

Virginia Slims remembers one of many societies where the women stood head and shoulders above the men.



VIRGINIA
SLIMS
Lights



You've come
a long way, baby.

© Philip Morris Inc. 1995

Warning: The Surgeon General Has Determined
That Cigarette Smoking Is Dangerous to Your Health.

8 mg "tar," 0.6 mg nicotine av. per cigarette, FTC Report Feb '95

Follow Me, Baby

You've come a long way,
baby,
to get where you've got to
today.
You've got your own
cigarette now, baby.
You've come a long, long
way.

Virginia Slims remembers one of many societies where the women stood head and shoulders above the men:

*Princess Wash and Scrub...
Woman Who Gathers Firewood...
Keeper of the Tepee...
Little Running Water Fetcher...*



My students, and why I worry a little bit
about them...

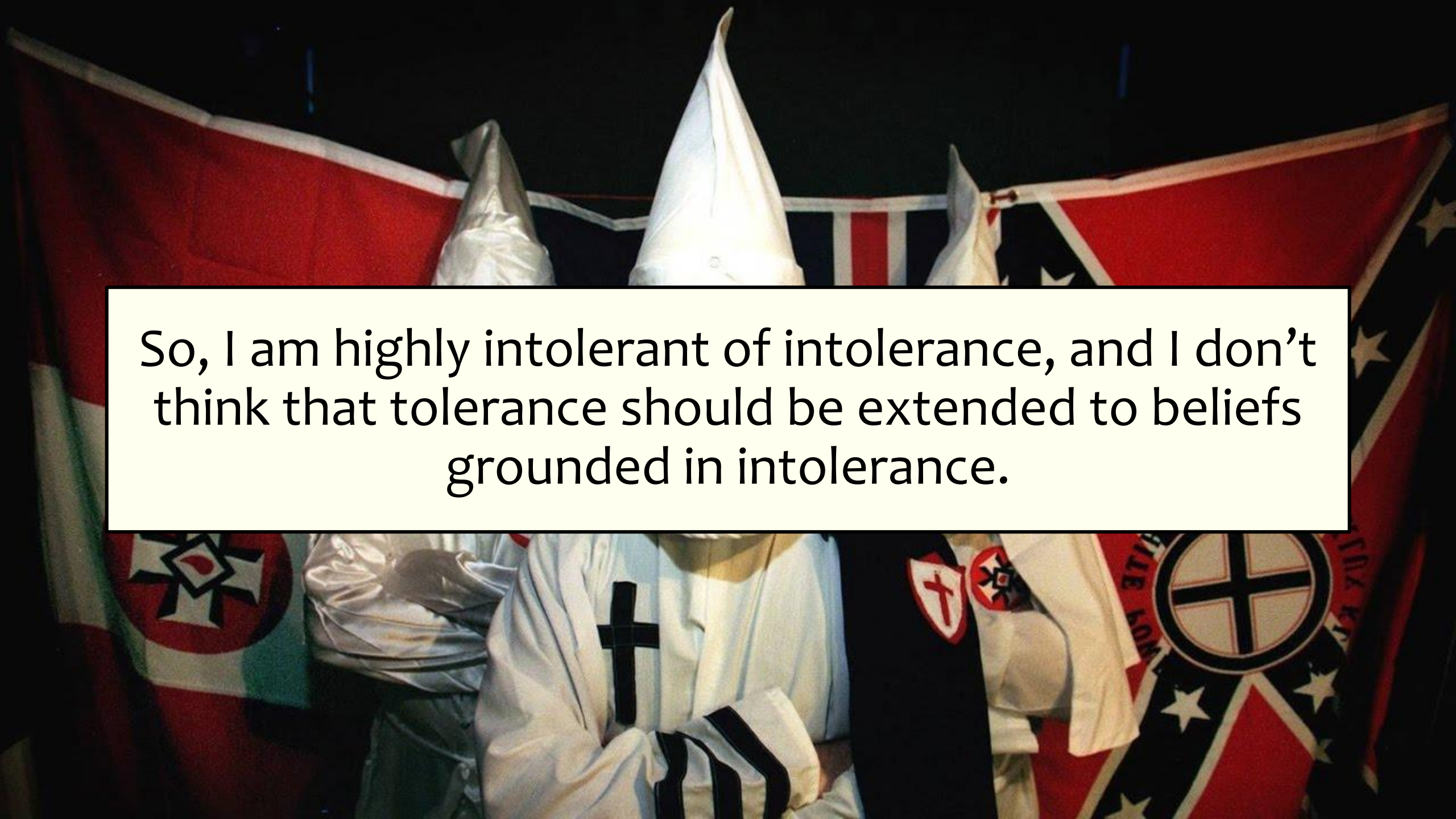
So – what am I passionate about?
It's still ignorance, craziness, and
hatred.

The Question of Tolerance

- There are certain cultural views that are inimical to women
- I condemn those views – it does *not* mean I condemn those cultures or those people
- Religion has a tendency to ossify cultural belief
- *All* of the world's major religions have at their core some misogynistic beliefs (and where they stand is often just a matter of dates)
- But those beliefs are not necessarily (or even usually) religious in their origins

Herbert Marcuse, 'Repressive Tolerance' (1965)

Tolerance is extended to policies, conditions, and modes of behavior which should not be tolerated because they are impeding, if not destroying, the chances of creating an existence without fear and misery...



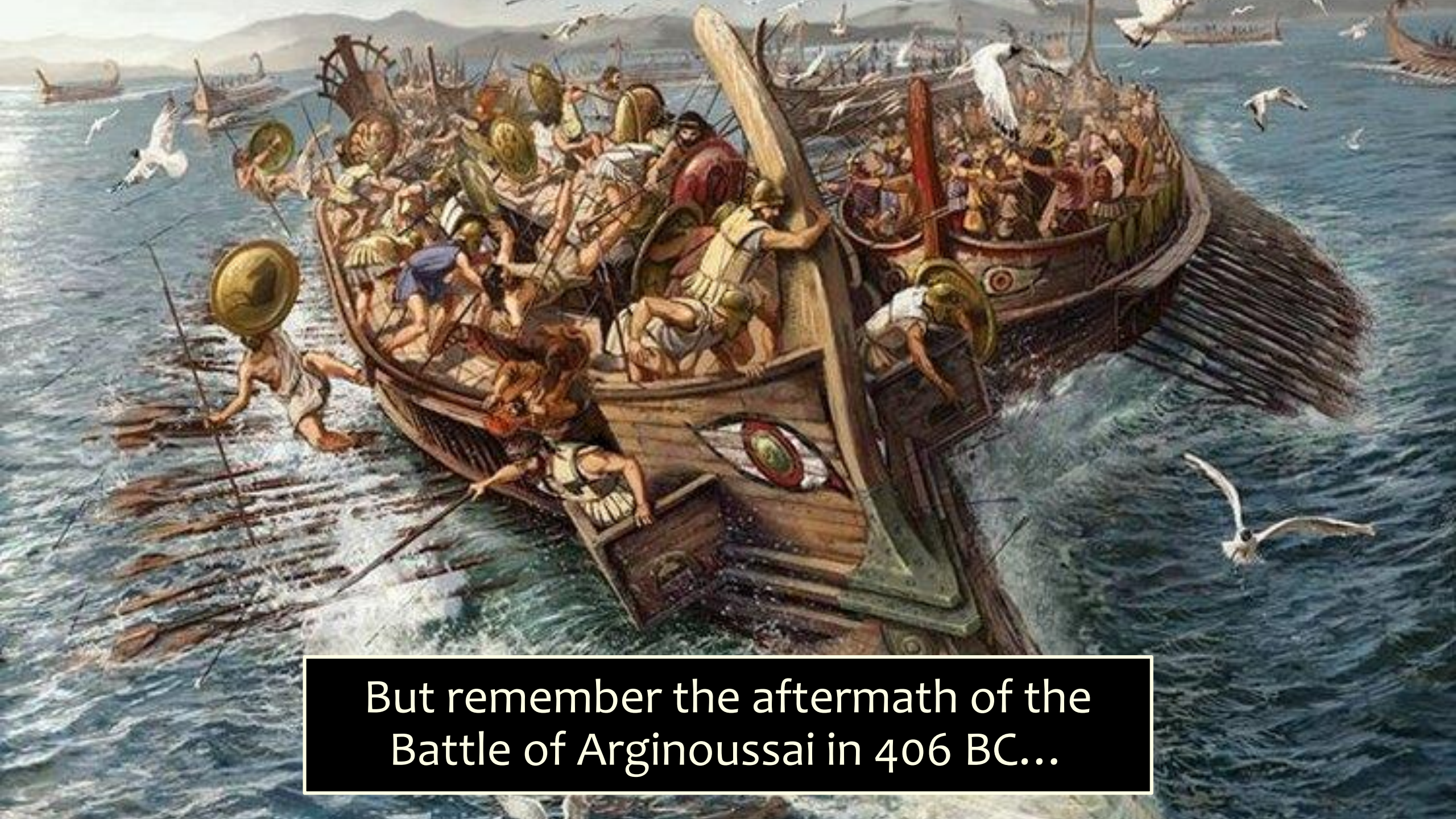
So, I am highly intolerant of intolerance, and I don't think that tolerance should be extended to beliefs grounded in intolerance.

