EXCLUSIVENESS OF REVOLUTIONARY RHETORIC –

philosophy of natural rights also had different meanings in another context
liberty clause of the Decl was supposedly universally applicable, but in fact the government is
the entity who decides who qualifies for citizenship
women, minors, Catholics, Jews, Indians and blacks

women
17th c gives a long list of vocal, proto-feminist figures like Ann Hutchinson and Ann Bradstreet,
and the 19th c brings women back to public sphere, but these figures simply aren’t there to the
same extent in the Rev era

In the FR rev, people raised the question of women’s role in politics under the banner of egalite –
but this didn’t happen in Am

the whole process by which we have come to understand the Revolution was reversed for women

But in the 18th c, as the new nation moved towards independence, women remained in a state of
submissive dependence

famous letter from Abigail Adams to her husband John (quote)

what do people notice about this?

the one Rev leader to consider what these ideas might mean for women was Thomas Paine
(quote)
he admitted women and men were equal intellectually, but couldn’t get past other things, the
most essential characteristic of women, as he saw it, was their beauty – they were fragile and
needed to be taken care of

Martineau:
• born in 1802
• upper middle class English family.
• Harriet's education was largely at home through self study. She had early exposure to
subjects routinely taught only to males. University study was barred to women at the
time, but Harriet maintained a regime of intense, self directed investigation throughout
her life.
• During the 1820's, the Martineau family went into economic decline when Thomas died.
Despite the imposing threat of poverty, Harriet felt a sense of freedom in facing the
reality of earning her own living. She never marries: "there is a power of attachment in
me that has never been touched."
• Harriet was a successful writer who supported herself as an author (not easy to do) in
various forms, including essays, tracts, reviews, novels, journal articles, travelogues,
biographies, how-to manuals, newspaper columns, histories, etc.
• By 1829 she had decided that decided to commit herself to the profession, writing:

I have determined that my chief subordinate object in life shall henceforth be the cultivation of my intellectual powers, with a view to the instruction of others by my writings. On this determination I pray for the blessing of God...I believe myself possessed of no uncommon talents, and of not an atom of genius; but as various circumstances have allowed me to think more accurately than some women, I believe that I may so write on subjects of universal concern as to inform some minds and stir up others...of posthumous fame I have not the slightest expectation or desire. To be useful in my day and generation is enough for me. (Pichanick, 31)

**Her Writings**

In 1834 Harriet began a two year study and visit of the United States. She reported her findings in *Society in America* (1837), her most widely known work to sociologists in the U.S., addressing the issues of methodological strategy confronted with ethnocentrism. In this work she compared valued moral principles and observable social patterns, illustrating insightfully the distinctions between rhetoric and reality.

questions:

• tone?
• why is the power of the US government unjust, in her opinion? (doesn’t derive from consent of governed)
• are women citizens? do they have to obey laws?
• how have women been “represented” in the past? has this been effective? why or why not?
• she makes analogy with women/slaves – how does this work? what do we think?
• Mill says (read bottom 36). what does he mean? what is M’s response? (what if they don’t have them, not identical)
• what’s her point about “acquiescence”?  

separate spheres: what does this mean? can we generate list of pairs of qualities of fem & masc? public/private split

**Separate Spheres**

Separate spheres embodied the vision of a social order based on a polarity of roles and personalities rooted in presumed biological and sexual differences between the sexes. Men were rational, instrumental, independent, competitive, and aggressive; women were emotional, maternal, domestic, and dependent.

where do you see her talk about this idea?

what is Martineau’s response?

do you hear echoes of Locke in M?