeal to a Broad Audience**

While deeply philosophical, Wollstonecraft's arguments are accessible, grounded in logic rather than abstract theory. She often appeals to her audience's sense of justice and reason, making her case compelling to both men and women.

## Incorporating Personal Experience

Wollstonecraft's work is sprinkled with autobiographical insights and heartfelt appeals, which humanize her arguments. This blend of the intellectual and the personal has helped her work endure as both a political manifesto and a literary achievement.

## Tips for Reading Wollstonecraft's *Vindication of the Rights of Woman*

If you're approaching this classic text for the first time, here are some tips to enhance your understanding:

- **Consider the historical context:** Understanding 18th-century society helps appreciate the radical nature of Wollstonecraft's arguments.
- **Focus on key passages:** Pay attention to sections discussing education and reason, as they are central to her thesis.
- **Reflect on language:** Notice how Wollstonecraft uses rhetoric to persuade and engage, blending emotion with logic.
- **Compare with contemporary views:** Contrasting her ideas with those of thinkers like Rousseau can deepen insight into her critiques.

Engaging with the text actively will make your reading experience more rewarding and insightful.

Mary Wollstonecraft's vindication of the rights of woman remains a powerful call to rethink societal norms and champion equality. Her vision of a world where women are educated, respected, and free to develop their potential continues to inspire and challenge us to this day.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is the central argument of Mary Wollstonecraft's *'A Vindication of the Rights of Woman'*?

The central argument is that women are not naturally inferior to men but appear so because they lack education. Wollstonecraft advocates for equal

education for women to enable them to contribute meaningfully to society.

## **When was 'A Vindication of the Rights of Woman' published and why is it significant?**

It was published in 1792 and is significant because it is one of the earliest works of feminist philosophy, challenging the traditional gender roles and advocating for women's rights and education.

## **How does Wollstonecraft address the issue of education in her work?**

Wollstonecraft argues that education is the key to women's emancipation and that society should provide women with the same educational opportunities as men to develop their reason and moral sense.

## **What criticisms does Wollstonecraft make about the treatment of women in 18th-century society?**

She criticizes the way women are treated as mere decorative objects or companions, denied intellectual development, and confined to domestic roles, which limits their potential and reinforces inequality.

## **How did 'A Vindication of the Rights of Woman' influence later feminist movements?**

Wollstonecraft's work laid the intellectual groundwork for later feminist movements by asserting women's rights to education and equality, inspiring future activists and writers advocating for gender equality.

## **What role does reason play in Wollstonecraft's argument in 'A Vindication of the Rights of Woman'?**

Wollstonecraft emphasizes that women possess reason and should be educated to develop it fully, challenging the notion that women are governed by emotions and thus inferior to men.

## **How does Wollstonecraft respond to contemporary ideas about women's nature and capabilities?**

She challenges the prevailing belief that women are naturally weak and irrational, arguing instead that these perceptions are consequences of inadequate education and social conditioning.

# Additional Resources

**\*\*Wollstonecraft Vindication of the Rights of Woman: A Landmark in Feminist Philosophy\*\***

**wollstonecraft vindication of the rights of woman** stands as a seminal work in the history of feminist literature and political philosophy. Authored by Mary Wollstonecraft in 1792, this groundbreaking treatise challenged prevailing social norms and argued for the education and empowerment of women as a crucial step toward gender equality. Over two centuries later, the text continues to be a focal point for scholars, activists, and educators seeking to understand the roots of feminist thought and the ongoing struggle for women's rights.

## Historical Context and Significance

Mary Wollstonecraft wrote *\*A Vindication of the Rights of Woman\** during a period marked by revolutionary upheaval and Enlightenment ideals. The late 18th century witnessed dramatic political changes, including the American and French Revolutions, which questioned traditional authority and emphasized reason, liberty, and individual rights. Yet, despite these progressive currents, women remained largely excluded from political participation and educational opportunities.

Wollstonecraft's work emerged as a direct response to the limited view of women as inherently inferior beings, designed only for domestic roles. She contested this stereotype by insisting that women were rational beings deserving of the same educational opportunities as men. This argument was radical for its time and laid the intellectual groundwork for future feminist movements.