So again – why am I here?

- The ancient paradigm
- And once again we will visit democratic Classical Athens, our shining example of western values (not)
- But we will wander around some other areas of the ancient world too
- And many of my modern examples will be drawn from Africa and the Middle East – but there are many reasons why western culture should not feel complacent

The Evaluation of Women

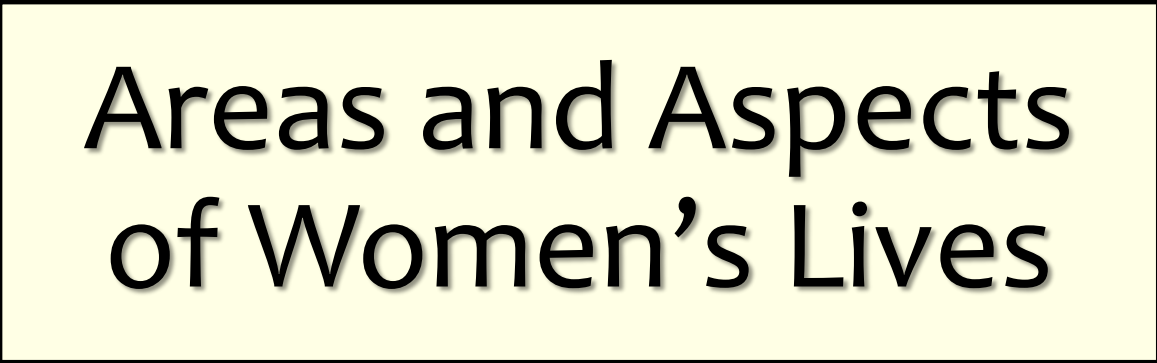
- We talked about some of this in the 'Scapegoating' series...
- Women are weak and flawed because they are not men
- Women are both ignorant and unintelligent
- Because of their lack of reasoning capacity, women are overly swayed by emotion



But remember the aftermath of the
Battle of Arginoussai in 406 BC...

The Evaluation of Women

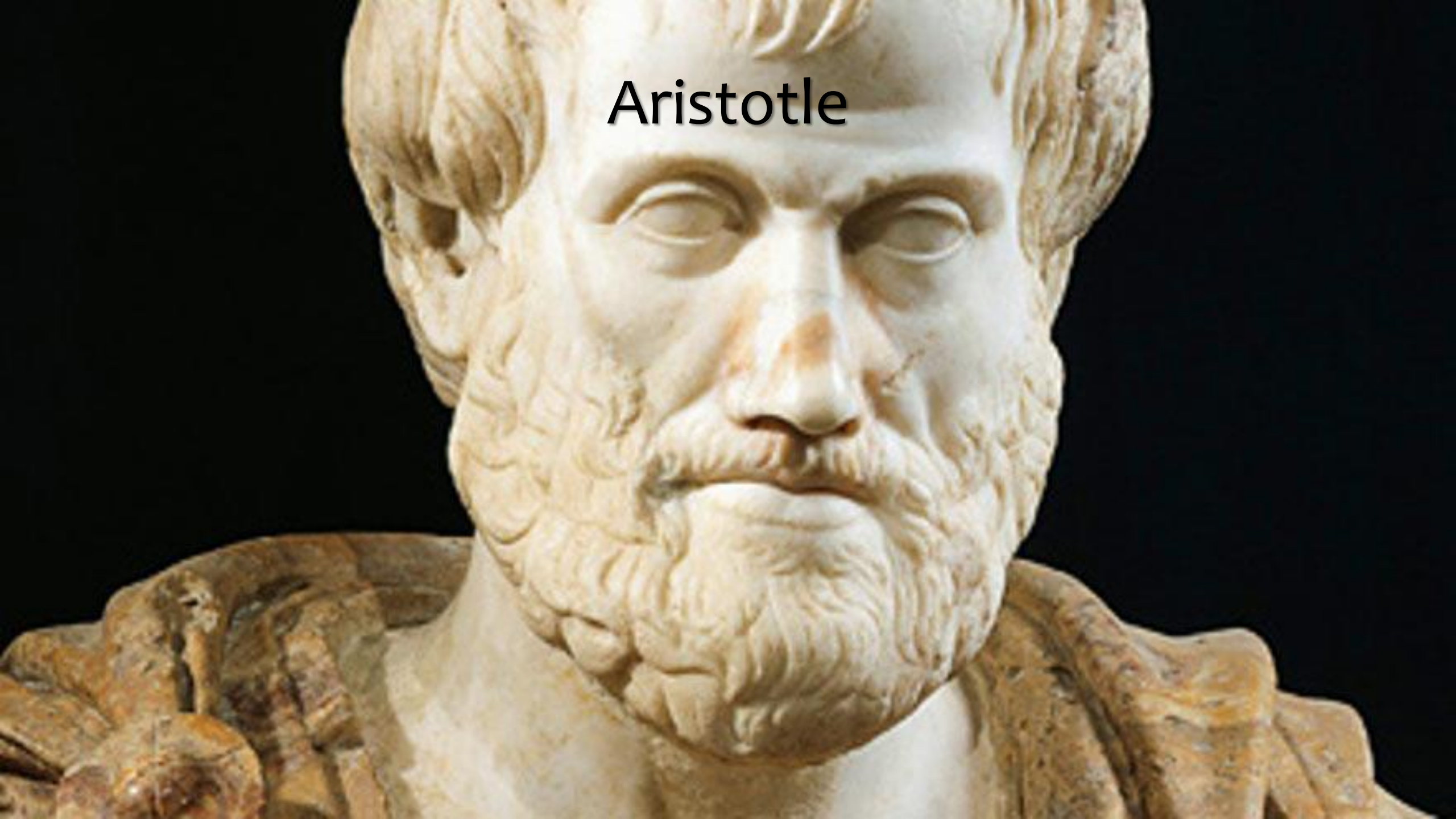
- We talked about some of this in the 'Scapegoating' series...
- Women are weak and flawed because they are not men
- Women are both ignorant and unintelligent
- Because of their lack of reasoning capacity, women are overly swayed by emotion
- Women lack a strong moral capacity, and are easily led astray
- And women exist to lead men astray...



