



The War Against Reality

The Scope and Nature of the Sexual Revolution

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Lies About Liberty

The Devil uses our good and proper desire to be free from injustice and oppression and through deception encourages us to act on our sinful, prideful desire to be our own gods and masters.



The Strategy

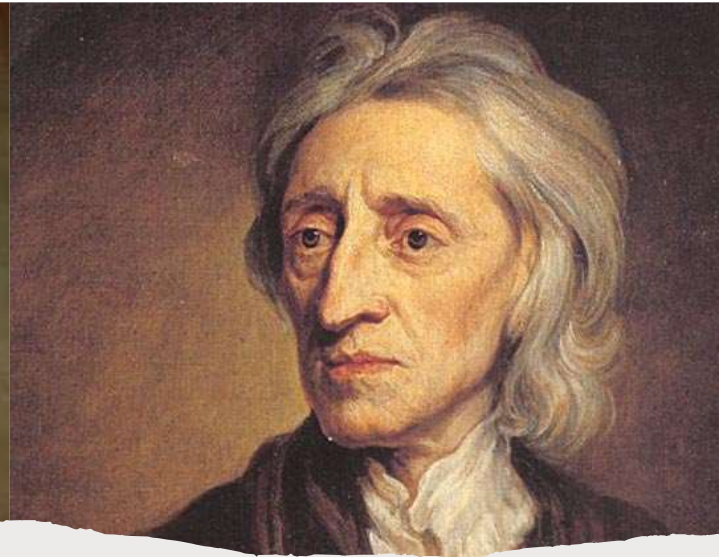
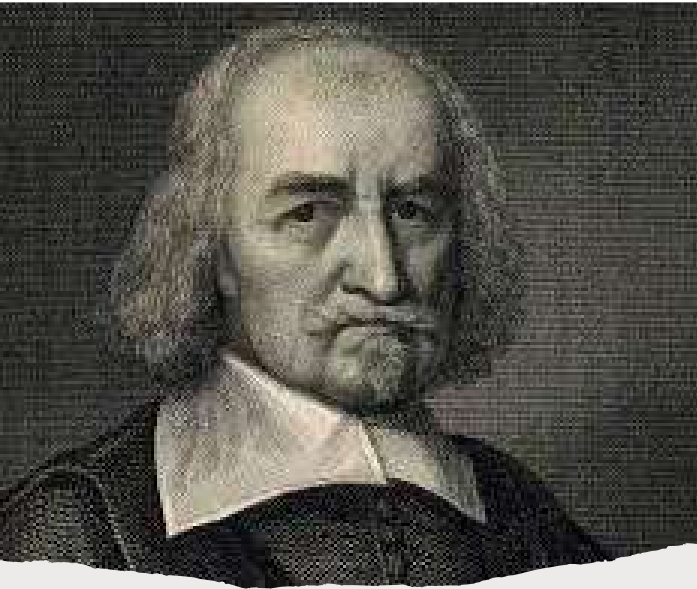
Obscure the way we think about human identity and our place in the world

- Change the way we think about what it means to be human

Redefine the way that we understand freedom and liberty

Then he will be able to paint legitimate authorities and proper restraints in our lives as evil enslavers, rather than the freedom giving entities that they are, as well as label real oppressors as givers of freedom.





Social Contract Theory

- Enlightenment thinkers such as Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, and Jean-Jacques Rousseau postulated that man's original state is one of complete individualism, and that we only enter into relationship with others based on voluntary contracts.
- Changed the way we think about governments and institutional religion, as well as family.