## Core Arguments in Wollstonecraft's Treatise

At the heart of *\*vindication of the rights of woman\** is the assertion that the apparent inferiority of women is not natural but a consequence of inadequate education. Wollstonecraft argued that society's neglect of female education resulted in women being perceived as frivolous or emotional rather than rational agents.

Key points include:

- **Education as Empowerment:** Wollstonecraft advocated for comprehensive education for women, covering not only domestic skills but also subjects like literature, science, and philosophy.
- **Equality of Reason:** She posited that women possess the same capacity for

reason as men and should therefore be treated as moral and intellectual equals.

- **Critique of Patriarchy:** The text critiques the patriarchal structures that upheld women's subjugation and limited their roles to marriage and motherhood.
- **Rejection of Female Passivity:** Wollstonecraft challenged the idealization of women as passive and delicate, arguing instead for active participation in society.

## Impact on Feminist Theory and Education Reform

Wollstonecraft's \*vindication of the rights of woman\* significantly influenced both feminist theory and educational reform. It is often regarded as one of the earliest works of feminist philosophy, predating later writings by figures such as John Stuart Mill and Simone de Beauvoir.

## Influence on Feminist Movements

The treatise inspired later generations of feminists by articulating a clear demand for women's rights grounded in reason and justice. It challenged the cultural and legal constraints of the 18th and 19th centuries and provided a philosophical foundation for the suffrage movements of the 19th and 20th centuries.

While Wollstonecraft did not explicitly call for political rights such as voting, her emphasis on education and rationality laid the groundwork for broader claims to citizenship and equality. The work's enduring legacy is visible in the continuous fight against gender discrimination worldwide.

## Advancements in Women's Education

One of the most tangible impacts of Wollstonecraft's argument was the gradual recognition of the importance of educating girls and women. Prior to her work, female education was often limited to ornamental accomplishments like music and needlework, aimed at making women attractive companions rather than independent thinkers.

Educational reformers in the 19th century increasingly cited Wollstonecraft's ideas, leading to the establishment of schools and institutions dedicated to female education. Today, the principle that education is a fundamental right for all genders owes much to the pioneering arguments found in \*vindication

of the rights of woman\*.

## **Critical Perspectives and Contemporary Relevance**

Despite its historical importance, Wollstonecraft's treatise has been subject to critique and reinterpretation. Modern feminist scholars often analyze the text within its historical context, acknowledging its limitations while appreciating its contributions.

### **Limitations and Criticisms**

Some critics point out that Wollstonecraft's vision was primarily centered around middle-class, white women, overlooking the intersections of race, class, and other identities that complicate the experience of oppression. Additionally, her emphasis on rationality aligns with Enlightenment ideals that may marginalize other forms of knowledge and experience.

Moreover, Wollstonecraft's ideas about women's roles, while progressive, still emphasized their importance within the family and society rather than outright challenging all traditional gender roles. This nuanced stance reflects the complexities of advocating for change within a highly restrictive social milieu.

### **Modern Interpretations and Applications**

Contemporary feminist discourse often returns to Wollstonecraft's \*vindication of the rights of woman\* to trace the evolution of gender equality debates. The text's insistence on education as a tool for liberation remains relevant in discussions about educational access in various global contexts.

In the 21st century, where debates about gender identity, intersectionality, and social justice dominate feminist thought, Wollstonecraft's work serves as both a historical anchor and a springboard for deeper inquiry into the nature of equality and human rights.

## **Why Wollstonecraft's Vindication Still Matters Today**

The continued study and citation of \*wollstonecraft vindication of the rights

of woman\* in academic, political, and social spheres underscore its enduring importance. As gender disparities persist worldwide—in education, employment, political representation, and healthcare—Wollstonecraft's call for equality resonates strongly.

In addition, her pioneering use of reason and moral philosophy to argue for women's rights has influenced not only feminist thinkers but also broader human rights dialogues. The text is often included in curricula across disciplines, reflecting its foundational role in shaping modern ideas about gender and justice.

- **Educational Reforms:** Many education systems incorporate gender equality principles inspired by Wollstonecraft's advocacy.
- **Legal Frameworks:** International human rights laws echo the principles she advanced regarding equal treatment and opportunity.
- **Social Movements:** Feminist activists continue to draw on her arguments to challenge systemic discrimination and promote empowerment.

