

# Feminism : History

- As apolitical theory covers a wide range of distinct issues and challenges
- Feminism is a collection of beliefs and ideologies that believe that 1. women are disadvantaged in comparison to men , 2) this disadvantage can and should be overthrown.
- Thus unlike traditional political theories feminism examines the inequalities between men and women as central political issues.
- But feminism is not a unified ideology but contains several competing strands

# Origins

- The term feminism came to use during 1890s but its origins can be traced to late 17<sup>th</sup> century.
- The early capitalist development marked a change in the legal and economic position of women
- The arbitrary power of men was challenged
- Mary Wollstonecraft's '*A Vindication of the Rights of Women*' ( 1792)is considered as the first modern expression of liberal feminism.

## Contd..

- These are identifies as :
- Liberal feminism
- Marxist feminism
- Radical feminism
- Black feminism
- Post-modern feminism