Ancient Ideas around Female Biology

- Aristotle on the nature of female flesh

Aristotle



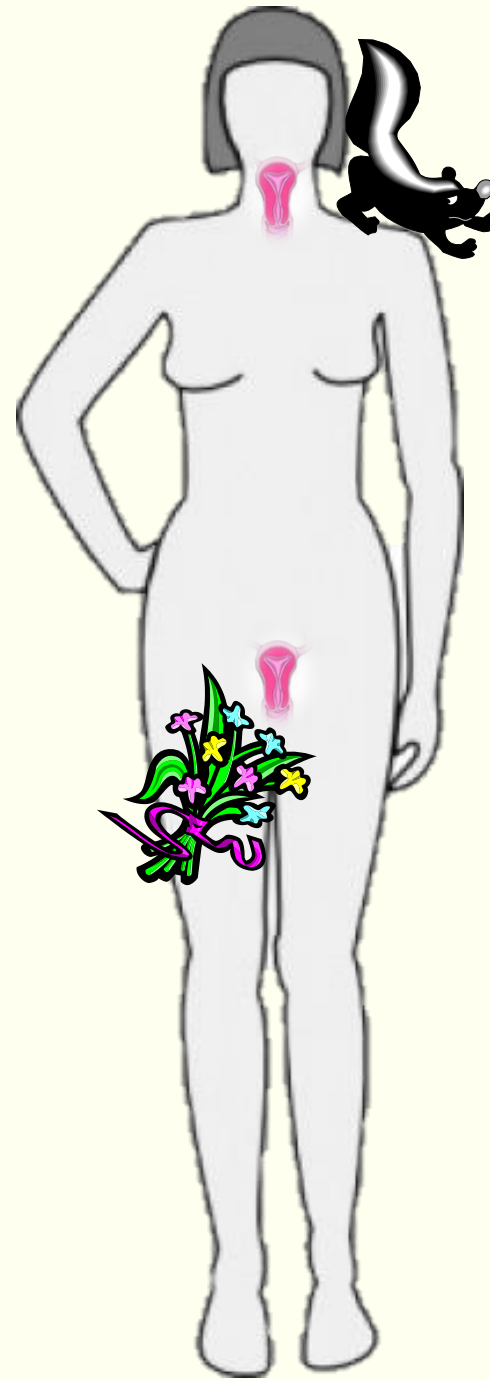
...a boy actually resembles a woman in physique, and a woman is as it were an infertile male; the female, in fact, is female on account of inability of a sort, that is, it lacks the power to concoct semen out of the final state of the nourishment (this is either blood, or its counterpart in bloodless animals) because of the coldness of its nature.

Women are thus only half-baked men.

Ancient Ideas around Female Biology

- Aristotle on the nature of female flesh
- *Hysteria* ('wombiness')
- Its most extreme manifestation: the wandering womb

The Wandering Womb and Hysterical Suffocation



How to cure this dreadful condition?

Get married and get pregnant.

Hippokrates: *My prescription is that when virgins experience this trouble, they should cohabit with a man as quickly as possible. If they become pregnant, they will be cured.*

Ancient Ideas around Female Biology

- Aristotle on the nature of female flesh
- *Hysteria* ('wombiness')
- Its most extreme manifestation: the wandering womb
- Marriage and pregnancy can cure wombiness
- Ideas about biology thus mobilized to support social norms

Women and Education

- Education of girls in ancient Athens: *oiko-nomia* ('economics')
- Basic literacy and numeracy?
- Higher level of education in the upper class – and among professional courtesans (*hetairai*)

The Debate of Socrates and Aspasia
Nicolas-André Monsiau, c. 1800



Attitudes towards Women and Education?

Instructing a woman is like owning a sack of sand with a split in the side.

Egyptian Wisdom of Ankhsheshonq

Giving education to a woman is like giving venom to a viper.

Menander (?)

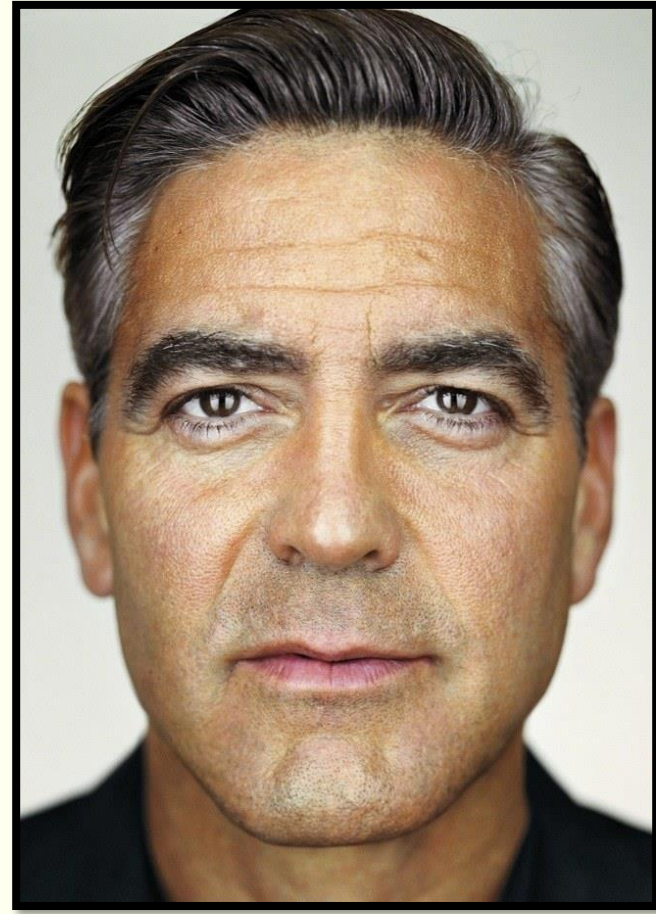
Even wise men claim one can have too much of a good thing; so let the lady reclining next to you at dinner not indulge in her own style of rhetoric, or revolve whole phrases before tangling you in some perverse argument, or know every event that occurred in history. Let there be a few literary things she doesn't understand. I loathe a woman who recites from Palaemon's Grammar, always observes the laws and rules of speech, a woman learned in antiquities, who knows lines from the ancients unknown to me. If she must appear so excessively learned and eloquent, she may as well be a man...

Juvenal Satire 6 (661 lines of invective against women)

Think how often you've heard these words used about women who lead: angry, strident, feisty, difficult, irritable, bossy, brassy, emotional, abrasive, high-maintenance, ambitious...

Hillary Rodham Clinton, *What Happened* (2017)

What's in a Smile?



Women and Marriage

- Arranged marriage
- Athenian girls at the age of 14 or 15
- Dowry-system: devaluation of woman's intrinsic or labour-value
- Sexual double standard

Courtesans (hetairai) we keep for pleasure, concubines (pallakai) for daily attendance upon our person, but wives for the procreation of legitimate children and to be the faithful guardians of our households.

*Ps.-Demosthenes 59, Against Neaira
(lawcourt speech)*

A wife is a wife. She should not make love. She should not have sexual intercourse.

Text from Deir el-Medina, ancient Egypt.

Women and the Law in Ancient Athens

- Requirement for perpetual male guardian (*kyrios*)
- A father's property went to his sons, not his daughters
- Women could not carry out financial transactions beyond a certain small amount
- Contrast Pharaonic Egypt: women able to inherit and bequeath, represent themselves in court, carry out business – all without a male guardian

Legal and Economic Development in Canada

- Property rights
 - Ontario: married women given control of their own property as of 1884
- Divorce
 - Federal *Divorce Act* removes double standard in grounds for divorce as of 1968
- Marital rape
 - Outlawed as of 1983 (only 52 countries around the world)

Women and Work in Ancient Athens

- Unless absolutely critical for survival, women did not work outside the home
- Women did, however, work inside the home
- Invisibility = devaluation of labour
- Women as parasites (a perception enhanced by the dowry system) ...