In light of these factors, Mary Wollstonecraft's \*vindication of the rights of woman\* remains a vital reference point for understanding both historical and contemporary struggles for gender equality. Its analytical depth and moral urgency continue to inspire and provoke meaningful conversations about the rights and roles of women in society.

## [Wollstonecraft Vindication Of The Rights Of Woman](#)

**wollstonecraft vindication of the rights of woman:** *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* Mary Wollstonecraft, 2010-10-28 Wollstonecraft's passionate polemic on behalf of women's rights and education remains an essential text in the feminist canon.

**wollstonecraft vindication of the rights of woman: A Vindication of the Rights of Woman** Mary Wollstonecraft, 1992-06-02 (Book Jacket Status: Not Jacketed) The first great manifesto of women's rights, published in 1792 and an immediate best seller, made its author the toast of radical circles and the target of reactionary ones. Writing just after the French and American revolutions, Mary Wollstonecraft firmly established the demand for women's emancipation in the context of the ever-widening urge for human rights and individual freedom that surrounded those two great upheavals. She thereby opened the richest, most productive vein in feminist thought, and her success can be judged by the fact that her once radical polemic, through the efforts of the innumerable writers and activities she influenced, has become the accepted wisdom of the modern era. Challenging the prevailing culture that trained women to be nothing more than docile, decorative wives and mothers, Wollstonecraft was an ardent advocate of equal education and the full development of women's rational capacities. Having supported herself independently as a governess and teacher before finding success as a writer, and having conducted unconventional relationships with men, Wollstonecraft faced severe criticism both for her life choices and for her ideas. In A

Vindication of the Rights of Woman she dared to ask a question whose urgency is undiminished in our time: how can women be both female and free?

**wollstonecraft vindication of the rights of woman: A Vindication of the Rights of Woman** Mary Wollstone, 2025-09-09 A Vindication of the Rights of Woman: With Strictures on Political and Moral Subjects, authored by Mary Wollstonecraft stands as a pioneering work in feminist philosophy and advocacy. In this groundbreaking text, Wollstonecraft passionately argues for the education and empowerment of women, challenging the societal norms that confine them to subservient roles. Through eloquent prose and incisive reasoning, she critiques the prevailing attitudes of her time, asserting that women are not inherently inferior to men but are instead denied the opportunities for intellectual and moral development. Wollstonecraft's work is not merely a call for women's rights; it is a profound exploration of the interconnectedness of gender, politics, and morality. She emphasizes the importance of reason and virtue, advocating for a society where women can contribute meaningfully to the public sphere. By addressing issues such as marriage, education, and the nature of virtue, Wollstonecraft lays the groundwork for future feminist thought, making her arguments both timeless and relevant. This text invites readers to reflect on the fundamental principles of equality and justice, urging a reevaluation of the roles assigned to women in society. A Vindication of the Rights of Woman remains a vital and inspiring manifesto, encouraging generations to strive for a more equitable world.

**wollstonecraft vindication of the rights of woman: A Vindication of the Rights of Men; A Vindication of the Rights of Woman; An Historical and Moral View of the French Revolution** Mary Wollstonecraft, 2008-12-11 This volume brings together the major political writings of Mary Wollstonecraft in the order in which they appeared in the revolutionary 1790s. It traces her passionate and indignant response to the excitement of the early days of the French Revolution and then her uneasiness at its later bloody phase. It reveals her developing understanding of women's involvement in the political and social life of the nation and her growing awareness of the relationship between politics and economics and between political institutions and the individual. In personal terms, the works show her struggling with a belief in the perfectibility of human nature through rational education, a doctrine that became weaker under the onslaught of her own miserable experience and the revolutionary massacres. Janet Todd's introduction illuminates the progress of Wollstonecraft's thought, showing that a reading of all three works allows her to emerge as a more substantial political writer than a study of The Rights of Woman alone can reveal. ABOUT THE SERIES: For over 100 years Oxford World's Classics has made available the widest range of literature from around the globe. Each affordable volume reflects Oxford's commitment to scholarship, providing the most accurate text plus a wealth of other valuable features, including expert introductions by leading authorities, helpful notes to clarify the text, up-to-date bibliographies for further study, and much more.