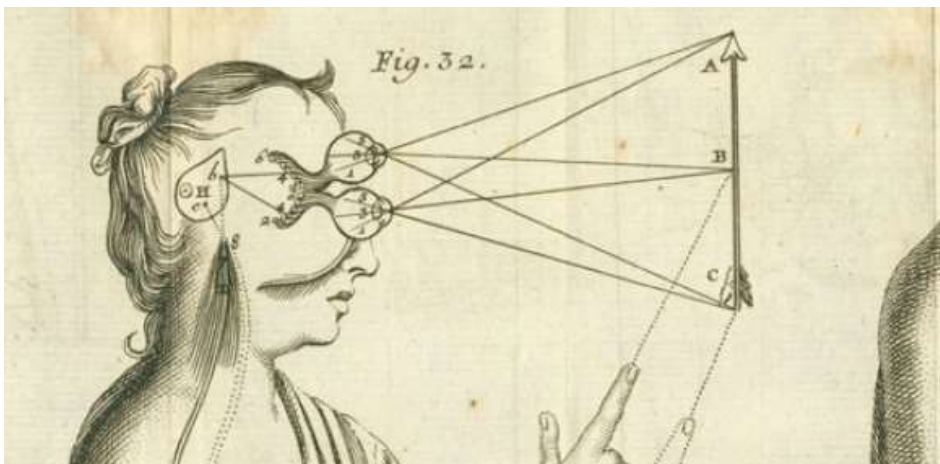
A New Understanding of Freedom

For Medieval man, freedom was the ability to do good by controlling the animalistic desires and living according to our nature as children of God. For Modern man, freedom is the ability to act out every animalistic desire we may have.

- “The greatest freedom and greatest unity among men will come from giving full reign to the passions, especially passionate attraction.” – Charles Fourier



A New Understanding of Ourselves



- Cartesian Dualism split the “mind” and “body,” and granted priority to the mind. (Spirit / Will)
- Enlightenment nominalism denied that the material world had any essential meaning at all. Nothing has a nature to which it must conform in order to flourish. Rather, matter is just raw material to be used according to our will.

Female
Empowerment?





Mary Wollstonecraft

A Vindication of the Rights of Women (1792)



William Godwin

Anarchist who believed marriage unnaturally enslaved male sexuality and unjustly made women the “possession” of men.





Percy Shelley

- One of the most famous poets of Romanticism
- avowed atheist anarchist and free love advocate
- Married William Godwin and Mary Wollstonecraft's daughter Mary (author of *Frankenstein*)
- Saw sex distinctions as "detestable" things that "would surely be abolished in a future state of being."



Fall of Man or a Heroic Revolution?

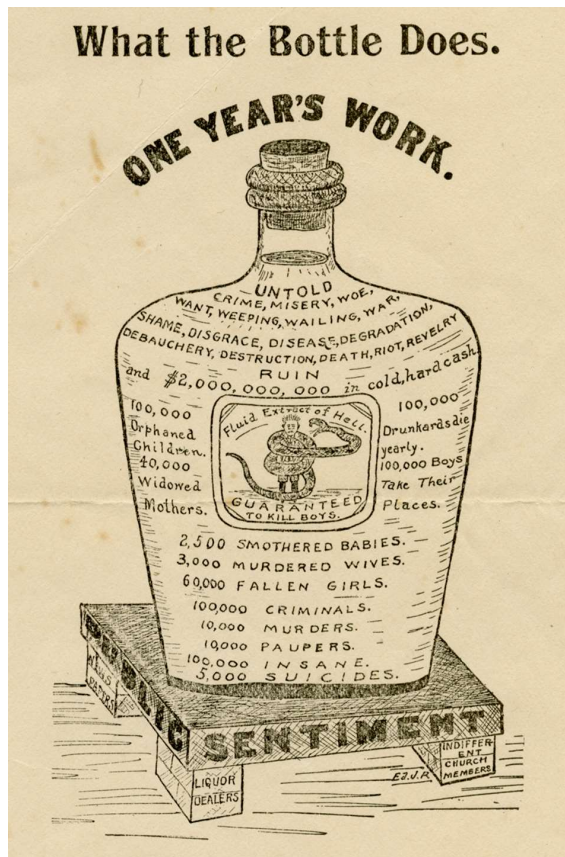
Godwin, Shelley, and innumerable revolutionaries since have interpreted Satan as the hero of John Milton's epic poem *Paradise Lost*.

- "Nothing can exceed the grandeur and the energy of the character of the Devil as expressed in *Paradise Lost*"

Religious Life in the early 19th Century

- Elites went for rationalistic Christian heresies such as Unitarianism and Deism
 - A more “positive” faith suited for an age of “progress”
- Lower classes went for revivalism
 - Emotional, experiential
 - Second Great Awakening led by ecstatic camp meetings





The Need for Reform - Or More Revolution?

