

HUMOR



Gloria Steinem

(1934-)

“What It Would Be Like If Women Win” (1970)

Gloria Steinem was an editor of *New York Magazine*, a founder of *Ms.* magazine (1971), and a leader of the Feminist movement frequently interviewed. She spoke on many campuses and became a role model—a chic attractive professional woman who wore oversized *Vogue* magazine glasses tinted lavender. Her article “What It Would Be Like If Women Win” appeared in *Time* (1970) and was reprinted in many anthologies. Steinem implies in her article that all our wars have been caused by “machismo” (including the American Revolution and the Civil War) and that if women win their war against men, there will be peace. Also there will be “No more domineering wives, emasculating women [or] ‘Jewish Mothers’.”

In her Feminist future there will be “free access to good jobs—and decent pay for the bad ones... Free nurseries, school lunches... Free legal abortions and free birth control.” Marriage “will probably go right on.” But housewives “would receive a percentage of his pay determined by the domestic relations courts. If divorced, she might be eligible for a pension fund, and for a job-training allowance.” Feminist reforms “will make it possible for both mother and father to work, and to have equal leisure time with the children at home.” However, the “population explosion dictates that childbearing be kept to a minimum.” Like many other Feminists, Steinem believed America should follow the example of Socialist Sweden, where the native population is now declining toward extinction.

Steinem predicts that if women win “Half the teachers will be men, a rarity now at preschool and elementary levels.” In fact, Feminists increased the discrimination against males in schools, as documented by Christina Hoff Sommers in *The War Against Boys: How Misguided Feminism is Harming Our Young Men* (2000). Steinem predicts that women will “get drafted.” Not yet. “Increased skilled labor might lead to a four-hour workday, and higher wages would encourage further mechanization...” Romantic novels will disappear and Feminist “editors are beginning to pressure for change in the textbook industry.” The censorship they imposed is documented by Diane Ravitch in *The Language Police* (2003).

Michael Hollister (2012)

“Now she had got a start, and she went on and told me all about the good place.... Well, I couldn’t see no advantage in going where she was going, so I made up my mind I wouldn’t try for it. But I never said so, because it would only make trouble, and wouldn’t do no good.”

Mark Twain, *Huckleberry Finn* (1884)