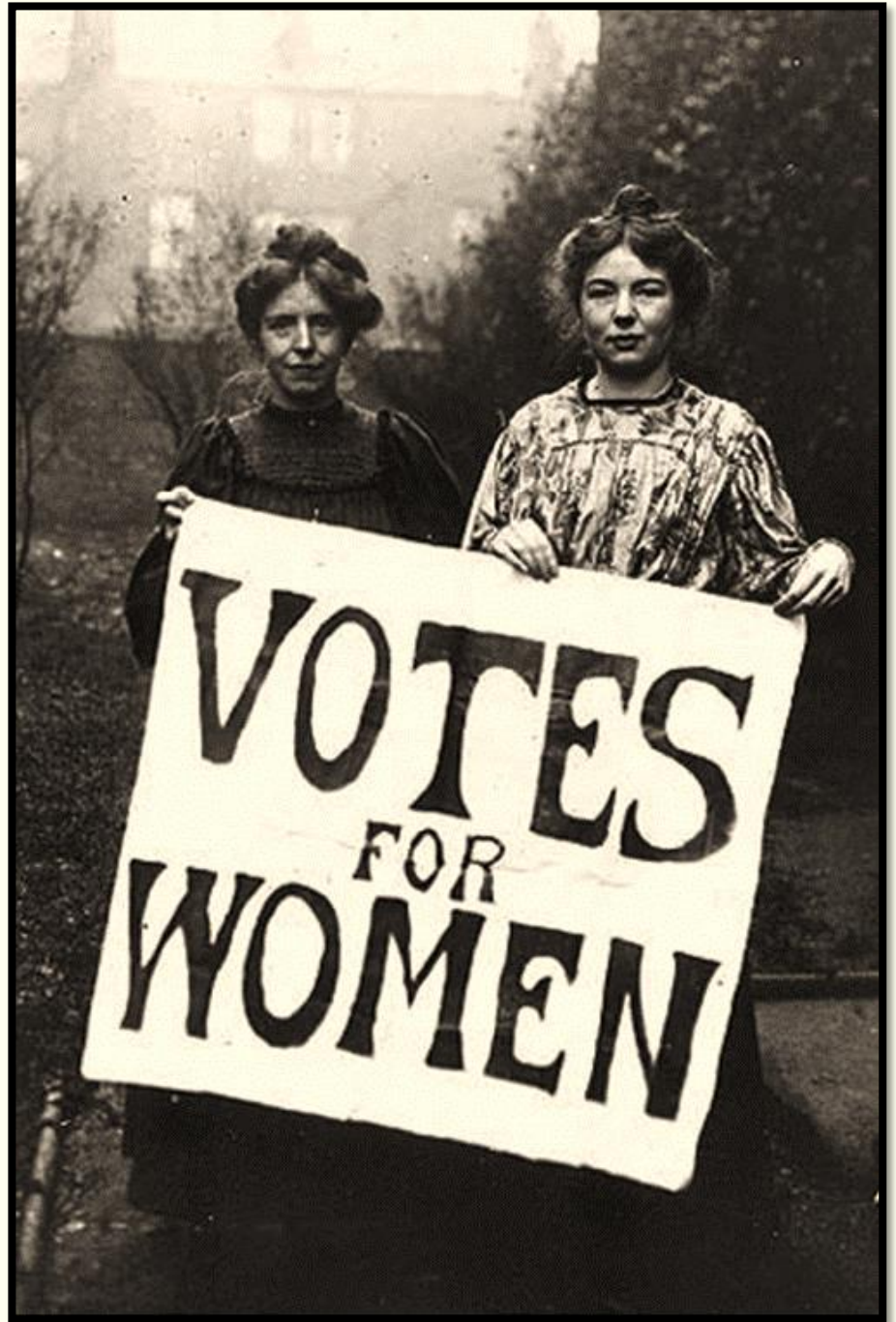
Women, a great plague, make their abodes with mortal men, being ill-suited to Poverty's curse but suited to Plenty. Compare how the honey bees are active all day long until the sun goes down, busily working and storing white honey during the daylight – while the drones keep within the protected cells of the hive and garner into their stomachs the food that the others have worked for.

Hesiod, *Theogony*

Women and Politics

- In hierarchical ancient societies, queens could be held in high regard, but generally did not rule alone
- In the Athenian democracy, women could be of the citizen class – but they were not citizens

Politics: Female Suffrage



Female Suffrage in Canada

- 1916: Manitoba enfranchises women for provincial elections
- 1917: *Military Voters Act*: 'Women who are British subjects and have close relatives in the armed forces can vote on behalf of their male relatives, in federal elections.'
- 1918: Women can vote in federal elections
- 1940: Québec is last province to grant provincial franchise to women
- 1950: Aboriginal women can vote in federal elections

Women and Seclusion in Ancient Athens

- Seclusion was never legislated – but...
- Women did not generally work outside the home
- In larger homes, women would have separate quarters
- Women would not be present when male guests were in the home
- But women could and did attend marriages, funerals, and festivals

The greatest glory of a woman is to be least talked about by men, whether they are praising you or criticizing you.

Pericles, 430 BC
(Thucydides 2.46)

Now my mother, gentlemen of the jury, was the daughter of Polyaratos of Cholargos, and the sister of Menexenos and Bathyllos and Periander. And her father gave her in marriage to Kleomedon the son of Kleon.'

Ps-Demosthenes 40.6

Veiling as a Form of Seclusion



Cleopatra VII: an Exception to the Rule (in so many ways)



Berenike II of
Egypt (c. 250-221 BC)



Cleopatra VII of
Egypt (51-30 BC)

Women and Sexuality

- Seclusion and veiling is linked to sexuality ('modesty')
- Female sexuality to be controlled at all costs
 - The words of the prophet Teiresias
- Legitimacy of heirs?
- But also something far more fundamental and irrational...

The *Mahabharata* (Ancient India)



I will tell you, my son, how Brahma created wanton women. For there is nothing more evil than woman; a wanton woman is blazing fire; she is the illusion born of a demon; she is the sharp edge of the razor; she is poison, a serpent and death all in one... For the Grandfather gave them all the desires that can be desired, and those wanton women, lusting for sensual pleasures, began to stir men up.

The Egyptian Wisdom of Ankhsheshonq

Don't glory in your wife's beauty – her heart is set on her lover.

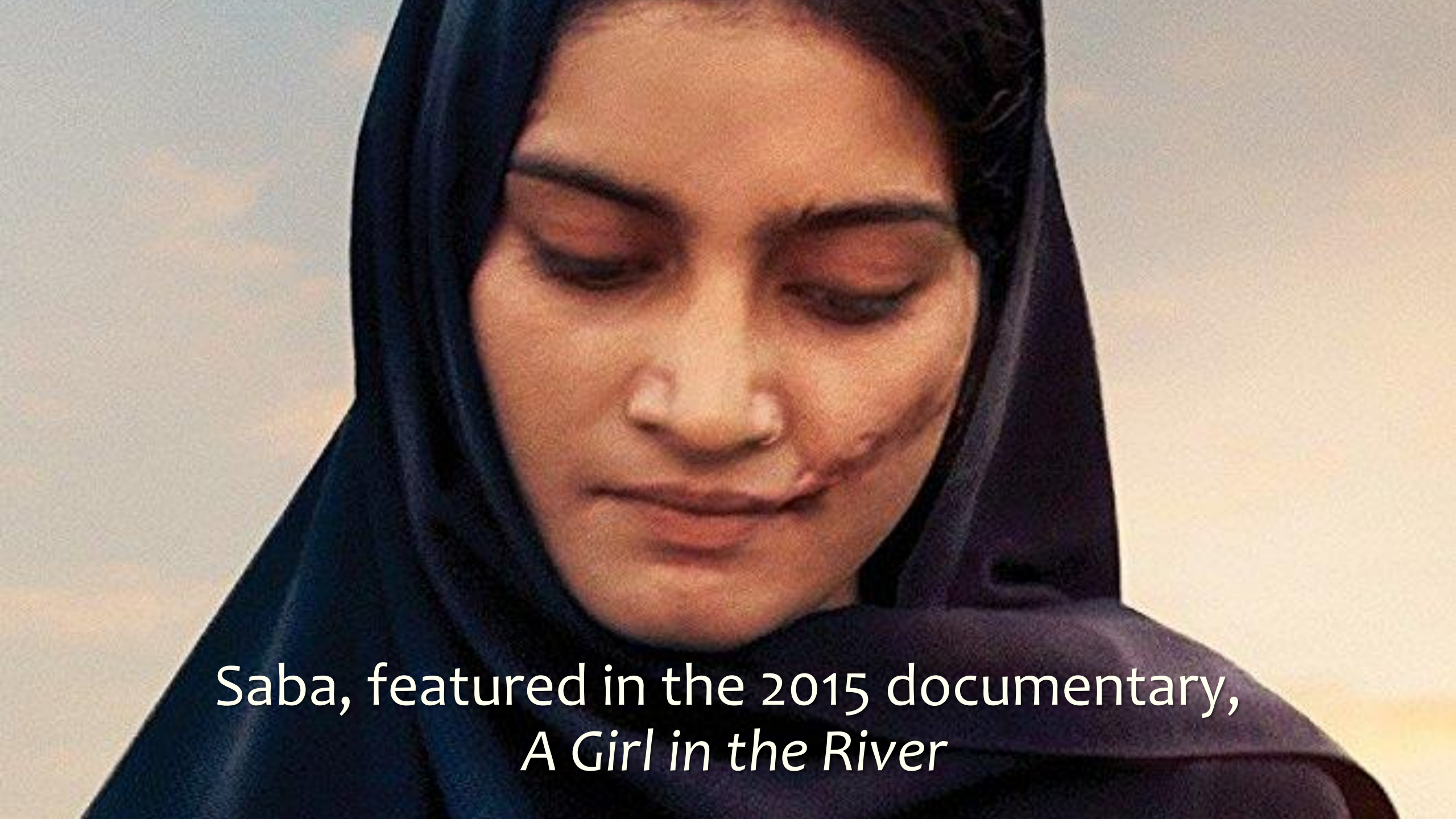
What she does with her husband today she will do with another man tomorrow.