By the mid 19th century American was far less Christian than the early Puritans would have hoped.

- consumerism - the traditional Christian teaching against greed and avarice had fallen by the wayside
- alcoholism - average person over 14 was drinking 7 gallons of pure alcohol a year,
- sexual debauchery - brothels everywhere; 20,000 prostitutes in NYC alone
- Slavery, and racism in general, continued to be a major issue

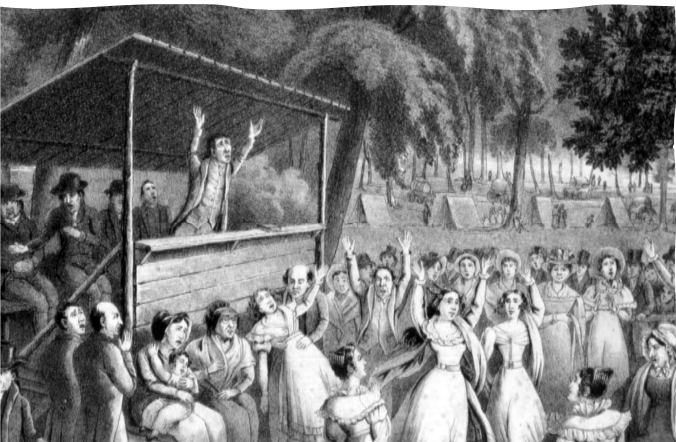
The result is a sense of injustice against many that needed to be addressed.



The Burned Over District

Area of upstate New York named for the number of spiritual revivals that caught fire and burned there.

- Charles Grandison Finney
- The Fox Sisters
- The Oneida Community (John Humphrey Noyes)
- Mormonism (Joseph Smith)
- Millerites and other Adventist Groups, including several groups of Shakers



