



## The War on American Boys The Feminist Assault on Males

Though it has a decidedly negative connotation, the adage *Boys will be Boys* has a deeper significance. There are identifiable forces in this country with a dark agenda that have been doing everything in their power to prevent little boys from doing what their male nature requires so that they can mature into moral and ethical young men. This dark agenda has evolved into a full-fledged *war on boys* that bodes poorly for America's future.

### The Trouble with Boys

According to education journalist Peg Tyre's 2008 book, *The Trouble with Boys*, is that they are being poorly served by America's schools. Under the guise of helping girls, many schools have adopted policies that penalize boys, often for simply being boys.

According to Tyre, ideology is the reason schools are failing to educate young boys. She argues that while boys admittedly need assistance in catching up with girls academically and need *love, discipline, respect, and moral guidance, they do not need to be rescued from their masculinity.*

Tyre's book also exposes the feminist doctrine that there is a *girl crisis* in America's schools without descending into the *gender politics* of the 1970s. Many educational psychologists still believe that *schools shortchange girls, calling it a kind of psychological foot-binding.* Among leftist female educators, *the tragic fate of girls in 'our sexist society' still remained the dominant motif.*

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) has increased the propaganda that most girls *emerge from adolescence with a poor self-image.* They have skillfully extended their disingenuous media campaign to spread their false gospel that the victimization of American girls is *an unacknowledged American tragedy.* Newspapers and magazines around the country eagerly carried their bleak tidings that girls were being adversely affected by a gender bias that eroded their self-esteem.

There is unsurprisingly little evidence to support their description of America's teenage girls as silenced, tortured, voiceless, and otherwise personally diminished, proving that this is a self-manufactured crisis that the American left has employed to weaken young boys and deprive America of its future vitality.

### More Girl-Friendly

Some scholars, notably Christina Hoff Sommers, a fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, charge that it is *misguided feminism* that has been hurting boys. She contends that girls not only get better grades but also have higher aspirations. Sommers points out that in recent years, girls have outnumbered boys in advanced-placement programs, in all extracurricular activities except sports, and even in most high-level math and science courses.

Sommers reminds Americans that their schools are an *inhospitable, hostile environment for boys, where their natural propensities for rough and tumble play, competition, aggression, and rambunctious violence are cast as social problems in the making.*

She sensed that something had changed in the culture that was causing boys to fall behind. Sommers concluded in her 2000 bestseller, *The War Against Boys*, that it was feminist complaints about girls *losing their voice* in a male-oriented classroom that have prompted the educational establishment to make their schools more girl-friendly, most often to the detriment of boys.

In the elementary grades, her data illustrates that boys are left back at twice the rate of girls. They are diagnosed as having more learning problems and attention issues. They get more C's and D's. They get lower grades on standardized tests of reading and writing, and have lower class rank and earn fewer honors than girls.

Consequently they drop out of school, are diagnosed as emotionally disturbed, and commit suicide four times more often than girls. They commit murder 10 times more frequently and are fifteen times more likely to be the victims of a violent crime than girls. Boys are six times more likely to be diagnosed with Attention Deficit Disorder. (ADD)

### Gender Reformers

The dire straits of boys is not due to just to a *misguided feminism.* In their zero sum game of expectations, liberal educators believe that the only way for girls to prosper is for boys to decline. This feminist doctrine has given rise to an array of laws and policies intended to buttress feminist ideology to the disadvantage of boys' natural abilities, in order to redress the alleged harm done to girls.

As dedicated Marxist social engineers, radical feminists believe that boys and girls are nothing more than fungible cogs in the government's machinery. Their goal is to turn active boys into passive men. To support their agenda they describe *boys as tragically disconnected from their feelings, emotionally isolated, enslaved by the rigid codes of manhood and only a few degrees removed from the Columbine killers.*

Boys have always been boys, but the expectations for how they're supposed to act and learn in school have changed. To remedy this unwanted situation, gender reformers will not stop until they make America a unisex nation where there is virtually no distinction between the sexes.

