

Is this Post-feminism— or Anti-feminism?

CONVENTIONAL WISDOM holds that women's oppression is the product of a bygone era, and ideas of women's liberation are outdated relics of that era. The women's movement accomplished its goals a long time ago, according to mainstream pundits, and U.S. society has entered the enlightened phase of "post-feminism." In this context, demanding any further advancement for women's rights would be a colossal act of selfishness.

But the evidence offered by the mass media for gender parity typically measures the number of women carrying briefcases to work, rather than how average women are faring.

To be sure, between 1972 and 1992, the proportion of managerial jobs held by women more than doubled, from 20 percent to 46 percent.¹ And a small number of women have now advanced to the upper echelons of corporations and government institutions. Condoleezza Rice is the U.S. secretary of state and New York senator Hillary Clinton is under con-