*When a wife is caught with another man, she shall die,
she shall not get away alive.*

Code of Eshnunna 28, Babylonia, c. 2000-1800 BC

*If a wife has been caught lying with another man, they
shall bind them and throw them into the water.*

Code of Hammurabi 129, Babylonia, c. 1750 BC



Saba, featured in the 2015 documentary,
A Girl in the River

The Paradox of Classical Athens

- *Moicheia* ('adultery') consisted of a man having sexual activity with a woman under another man's guardianship
- Men – not women – could be legally prosecuted
- And men – not women – could be killed in the heat of the moment

Members of the jury, the law-giver Solon considered rapists deserving a lesser penalty than seducers: for the latter he provided the death penalty; for the former, a doubled fine. His idea was that those who use force are loathed by the persons violated, whereas those who have got their way by persuasion corrupt women's minds, in such a way as to make other men's wives more attached to themselves than to their husbands, so that the whole house is in their power, and it is uncertain who is the children's father, the husband or the lover.'

Lysias, *On the Murder of Eratosthenes*

The Paradox of Classical Athens

- *Moicheia* ('adultery') consisted of men having sexual activity with a woman under another man's guardianship
- Men – not women – could be legally prosecuted
- And men – not women – could be killed in the heat of the moment
- Because women are legally – and mentally? – 'incompetent'

Early Christianity

- The emperor Constantine's laws on *raptus* (abduction/rape or elopement?)
 - Death for the man and his accomplices
 - Willing girls to be burned to death
- Unwilling girls also to be punished...

Since they too could have kept themselves at home until their marriage day and, if the doors were broken down by the abductor's audacity, they could have sought help from the neighbours by their cries and could have defended themselves with all their efforts.

Canadian Justice
Robin Camp,
presiding over
sexual assault trial
in 2014 (Alberta)



‘Why didn’t you scream?’

‘Why couldn’t you just keep your knees together?’

‘Sex and pain sometimes go together – that’s not necessarily a bad thing.’

26 June 2015: Justice Minister Peter MacKay promotes Justice Camp to the Federal Court.

9 March 2017: Canadian Judicial Council recommends Justice Camp be removed from the Federal Court.

10 March 2017: Justice Camp resigns and apologizes.

Revenge Rape in 'Honour' Cultures

- From the ancient Egyptian *Wisdom of Ankhsheshonq*: *Do not violate a married woman. He who violates a married woman on the bed will have his wife violated on the ground.*
- Pakistani activist Mukhtar Mai



Mukhtar Mai,
Glamour Magazine's
Woman of the Year,
2005

Revenge Rape in 'Honour' Cultures

- From the ancient Egyptian *Wisdom of Ankhsheshonq*: *Do not violate a married woman. He who violates a married woman on the bed will have his wife violated on the ground.*
- Pakistani activist Mukhtar Mai
- Pakistan *is* struggling to make changes
- And again, let us not be too complacent...

Women and Religion

- Women played an important role in certain ancient religions

The Pythia at Delphi



The Delphic Sibyl
by Michelangelo,
the Sistine Chapel

The Vestal Virgins of Rome

Ancient Vestals
Jean Raoux
1727



Modern Religions Grounded in Ancient Mediterranean and Asian Cultures

- Judaism, Buddhism, Hinduism, Christianity, Islam
- All are rooted in ancient cultures that saw women as lesser beings and sought to control them
- Much of what we now accept as *religious* dogma actually consists of the retained *cultural* practices and values of ancient societies that had little to no religious dogma
- Sacred texts often reflect mixed and contradictory attitudes towards women

I wish you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of every woman is her husband, and the head of Christ is God... For man was not created from woman, but woman from man. And man was not created for woman's sake, but woman for the sake of man.

Paul, 1 Corinthians 11

Husbands should take good care of their wives, with the bounties God has given to some more than others and with what they spend out of their own money. Righteous wives are devout and guard what God would have them guard in their husbands' absence. If you fear high-handedness ('uppityness') from your wives, remind them of the teachings of God, then ignore them when you go to bed, then hit them. If they obey you, you have no right to act against them.

The Qur'an 4: 34

The Holiness of God is not evidenced in women when they are brash, brassy, boisterous, brazen, head-strong, strong-willed, loud-mouthed, overly-talkative, having to have the last word, challenging, controlling, manipulative, critical, conceited, arrogant, aggressive, assertive, strident, interruptive, undisciplined, insubordinate, disruptive, dominating, domineering, or clamoring for power. Rather, women accept God's holy order and character by being humbly and unobtrusively respectful and receptive in functional subordination to God, church leadership, and husbands.

James A. Fowler, Christ In You Ministries
(Women in the Church, 1999)

Women and Religious Extremism

- The ancient world virtually never fought religious wars
 - Widespread polytheism and a general lack of dogma
- Religious extremism generally not good for women (or men)
- Female independence is not to be tolerated (but then, neither is male independence)
- Female sexuality in particular must be controlled
- But keep in mind that these are *in their origins* cultural values, not religious ones

The Question of Sexuality Again

- Female sexuality to be completely repressed
- Male sexuality allowed freer reign
- Veiling and seclusion of women
- Male exploitation of females through rape, child marriage, and polygamy
- And no extremist religion has a monopoly on these behaviours



Women in
Kabul,
Afghanistan,
June 1978

A photograph showing four women wearing blue burqas and a young boy walking on a rocky, uneven path. The women are dressed in traditional blue burqas with white mesh veils. The boy is wearing a dark blue traditional Afghan garment. The background is a rough, rocky wall.

Women in
Jalalabad,
Afghanistan,
October 2013

kiyafetime karışma in
Turkey, 2017
(‘Don’t mess with
my outfit!’)



The HEAD COVERING ~ Movement ~

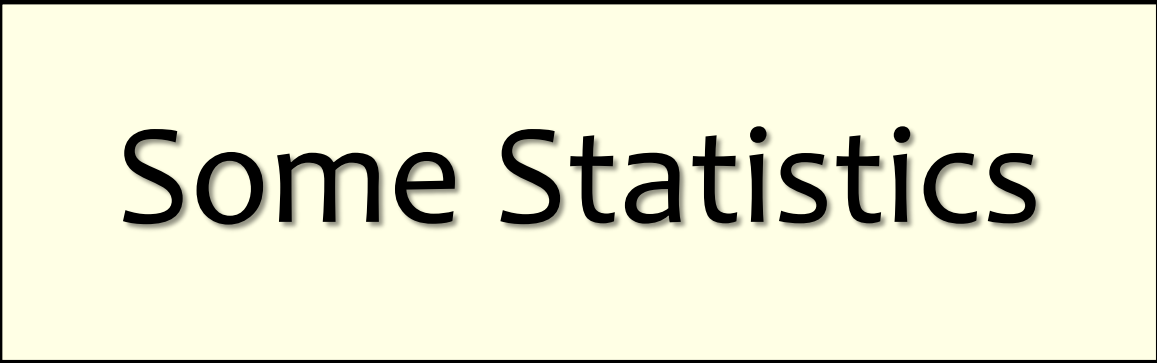
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The Head Covering Movement is a campaign that seeks to spark a return to the practice of head covering during corporate Christian worship.







