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 ...which still works at least as
 ...current system; or magic.
 ...the education system is far
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Feminism: An experiment that failed

...s at home

...many foreign nations are in
 ...A going to war in the Gulf to
 ...at none of them want to take
 ...the burden. What about
 ...se they want to keep their
 ...fact so they can attack us
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...mber that Russia was our
 ...of World War II and they
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 ...that might be their plans
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...tries today have modern
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During the past year the air has been rent by the exhilarating sound of shattering political dogmas. Now Marxism, the "God That Failed," may be joined by its cousin, feminism, which writer Kay Ebeling calls "the great experiment that failed."

In a "My Turn" column in Newsweek, Ebeling presents a familiar spectacle, that of a former 1960s radical suffering from reality trauma. Ebeling was part of the "experimental generation," a portion of the baby boom that refused to conform to traditional life styles. She writes: "In 1973, I left what could have been a perfectly good marriage, taking with me a child in diapers, a ten-year-old Plymouth and volume one, number one of Ms. magazine."

What Ebeling sought was utopia; what she discovered was that "Feminism freed men, not women. Now men are spared the nuisance of a wife and family to support." Men can indulge the adolescent fantasy that women are commodities: "After childbirth, if a wife's waist doesn't return to 20 inches, the husband can go out and get a more petite woman."

The promise of feminism was the liberation of women through an ethic of androgynous equality. According to Ebeling, "The reality of feminism is a lot of frenzied and overworked women dropping off kids at day-care centers." Feminism, Ebeling contends, has "made women distasteful, as no-fault divorce and abortion on demand.

Pollution takes a heavy toll in Poland

KRAKOW, Poland — This beautiful medieval city, untouched by the bombs of World War II, is rapidly decaying under the weight of industrial pollution.

The same Soviet overlords who chose to save Krakow by taking it from the Germans without a massive artillery barrage, later callously and cynically chose to pollute it and its people nearly into oblivion. Josef Stalin chose Krakow for the huge Nowa Huta steel mill in 1953. It was his up the anti-communist intellectual clique in the city by infusing Krakow with 30,000 steel workers.

The plan didn't work in the long run. Communism is on its way out, and the steel mill has turned a once-lovely city into a nightmare. Tourists who



Jack Anderson & Dale Van Atta

UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE

pollution is not as noxious. Some 8 tons of dust falls on every square mile of Krakow each year. As a result, the city's 750,000 residents have the lowest life expectancy in all of Eastern Europe.



Will Grigg

ABROAD

Ebeling's article is the first of what will be countless reconsiderations of feminism. Two more have been published recently: Women in Utopia, by Carol A. Kolmerten and The Enemies of Eros, by Maggie Gallagher.

Kolmerten's book is an examination of women's roles in the American utopian communities organized in the 1800s by disciples of British socialist Robert Owen. Owen taught that equality could be achieved only through the elimination of private property, religion, and the traditional founder's principles were strictly observed. What was the result?

According to Kolmerten (herself a veteran of experimental communal life in the early 1970s), "equality" for (Owenite) women was working hard plus giving up the power of being in charge of their home or child." This description resonates with Ebeling's critique of contemporary feminism.

Kolmerten has an alibi for Owenite feminism: the problem was that Owen

sought to establish socialism before abolishing the "patriarchy." Dethrone the "patriarchy," insists Kolmerten, and equality will blossom. Kolmerten needs to read Gallagher's book.

The subtitle of Gallagher's book is How the Sexual Revolution is Killing Family, Marriage and Sex and What We Can Do About It. The work is a comprehensive indictment of American feminism.

The chief opiate of contemporary feminism is "choice": "Choice blinds the eyes and hardens the heart. Where 'choice' is, the sexual liberal believes, justice flourishes and happiness will reign. Children of 'choice' will of course be the happiest children of all."

But as Gallagher observes, "In America today, it is the perpetual freedom to choose that we celebrate and not the ability actually to make a choice and live by it — and children pay for our adolescent yearnings."

Where in American society does the feminist utopia exist? There is a segment of America in which men and women are unfettered by traditional family roles and enjoy complete sexual freedom. As Gallagher points out, the "utopia" is the ghetto.

Feminism, like Marxism, will survive in some form; there is little that contemporary critics can say that wasn't said by Aristophanes two and a half millennia ago. But it is gratifying that there are those — like Gallagher and Ebeling — who haven't succumbed to the synapse-scrambling sloganeering of modern feminism.

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