**wollstonecraft vindication of the rights of woman: A Vindication of the Rights of Woman by Mary Wollstonecraft "Annotated Classic Edition"** Mary Wollstonecraft, 2020-12-17 A Vindication of the Rights of Woman: with Strictures on Political and Moral Subjects (1792), written by the 18th-century British proto-feminist Mary Wollstonecraft, is one of the earliest works of feminist philosophy. In it, Wollstonecraft responds to those educational and political theorists of the 18th century who did not believe women should receive a rational education. She argues that women ought to have an education commensurate with their position in society, claiming that women are essential to the nation because they educate its children and because they could be companions to their husbands, rather than mere wives. Instead of viewing women as ornaments to society or property to be traded in marriage, Wollstonecraft maintains that they are human beings deserving of the same fundamental rights as men. Mary Wollstonecraft (27 April 1759 - 10 September 1797) was an English writer, philosopher, and advocate of women's rights. Until the late 20th century, Wollstonecraft's life, which encompassed several unconventional personal relationships, received more attention than her writing. Today, Wollstonecraft is regarded as one of the founding feminist philosophers, and feminists often cite both her life and work as important influences.

**wollstonecraft vindication of the rights of woman: *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman***  
Mary Wollstonecraft, 2017-03-27 Writing in an age when the call for the rights of man had brought revolution to America and France, Mary Wollstonecraft produced her own declaration of female independence in 1792. Passionate and forthright, *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* attacked the prevailing view of docile, decorative femininity, and instead laid out the principles of emancipation: an equal education for girls and boys, an end to prejudice, and for women to become defined by their profession, not their partner. Mary Wollstonecraft's work was received with a mixture of admiration and outrage - Walpole called her 'a hyena in petticoats' - yet it established her as the mother of modern feminism.

**wollstonecraft vindication of the rights of woman: *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman (Annotated)*** Mary Wollstonecraft, 2020-01-25 Differentiated book- It has a historical context with research of the time Mary Wollstonecraft, *Vindication of women's rights*, with strictures of Politics and Moral Subjects is considered by many as the manifesto of feminism and one of the first written expressions of feminist ideas. Although others before Wollstonecraft had written about the need for women's rights, *A vindication of women's rights* (as the work is best known) is the first comprehensive statement about the need to educate women and treaties Philosophical about the nature of gender differences. Like many essays of the late eighteenth century, this text may seem to later readers to wander and repeat ideas when the point has already been made. Wollstonecraft is expressing new and radical concepts that shocked many and were related to the ideas that fueled the French Revolution, an event that frightened the English government so much that it suspended most political and civil liberties during this time. Wollstonecraft repetitions and careful logic, sometimes exaggerated, can be explained as the natural reflection of anyone who introduces revolutionary notions into a culture. Wollstonecraft's main concern is the education of women. *A vindication of women's rights* is, in large part, a refutation of the ideas of Jean-Jacques Rousseau, expressed mainly in his book *Émile: Ou, De l'éducation* (1762; *Emilius and Sophia: Or, A New System of Education*, 1762-1763).

**wollstonecraft vindication of the rights of woman: *Vindication of the Rights of Woman***  
Mary Wollstonecraft, 2012 This book is part of the TREDITION CLASSICS. It contains classical literature works from over two thousand years. Most of these titles have been out of print and off the bookstore shelves for decades. The book series is intended to preserve the cultural legacy and to promote the timeless works of classical literature. Readers of a TREDITION CLASSICS book support the mission to save many of the amazing works of world literature from oblivion. With this series, tredition intends to make thousands of international literature classics available in printed format again - worldwide.

**wollstonecraft vindication of the rights of woman: *Vindication of the Rights of Women***  
Mary Wollstonecraft, 2013-06-17 Written during a time of great political turmoil, social anxiety, and against the backdrop of the French Revolution, Wollstonecraft's argument continues to challenge and inspire. One of the earliest contributions to feminist philosophy, Wollstonecraft's powerful treatise on the value of women in society tackles many of the patriarchal attitudes prevalent in the eighteenth century. In addition to championing the notion that women enjoy all the same fundamental rights as men, Wollstonecraft argues that men benefit from treating their wives as companions rather than commodities. Touching upon many themes in women's education, *A Vindications of the Rights of Woman* remains a bold and powerful read.

