

The Women Who Got America Talking: A Long History of Female Orators and Public Speakers

From the earliest days of the American colonies, women have played a vital role in shaping the country's political and social landscape. And while they have often been denied the same opportunities as men, women have found ways to make their voices heard, particularly through the art of public speaking.



The Women Who Got America Talking: Early Telephone Operators, 1878-1922 by Kerry Segrave

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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In this article, we will explore the long and rich history of female orators and public speakers in America. We will meet some of the most famous and influential women who have used their voices to challenge the status quo, inspire change, and make a difference in the world.

Colonial America

The first recorded instance of a woman giving a public speech in America was in 1638, when Anne Hutchinson delivered a sermon in Boston. Hutchinson was a religious dissenter who challenged the authority of the Puritan clergy, and her sermon was so controversial that she was eventually banished from the colony.

Despite the challenges they faced, women continued to speak out on public issues throughout the colonial period. In 1754, Sarah Osborn delivered a speech to the Massachusetts legislature in which she argued for the rights of women to own property and to vote. And in 1776, Abigail Adams wrote a letter to her husband, John Adams, urging him to "remember the ladies" when drafting the Declaration of Independence.

The 19th Century

The 19th century saw a growing number of women taking to the public stage. In 1831, Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton founded the American Anti-Slavery Society, and both women were outspoken advocates for the abolition of slavery. In 1848, Stanton organized the first women's rights convention in Seneca Falls, New York, and she continued to be a leading voice in the women's suffrage movement.

Other notable female orators of the 19th century include Sojourner Truth, a former slave who became a leading abolitionist and women's rights activist; Susan B. Anthony, who worked tirelessly for the right of women to vote; and Anna Howard Shaw, who was the first woman to preach from a Methodist pulpit.

The 20th Century

The 20th century saw even more women entering the public sphere, and many of them used their voices to champion important causes. Florence Kelley was a leading advocate for labor reform, and she helped to establish the National Consumers League. Jane Addams was a social reformer who founded Hull House, a settlement house in Chicago that provided services to the poor and marginalized.

Eleanor Roosevelt was the wife of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, and she was a tireless advocate for human rights and social justice. She served as a delegate to the United Nations, and she was instrumental in the drafting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The 21st Century

In the 21st century, women continue to make their voices heard on a wide range of issues. Hillary Clinton was the first woman to be nominated for president by a major political party, and she has continued to be a vocal advocate for women's rights and social justice.

Michelle Obama is another influential female orator, and she has used her platform as First Lady to speak out on issues such as education, health care, and women's empowerment.

The women who have spoken out in public throughout American history have made a significant impact on the country's political, social, and cultural landscape. They have challenged the status quo, inspired change, and made a difference in the lives of countless people.

The legacy of these women is a reminder that all voices deserve to be heard, and that women have always played a vital role in shaping the future

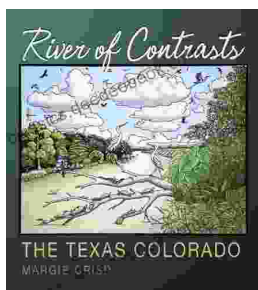
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