The UN Gender Inequality Index (GII)

- Ideally you want it to be 0 = no gender inequality
- The metrics...
 - Maternal mortality rates
 - Adolescent birth rates
 - Share of seats in parliament
 - Secondary education
 - Labour force participation
- It does *not* include domestic abuse and violence against women as a measure

Gender Inequality Index (GII), 2015

Ten Best

Ten Worst

Country	GII 2015	Country	GII 2015	Country	GII 2015	Country	GII 2015
Switzerland ¹	0.040	Norway ⁶	0.053	Yemen ¹	0.767	Afghanistan ⁶	0.667
Denmark ²	0.041	Slovenia ⁷	0.053	Chad ²	0.695	Dem. Rep. of Congo ⁷	0.663
Netherlands ³	0.044	Finland ⁸	0.056	Niger ³	0.695	Tonga ⁸	0.659
Sweden ⁴	0.048	Germany ⁹	0.066	Mali ⁴	0.689	Sierra Leone ⁹	0.650
Iceland ⁵	0.051	South Korea ¹⁰	0.067	Côte d'Ivoire ⁵	0.672	Liberia ¹⁰	0.649

None of this is intended to point fingers at nations that are struggling with human development in general.

And by the way, Canada is not in the top 10 in the world as measured by the GII (Canada ranked 18th in 2015, up from 23rd in 2013)

Cultural Distinctions (2015 Metrics)

Canada

2015 Gender Inequality Index:
0.098

Maternal mortality: 7/100,000

Adolescent (15-19) birth rate:
9.8/1,000

%age of women over 25 with at
least some secondary education:
100%

Female (over 15) labour force
participation rate: 61%

Female seats in Parliament: 28.3%

Afghanistan

2015 Gender Inequality Index:
0.667

Maternal mortality: 396/100,000

Adolescent (15-19) birth rate:
74/1,000

%age of women over 25 with at
least some secondary education:
8.8%

Female (over 15) labour force
participation rate: 19.1%

Female seats in Parliament: 27.4%

Indigenous Women in Canada

- Generalized national GII stats may misrepresent the situation of indigenous women

Indigenous Women in Canada (StatsCan)

Aboriginal (not including reserves)

%age of women with
postsecondary qualification: 50.7%

Employment rate (age 15 and
older): 50.4%

Teenage mothers: 31.1%

Sexual assault rate: 115/1,000

Non-aboriginal

%age of women with
postsecondary qualification: 65.3%

Employment rate (age 15 and
older): 57.3%

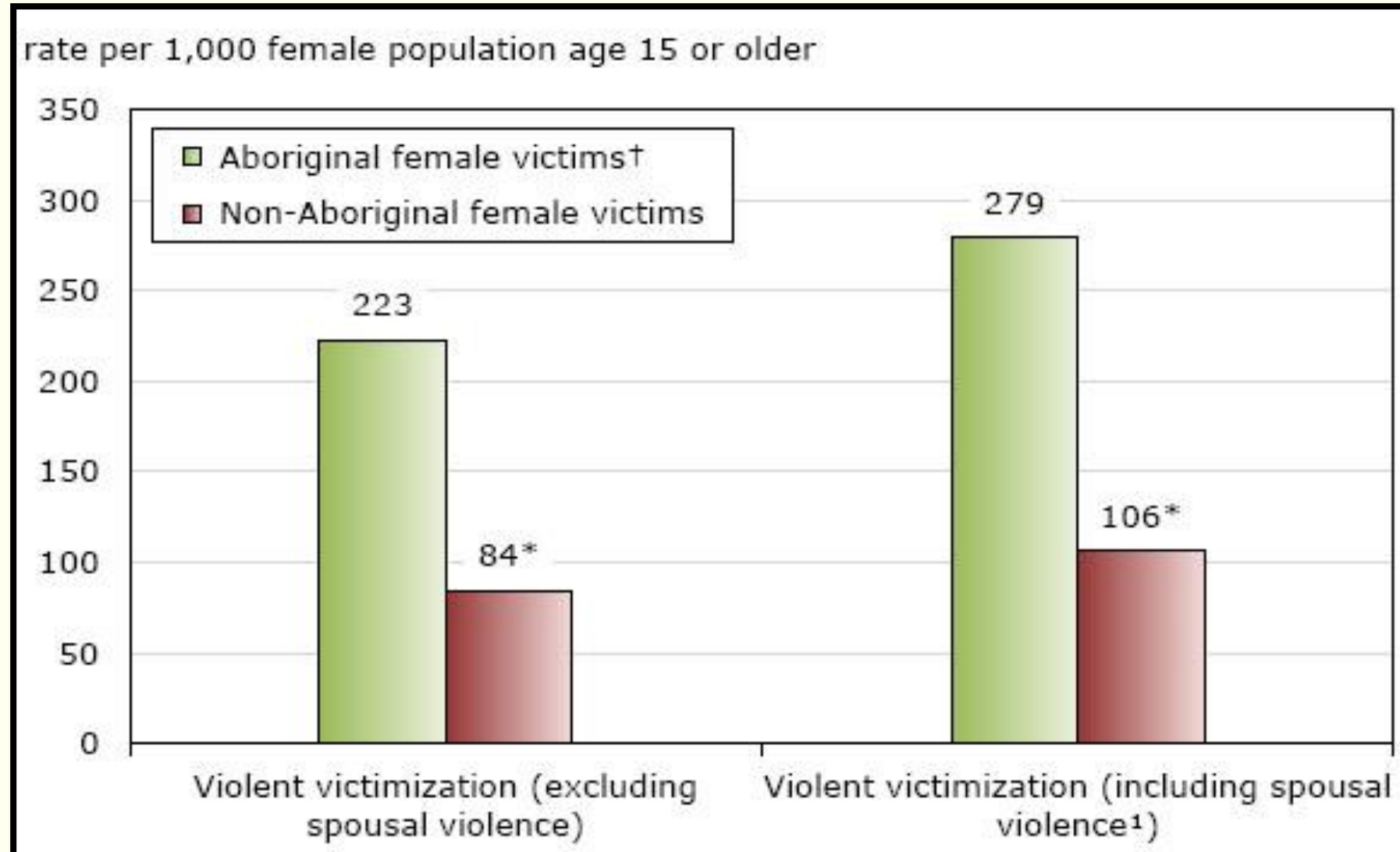
Teenage mothers: 5.7%

Sexual assault rate: 35/1,000

Indigenous Women in Canada

- Generalized national GII stats may misrepresent the situation of indigenous women
- Aboriginal women are 2.7 times more likely to be the victims of violent crime than non-aboriginal women

Self-reported Violent Victimization, 2009



Indigenous Women in Canada

- Generalized national GII stats may misrepresent the situation of indigenous women
- Aboriginal women are 2.7 times more likely to be the victims of violent crime than non-aboriginal women
- Not to mention the challenges of being indigenous in Canada in general (housing, health, access to employment, recovery from residential schools, and various other systemic challenges)

And in the ancient world?

- No reliable statistics, but...
 - Maternal mortality rates: **high**
 - Adolescent birth rate: **high**
 - Share of seats in parliament: **zero**
 - Secondary education: **next to zero**
 - Labour force participation: **low-ish (and generally only out of economic need)**
- Crime rates unknown, but domestic abuse (in our terms) a given

Thomson Reuters: the world's most dangerous countries for women (2011)

Poor health care, forced marriages, child marriages, sexual violence, honour killing, female feticide and infanticide, FGM



Thomson Reuters: the world's most dangerous countries for women (2011)

Poor health care, forced marriages, child marriages, sexual violence, honour killing, female feticide and infanticide, FGM

1. Afghanistan
2. Democratic Republic of Congo
3. Pakistan
4. India
5. Somalia

But again, let us not be too complacent...