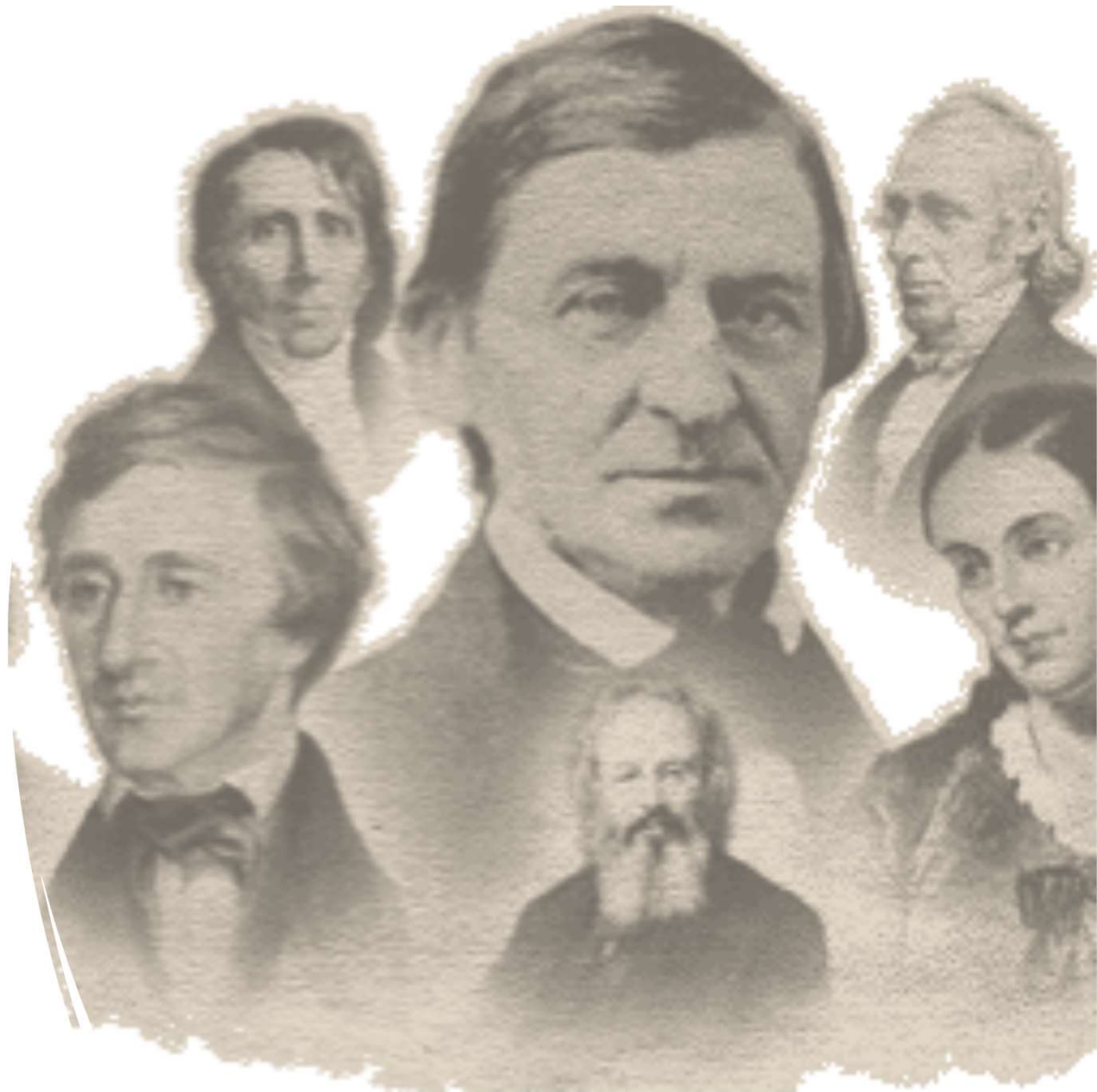
Oneida Community

- Perfectionist commune that made famous the term “free love”
 - any member of the cult was free to have sexual relations with any other consenting member – called it “complex marriage”
- Started a proto-eugenics program designed to create better children
- Separated children from parents and gave women a different role in society (more involved in business, leadership)



