Feminist Perspectives on The Family

Intro/ general points

Gender is socially constructed

Feminism started as a criticism of gender roles

Solutions

Soft - pay women for childcare and domestic work

Hard - abolition of capitalism

Social policies have made families more equal

We should work within the system to bring about greater equality

Eg more flexible hours for single mothers

Nuclear family no longer patriarchal

Liberal

March of progress view of family life

Socialised women into subservience

Criticised nuclear family in 1950s

Taught the housewife role as the only option

Gender is socially constructed

Socialised women into subservience

They perpetuated patriarchy through the public private divide

Women reproduce the next gen of workers through unpaid domestic labour

Hard work has not been liberating for most women

Eg more flexible hours for single mothers

Women are a reserve army of labour

The traditional nuclear family is the key institution which allows patriarchy to continue

Nuclear family no longer patriarchal

Women absorb anger - they are the takers of shit

Women's subordination performs functions for capitalism

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Radical

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Hard - political lesbianism and separatism

Moderate - avoid traditional family relationships

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