

## WOMEN AND THE ENLIGHTENMENT



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## DUAL EFFECT ON WOMEN & VIEWS OF WOMEN

- **Some promotion of women's rights**
  - **Liberty & equality should apply to women as well as men**
  - **Laid foundations of modern feminism**
- **Persistence of ideas of inferiority & subjugation**
  - **Women mostly excluded from discussions of liberty & equality**
  - **Rise of ideology of domesticity**

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## BACKGROUND

➤ Foundations of potential equality found in 17<sup>th</sup> century thinkers

- Descartes: All women had ability to be educated
- Locke: Women equally independent in state of nature