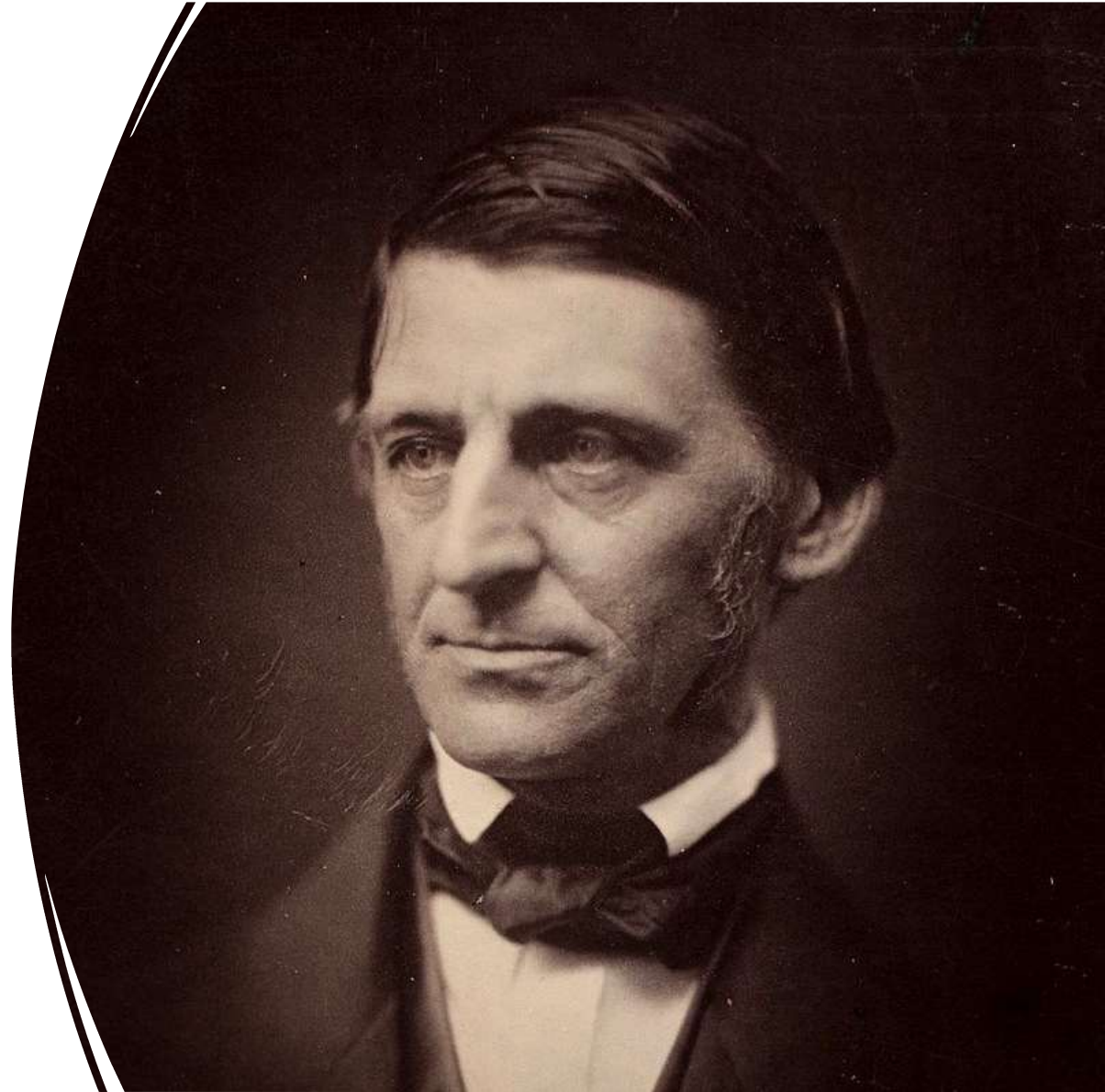
The Transcendentalists

- Ralph Waldo Emerson, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Henry David Thoreau, Bronson Alcott, Margaret Fuller
- Rejected orthodoxy and tradition of any kind – the self was free of any external restraint or law – no traditions at all should be trusted or followed
- The beginnings of new-age occultism in the US



Ralph Waldo Emerson

- essayist, lecturer, philosopher, abolitionist and poet
- gave a speech in 1837 called “The American Scholar” which called for unfettered liberty from any previous tradition – an American “intellectual declaration of independence”
- Utopian individualist