**wollstonecraft vindication of the rights of woman: *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman (Illustrated)*** Mary Wollstonecraft, 2020-09-28 *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* written by the 18th-century British proto-feminist Mary Wollstonecraft, is one of the earliest works of feminist philosophy. In it, Wollstonecraft responds to those educational and political theorists of the 18th century who did not believe women should have an education. She argues that women ought to have an education commensurate with their position in society, claiming that women are essential to the nation because they educate its children and because they could be companions to their husbands, rather than mere wives. Instead of viewing women as ornaments to society or property to be traded

in marriage, Wollstonecraft maintains that they are human beings deserving of the same fundamental rights as men. Wollstonecraft was prompted to write the Rights of Woman after reading Charles Maurice de Talleyrand-Périgord's 1791 report to the French National Assembly, which stated that women should only receive a domestic education; she used her commentary on this specific event to launch a broad attack against sexual double standards and to indict men for encouraging women to indulge in excessive emotion. Wollstonecraft wrote the Rights of Woman hurriedly to respond directly to ongoing events; she intended to write a more thoughtful second volume but died before completing it. While Wollstonecraft does call for equality between the sexes in particular areas of life, such as morality, she does not explicitly state that men and women are equal. Her ambiguous statements regarding the equality of the sexes have since made it difficult to classify Wollstonecraft as a modern feminist, particularly since the word and the concept were unavailable to her. Although it is commonly assumed now that the Rights of Woman was unfavourably received, this is a modern misconception based on the belief that Wollstonecraft was as reviled during her lifetime as she became after the publication of William Godwin's *Memoirs of the Author of A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (1798). The Rights of Woman was actually well received when it was first published in 1792. One biographer has called it perhaps the most original book of [Wollstonecraft's] century.

**wollstonecraft vindication of the rights of woman: Mary Wollstonecraft - a Vindication of the Rights of Woman** Mary Wollstonecraft, 2016-12-14 Writing in an age when the call for the rights of man had brought revolution to America and France, Mary Wollstonecraft produced her own declaration of female independence in 1792. Passionate and forthright, *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* attacked the prevailing view of docile, decorative femininity, and instead laid out the principles of emancipation: an equal education for girls and boys, an end to prejudice, and for women to become defined by their profession, not their partner. Mary Wollstonecraft's work was received with a mixture of admiration and outrage - Walpole called her 'a hyena in petticoats' - yet it established her as the mother of modern feminism.

**wollstonecraft vindication of the rights of woman: A Vindication of the Rights of Woman** Mary Wollstonecraft, 2023-07-23 *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*, written by British philosopher and women's rights advocate Mary Wollstonecraft (1759-1797), is one of the earliest works of feminist philosophy. In it, Wollstonecraft responds to those educational and political theorists of the eighteenth century who did not believe women should receive a rational education. She argues that women ought to have an education commensurate with their position in society, claiming that women are essential to the nation because they educate its children and because they could be companions to their husbands, rather than mere wives. Instead of viewing women as ornaments to society or property to be traded in marriage, Wollstonecraft maintains that they are human beings deserving of the same fundamental rights as men. Wollstonecraft was prompted to write the Rights of Woman after reading Charles Maurice de Talleyrand-Périgord's 1791 report to the French National Assembly, which stated that women should only receive domestic education. From her reaction to this specific event, she launched a broad attack against double standards, indicting men for encouraging women to indulge in excessive emotion. Wollstonecraft hurried to complete the work in direct response to ongoing events; she intended to write a more thoughtful second volume but died before completing it. While Wollstonecraft does call for equality between the sexes in particular areas of life, especially morality, she does not explicitly state that men and women are equal. Her ambiguous statements regarding the equality of the sexes have made it difficult to classify Wollstonecraft as a modern feminist; the word itself did not emerge until decades after her death.

