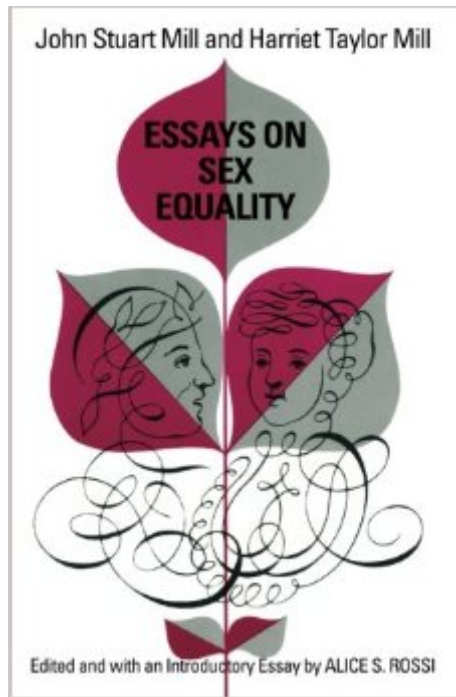


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# Essays On Sex Equality



## Synopsis

This volume brings together for the first time all the writings of John Stuart Mill and Harriet Taylor Mill on equality between the sexes, including John Stuart Mill's *The Subjection of Women*, a classic in the history of the women's rights movement since its publication one hundred years ago. Also contained in this volume is a major interpretative essay by Alice S. Rossi on Mill and Harriet Taylor which describes and analyzes their long personal and intellectual relationship.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This was an assigned textbook for an undergraduate class on History of Modern Intellectual Europe at a state university. The book is mainly essays by John Stuart Mill, a very difficult writer, with convoluted sentences that do not hold together even when I try to read it several times. The book has a section of Early Essays on Marriage and Divorce by John Stuart Mill and his wife Harriet Hardy Taylor, plus an essay titled "Enfranchisement of Women" by Harriet Hardy Taylor, and the very long and famous essay *The Subjection of Women* by John Stuart Mill, plus a very long, long essay by Alice S. Rossi, *Sentiment and Intellect: The Story of John Stuart Mill and Harriet Taylor Mill*. I can only say the obvious about this book: a Victorian Era analysis and defense of the equality of women in terms of professions, laws, freedom to marry and divorce and a rejection of women as chattel to be used as birthing machines and unpaid household slaves. It is an old argument and it is still being argued, though much of what the Mills complained about has come to pass: easy divorce, professional women in all walks of life, even some professions that would astonish J.S. Mill. How would Mill feel about a woman in combat or as a professional boxer? I do not think he would object

to a woman pilot or astronaut, but as a warrior he might be hesitant. He did mention rulers who were women and some mentions of s, but I've forgotten much of the book. He was unusual in arguing as a man for the emancipation of women and stating a woman has the right to pursue any profession she wanted. He had in mind a businesswoman and politician, and he had no problem with as members of Parliament -- there were none then, but now that is commonplace.

John Stuart Mill (1806-1873) was a British philosopher, economist, and Member of Parliament. Harriet Taylor Mill (1807-1858) was also a philosopher and women's rights advocate; Mill was her second husband, and she was a major influence on Mill's works (and so acknowledged by Mill) such as *On Liberty*. Here are some quotations from the collection of their writings: "...a married woman is presumed to be a useful member of society unless there is evidence to the contrary; a single woman must establish what very few other women or men ever do establish, an INDIVIDUAL claim." (JSM)(Pg. 73) "The question is not what marriage ought to be, but a far wider question, what woman ought to be." (JSM)(Pg. 73) "If nature has not made men and women unequal, still less ought the law to make them so." (JSM)(Pg. 73) "When, however, we ask why the existence of one-half the species should be merely ancillary to that of the other---why each woman should be a mere appendage to a man, allowed to have no interests of her own, that there may be nothing to compete in her mind with his interests and his pleasure; the only reason which can be given is, that men like it." (HTM)(Pg. 107) "The mental companionship which is improving, is communion between active minds, not mere contact between an active mind and a passive. This inestimable advantage is even now enjoyed, when a strong-minded man and a strong-minded woman are, by a rare chance, united: and would be had far oftener, if education took the same pains to form strong-minded women which it takes to prevent them from being formed." (HTM)(Pg.

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