The Canadian Women's Foundation

- Approximately every six days, a woman in Canada is killed by her intimate partner
- On any given night in Canada, 3,491 women and their 2,724 children sleep in shelters because it is not safe at home
- 1,181 cases of missing or murdered Aboriginal women in Canada between 1980 and 2012 (according to RCMP); closer to 4,000 (according to grassroots organizations and Minister of Status of Women)

Men Against Violence in Azerbaijan, 2017



‘We are here to pave a new road free of violence, and free of ignorance towards gender-based violence’



Percentage of Women in Parliament, 2015

28.3%

On a par with Switzerland, Luxembourg, Slovenia, the Philippines, Cameroon, and Afghanistan (all between 27 and 29%)

Well behind the Scandinavian countries at 37.4% (Denmark) to 43.6% (Sweden)

Percentage of Women in Parliament, 2015

But at 28.3% in 2015, Canada was also behind such countries as Rwanda (57.5), Bolivia (51.8), Cuba (48.9), the Seychelles (43.8), Senegal (42.7), South Africa (41.2), Mexico (40.6), Nicaragua (41.3), Mozambique (39.6), Ecuador (41.6), Costa Rica (38.6), Burundi (37.8), Namibia (37.7), Ethiopia (37.3), Argentina (37.1), Angola (36.8), Tanzania (36), Zimbabwe (35.1), and Uganda (35), *all of which have considerably higher GII's than Canada.*

Update, November 2017

92 out of 338 MPs = 27.2% of House of Commons

44 out of 94 Senators = 46.8% of Senate

31.5% across both Houses

15 out of 30 Cabinet Ministers = 50.0%

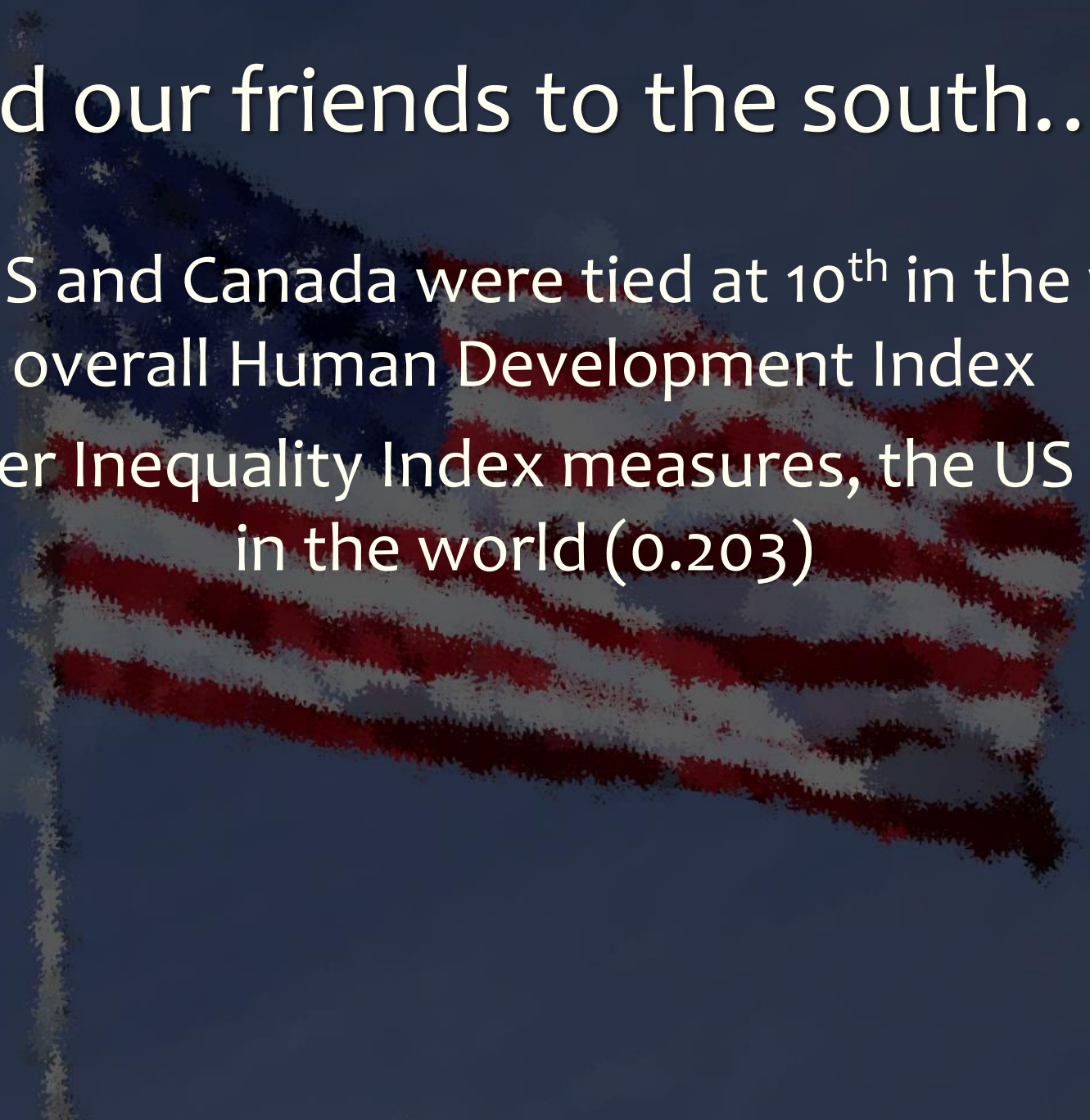
And our friends to the south...?



And our friends to the south...?

In 2015, the US and Canada were tied at 10th in the world in the overall Human Development Index

On the Gender Inequality Index measures, the US ranked 43rd in the world (0.203)



And our friends to the south...?

And with 19.5% of its elected seats held by women in 2015, the US was roughly on a par with Saudi Arabia (19.9), Uruguay (19.2), Bosnia/Herzegovina (19.3), Kazakhstan (20.1), Pakistan (20), and Kyrgyzstan (19.2)

While trailing its old friends El Salvador (32.1), Sudan (31), Afghanistan (27.4), Iraq (26.5), Algeria (25.7), and China (23.6)

Update, November 2017

21 out of 100 Senators are female (21%)

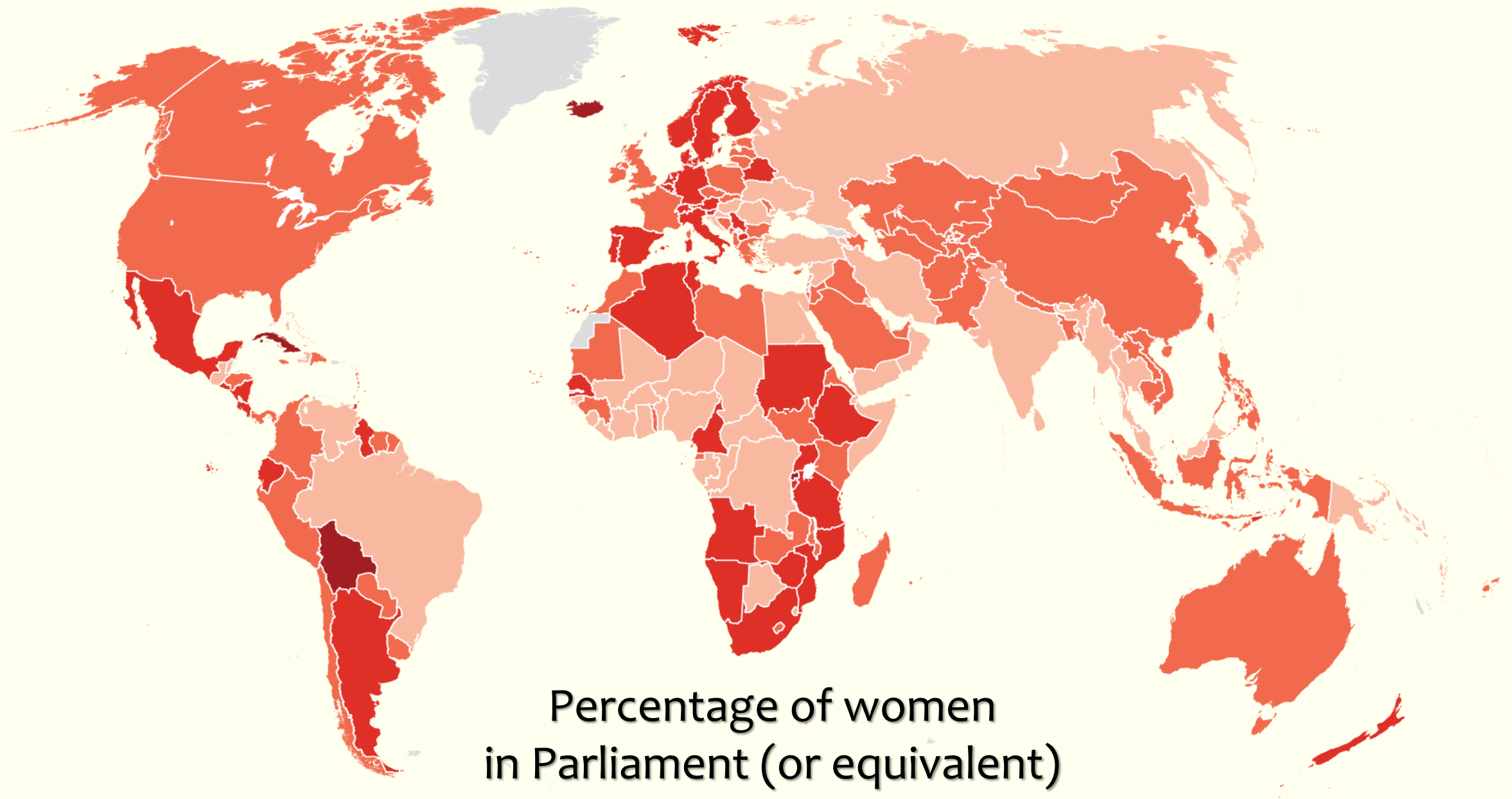
84 members of the House of Representatives are female
(19.3%)

Congress overall is 19.6% female

(virtually no change since 2015, though 21 is a record number
of female Senators)

Of course, now female
politicians in the States
have a government
friendly to them...







