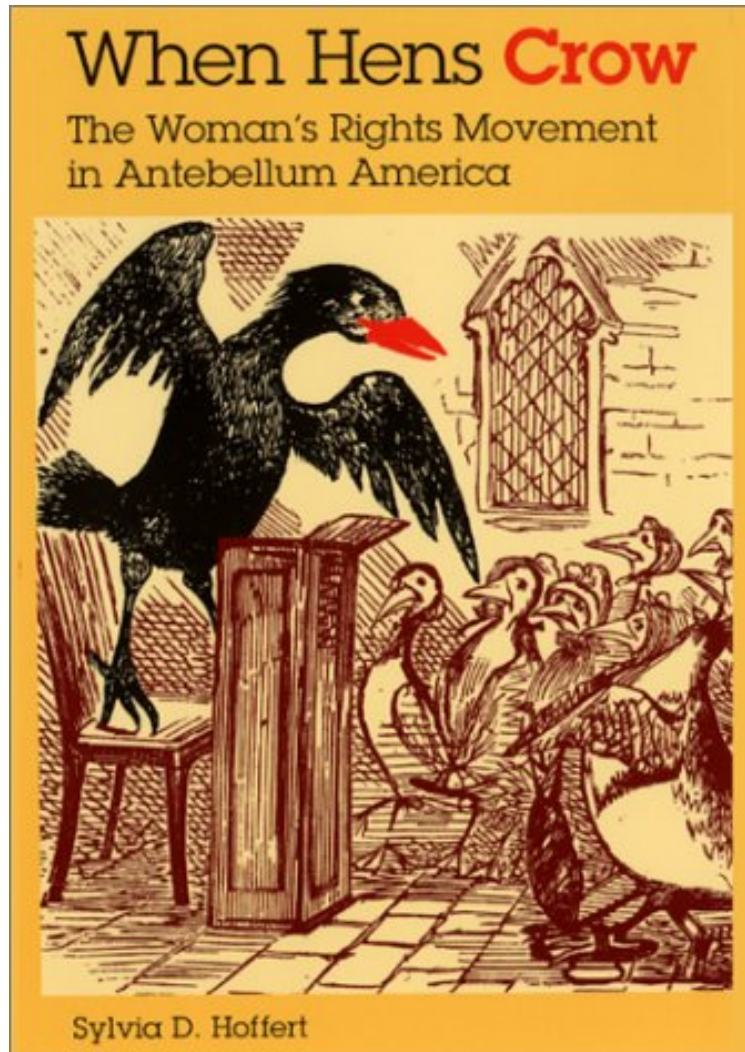


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# When Hens Crow: The Woman's Rights Movement in Antebellum America

*Sylvia D Hoffert*

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**Sylvia D Hoffert : When Hens Crow: The Woman's Rights Movement in Antebellum America** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised When Hens Crow: The Woman's Rights Movement in Antebellum America:

In 1852 the New York Daily Herald described leaders of the woman's rights movement as ""hens that crow."" Using speeches, pamphlets, newspaper reports, editorials, and personal papers, Sylvia Hoffert discusses how ideology,

language, and strategies of early woman's rights advocates influenced a new political culture grudgingly inclusive of women. She shows the impact of philosophies of republicanism, natural rights, utilitarianism, and the Scottish Common Sense School in helping activists move beyond the limits of Republican Motherhood and the ideals of domesticity and benevolence. When *Hens Crow* also illustrates the work of the penny press in spreading the demands of woman's rights advocates to a wide audience, establishing the competence of women to contribute to public discourse and public life.

From *Library Journal* Employing speeches, tracts, pamphlets, newspaper reports, and editorials, Hoffert (women's history, Southwest Missouri State Univ.) explores how the pre-Civil War feminists publicly challenged men to a fight and thus forced them to acknowledge that women could enter the fields dominated by men. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. "Hoffert makes a significant contribution to the study of the ideological origins of American feminism in her brilliant synthesis of the disparate elements that early American activists brought together to consolidate their intellectual progression beyond Republican motherhood...Scholars and students will turn to this work for many years." *American Historical* "[When *Hens Crow*] looks in an original way at the ideas of the first feminists...a pioneering work, written in a clear style and firmly grounded in recent scholarship on the history of discourse, poststructuralism, and sociolinguistics."-*Journal of American History* "...challenges conventional interpretations of the intellectual roots of the movement and provides new insights into the leaders' strategies for promoting their ideas." *Illinois Historical Journal* "...a highly readable survey that is compact and comprehensible in its treatment of the early women's rights movement in the US." *Choice* "Finally we have in one highly readable volume a compact yet comprehensive survey of the early women's rights movement in the United States."- Ruth Bloch, *UCLA* From the Back Cover In 1852 the *New York Daily Herald* described leaders of the woman's rights movement as "'hens that crow'". Using speeches, pamphlets, newspaper reports, editorials, and personal papers, Hoffert discusses how ideology, language, and strategies of early woman's rights advocates influenced a new political culture grudgingly inclusive of women. She shows the impact of philosophies of republicanism, natural rights, utilitarianism, and the Scottish Common Sense School in helping activists move beyond the limits of Republican Motherhood and the ideals of domesticity and benevolence. When *Hens Crow* also illustrates the work of the penny press in spreading the demands of woman's rights advocates to a wide audience, establishing the competency of women to contribute to public discourse and public life.