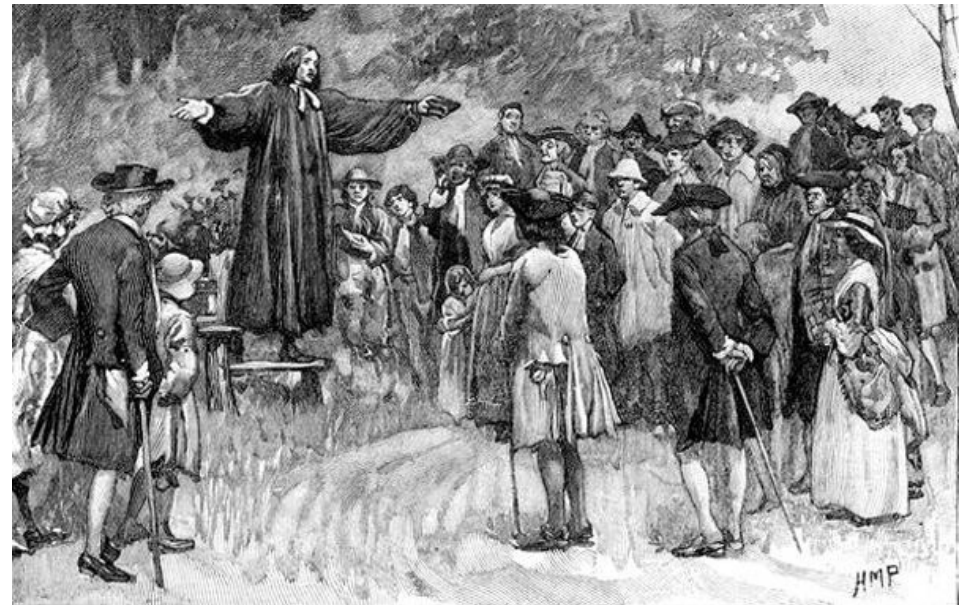
Margaret Fuller

- A transcendentalist and Intellectual elitist - her book *Women in the Nineteenth Century* is credited with sparking the suffrage movement, inspiring Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony
- One of the first to argue that gender categories should be abolished completely (because nobody was truly male or female - we are all part of the oneness)



More Utopian Experiments

- A rising confidence that mankind was perfectible through communal living. Some American experiments inspired Marx and Engels when writing The Communist Manifesto
- Brook Farm, West Roxbury, MA
 - Men and women performed non-traditional roles
- New Harmony, Indiana (Robert Owen)
 - A medium who supposedly contacted the spirits of Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson





Fox Sisters

- three sisters from Rochester, NY who played an important role in the creation of Spiritualism
- After claiming to commune with spirits through “rappings” they became famous mediums, hosting paid events around the country
- Confessed to being con-artists, but then recanted the confession



Elizabeth Cady Stanton

- main force behind the Seneca Falls Convention, the first women's rights conference, as well as the author of its *Declaration of Sentiments*
- heavily involved in spiritualism and worked for the express secularization of the country through an organization called the "Free Religion" advocates
- Used a spirit table and heard rapping in her home to inspire the Declaration
- Just like the founders sought to impeach King George, these women sought to impeach their husbands, fathers, and brothers

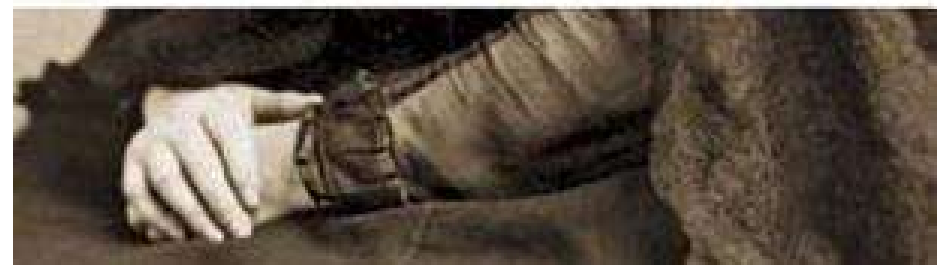
The Women's Bible

- Stanton and some friends wrote a new version of the Bible, one that turned the traditional story on its head and made Satan the hero
- influenced by Theosophy, a movement that combined spiritualism, with its occultism, and various traditions from around the world.



THE WOMAN'S BIBLE

ELIZABETH CADY STANTON



Theosophy

- a movement that combined spiritualism, with its occultism, and various traditions from around the world
- invented by a Satanist women from Russia named Helena Petrovna Blavatsky (published the journal *Lucifer*)
- Blamed the Bible for the patriarchy abusing women. Very anti-Christian.
- Theosophists advocated for legalization of prostitution, eugenics, sterilization, socialism, and a secular state.





Victoria Woodhull

- Known as Mrs. Satan
- Spiritualist, free love advocate
- First woman to run for president
- With her sister, Tennessee Claflin, became the first women to operate a Wall Street Brokerage firm after forming a “relationship” with Cornelius Vanderbilt
- Started a newspaper - *Woodhull and Claflin's Weekly* - that was the first to print in English Karl Marx's Communist Manifesto. It also advocated for the legalization of prostitution

Matilda Joselyn Gage

- Helped write *The Women's Bible*, and then wrote her own book *Women, Church, and State* in 1893
- A devoted theosophist and occultist who advocated for the cultural acceptance of witches





20th Century Witchcraft

- Wicca
- 1960s and 70s feminism was highly spiritual, making use of new age practices such as “consciousness raising” sessions and various occultic rituals
- Pop culture has been attempting to redeem the image of witches for decades, From *Samantha* to *Wicked* to every recent Disney release.