Rachel Notley
Alberta

Current Canadian Female Premiers

Kathleen Wynne
Ontario



First Ministers Conference,
January 2009



First Ministers Conference,
3 October 2017



Aung San Suu Kyi
State Counsellor
Myanmar



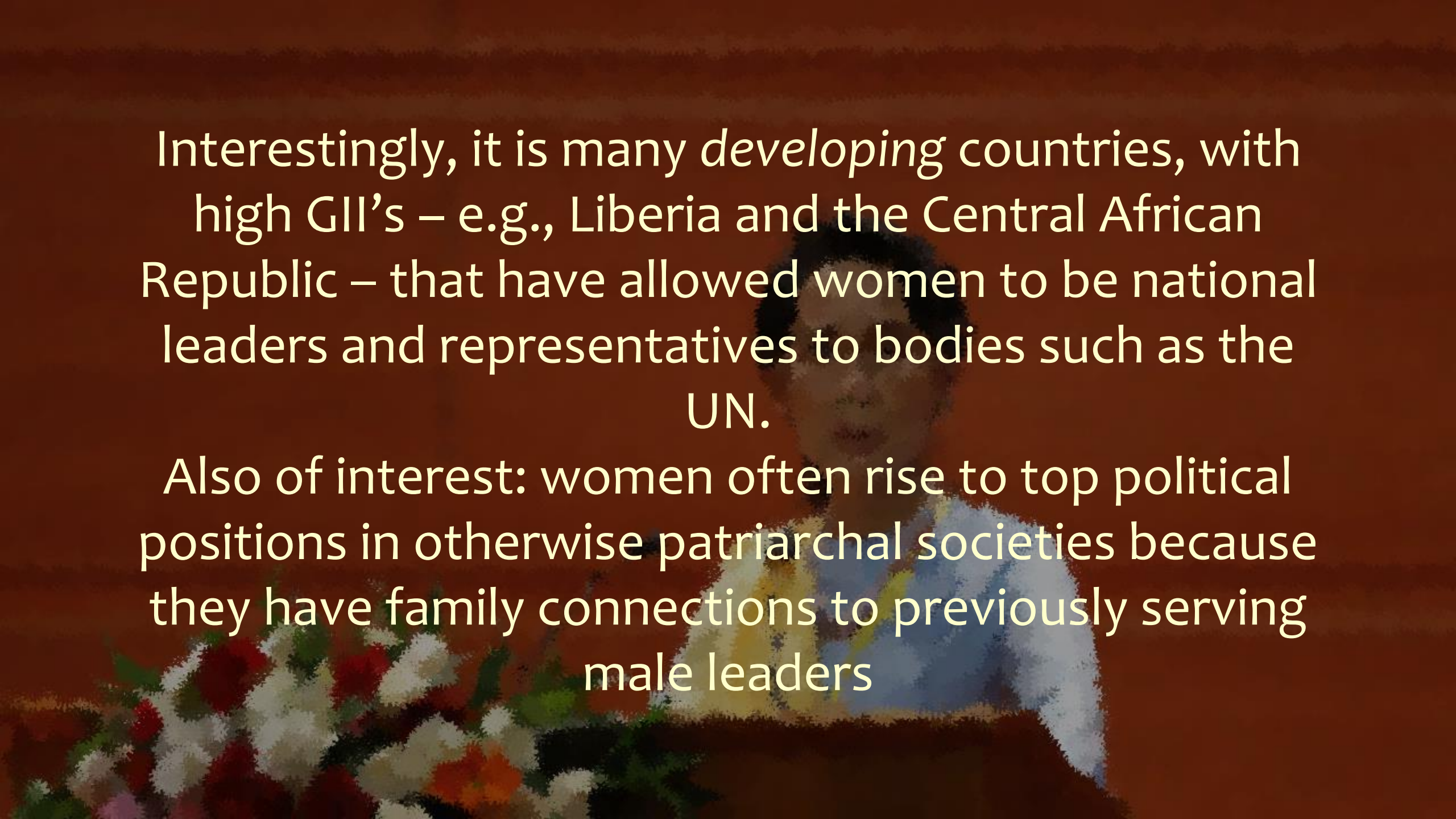
Women have been presidents or prime ministers (or equivalents)
in the following countries at various times since about 1960:

Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Bermuda, Bolivia, Brazil,
Bulgaria, Burundi, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, Costa
Rica, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Great Britain, Guyana,
Haiti, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Israel, Jamaica, Kosovo, Latvia,
Liberia, Lithuania, Malta, Mongolia, Myanmar, Netherlands
Antilles, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Pakistan, Panama,
Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Rwanda, Senegal, Slovenia, South
Korea, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago,
Turkey, Ukraine, Yugoslavia.



Hmm... Who's missing from this list?



A woman with dark hair, wearing a blue and white patterned garment, is holding a large bouquet of red and white flowers. The background is a solid dark brown color.

Interestingly, it is many *developing* countries, with high GII's – e.g., Liberia and the Central African Republic – that have allowed women to be national leaders and representatives to bodies such as the UN.

Also of interest: women often rise to top political positions in otherwise patriarchal societies because they have family connections to previously serving male leaders

Some things to note before we go

- Much of the oppression of women in antiquity and around the world today, *including* Europe and North America, was/is not legislated – in fact, it may be legislated *against*
- Women themselves may participate in their own oppression and the oppression of other women and/or other out-groups
- The role of female leaders in making change
- And the role of men who also desire change



2015: First ever UN HeForShe Award goes to students at the University of Technology and Engineering (Lahore, Pakistan): in a two-day push, more than 5000 men and boys signed a commitment to HeForShe

The Point of All This?

- *None* of this is meant as a diatribe against nations and cultures that are struggling with development issues
- But the ancient world is not as far away as one might think

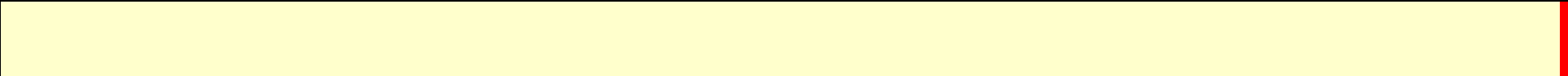
Neolithic Revolution – 10,000 years ago

1800



Neolithic Revolution – 10,000 years ago

1960



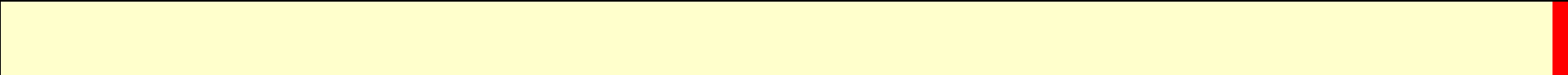
Bronze Age – 3,000 years ago

1800



Bronze Age – 3,000 years ago

1960



The Point of All This?

- *None* of this is meant as a diatribe against nations and cultures that are struggling with development issues
- But the ancient world is not as far away as one might think
- There are far more women living with oppression than not
- ‘Women’s rights’ is a very recent – and both fragile and culturally restricted – phenomenon in human history
- And it probably behoves us not to be too complacent about western democracies



**WHAT
HAPPENED**

**HILLARY
RODHAM
CLINTON**