**wollstonecraft vindication of the rights of woman: The Vindications: The Rights of Men and The Rights of Woman** Mary Wollstonecraft, 1997-06-16 The works of Mary Wollstonecraft (1759-1797) ranged from the early *Thoughts on the Education of Daughters* to *The Female Reader*, a selection of texts for girls, and included two novels. But her reputation is founded on *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* of 1792. This treatise is the first great document of feminism—and is now

accepted as a core text in western tradition. It is not widely known that the germ of Wollstonecraft's great work came out of an earlier and much shorter vindication—*A Vindication of the Rights of Men* (1790), written in the context of the issues raised by the French Revolution. This edition, which follows the model of other Broadview Editions in including a range of materials that help the reader to see the work in the context of its era out of which it emerged, is arranged chronologically, opening with Wollstonecraft's "other vindication." It also includes a wide range of other documents in appendices, as well as a comprehensive and authoritative introduction, chronology, and full index.

**wollstonecraft vindication of the rights of woman: *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman: With Strictures on Political and Moral Subjects*** Mary Wollstonecraft, 2018-02-08 This work has been selected by scholars as being culturally important, and is part of the knowledge base of civilization as we know it. This work was reproduced from the original artifact, and remains as true to the original work as possible. Therefore, you will see the original copyright references, library stamps (as most of these works have been housed in our most important libraries around the world), and other notations in the work. This work is in the public domain in the United States of America, and possibly other nations. Within the United States, you may freely copy and distribute this work, as no entity (individual or corporate) has a copyright on the body of the work. As a reproduction of a historical artifact, this work may contain missing or blurred pages, poor pictures, errant marks, etc. Scholars believe, and we concur, that this work is important enough to be preserved, reproduced, and made generally available to the public. We appreciate your support of the preservation process, and thank you for being an important part of keeping this knowledge alive and relevant.

**wollstonecraft vindication of the rights of woman: *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman (Wiseclassics - Original 1792 Edition)*** Mary Wollstonecraft, 2016-03-14 *A VINDICATION OF THE RIGHTS OF WOMAN: WITH STRICTURES ON POLITICAL AND MORAL SUBJECTS* (1792), written by the 18th-century British feminist Mary Wollstonecraft, is one of the earliest works of feminist philosophy. In it, Wollstonecraft responds to those educational and political theorists of the 18th century who did not believe women should have an education. She argues that women ought to have an education commensurate with their position in society, claiming that women are essential to the nation because they educate its children and because they could be companions to their husbands, rather than mere wives. Instead of viewing women as ornaments to society or property to be traded in marriage, Wollstonecraft maintains that they are human beings deserving of the same fundamental rights as men. Wollstonecraft was prompted to write the *Rights of Woman* after reading Charles Maurice de Talleyrand-Perigord's 1791 report to the French National Assembly, which stated that women should only receive a domestic education; she used her commentary on this specific event to launch a broad attack against sexual double standards and to indict men for encouraging women to indulge in excessive emotion. Wollstonecraft wrote the *Rights of Woman* hurriedly to respond directly to ongoing events; she intended to write a more thoughtful second volume but died before completing it. While Wollstonecraft does call for equality between the sexes in particular areas of life, such as morality, she does not explicitly state that men and women are equal. Her ambiguous statements regarding the equality of the sexes have since made it difficult to classify Wollstonecraft as a modern feminist, particularly since the word and the concept were unavailable to her. Although it is commonly assumed now that the *Rights of Woman* was unfavourably received, this is a modern misconception based on the belief that Wollstonecraft was as reviled during her lifetime as she became after the publication of William Godwin's *Memoirs of the Author of A VINDICATION OF THE RIGHTS OF WOMAN* (1798). The *Rights of Woman* was actually well received when it was first published in 1792. One biographer has called it perhaps the most original book of [Wollstonecraft's] century. (more on [www.wiseclassics.com](http://www.wiseclassics.com))

**wollstonecraft vindication of the rights of woman: *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman (classics Illustrated)*** Mary Wollstonecraft, 2020-12-19 *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman: with Strictures on Political and Moral Subjects*, written by the 18th-century British proto-feminist Mary Wollstonecraft, is one of the earliest works of feminist philosophy. This book was converted

from its physical edition to the digital format by a community of volunteers. You may find it for free on the web. Purchase of the Kindle edition includes wireless delivery.

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