These "reformers" encourage boys to play with Barbies and paint their toenails instead of playing with trucks or just rolling in the mud. The reformers take great pains, including the banning of recess, to thwart the natural propensity of boys to run and jump. To achieve their androgynous utopia, radical educators are willing to pathologize normal boyhood and warp the true nature of boys. Without a natural outlet to expel their excess energy, boys become fidgety and even unruly in their classrooms, leading to erroneous diagnoses of ADD.

As Sommers understands it, the problem is that boys are inherently different from girls. She quotes radical feminists as saying that *we have to raise boys like we raise girls.* In other words they must diminish their masculinity. Boys simply *don't want to be girls.* They are not fungible or interchangeable as radical feminists orthodoxy holds. God created male and female as distinctive beings with complementary differences. This is the essence of Pope John Paul II's Theology of the Body.

### A Crime Against Humanity

The envious resentment that radical feminists feel against boys is near universal. According to University of Cincinnati Professor Patricia O'Reilly, *It is really clear that boys are Number One in this society and in most of the world.* The arrogance of these modern educators is so overwhelming that they want to rewrite several thousand years of ontological and biological history. Some of them describe the birth of a baby boy as a *crime against humanity.* They believe girls have suffered in a misogynistic American past and it is primarily the fault of the American male, including its young boys.

The feminists have stood educational patriarch John Dewey on his progressive head. Dewey believed that children should be allowed the freedom to develop naturally, without much adult interference. Feminists take the other extreme in laboring to micromanage the development of boys and girls so that there are few, if any distinctions.

Their catechism is based on their simple belief that *girls were good and boys were bad.* The prevailing view in American education over the past few decades is that boys must be resented as the unfairly privileged sex and as obstacles on the path to *gender justice* for girls. The triumphant victory of the U.S. women's soccer team at the World Cup in the summer of 1999 has come to symbolize the spirit of American girls. Many feminists believe that the shootings at Columbine High that prior spring symbolized the true "spirit" of American boys.

### Boomerang Sons

Female academic prejudice against young boys has had serious consequences for boys as they attempt to grow into men. In her 2011 book *Manning Up: How the Rise of Women has Turned Men Into Boys*, Kay Hymowitz underscores in great detail how women's educational advancements and career achievements have turned men in their 20s and early 30s into *child-men*. Many heroic psychologists say this has caused many young men to suffer from a perpetual adolescence or what many call *arrested development*.

Female favoritism has so feminized boys that the rowdy boy has become a sullen teen and an emotionally disturbed man. As a class, countless young men have become passive, quiet, and unsure of their sexual identity. Arguably this has led to a higher incidence of boys declaring themselves to be homosexuals.

When coupled with the divorce epidemic and millions of fatherless homes, the deck has been literally stacked against males. These social and educational changes have created a cultural phenomenon, the *boomerang son*. Drove of young men return home after completing their extended education, only to find themselves seriously indebted, working at dead-end jobs or not at all. The security of three meals a day at home with a roof over their heads is very appealing.

A growing number of these young men have become mired in a state of *permanent adolescence*. Historically, single men, such as these, have never been civilization's most responsible actors. They become more troubled and less successful than men who deliberately choose to become husbands and fathers. Depression reigns and some even become suicidal or waste their days, playing video games, listening to rap music and drinking heavily. As they sink deeper into a slough of emotional dependency and self-pity, they surrender their roles as America's future leaders and family stalwarts.

### The Playing Fields of America

One place where men have historically been able to practice their special male traits and skills has been the playing fields. Competitive games and sports have historically been the male's sole bailiwick. Consequentially sports have long been in the feminist crosshairs. The 1972 federal law Title IX mandated schools to provide equal opportunities for girls in the classroom and on the playing field. Since then Title IX has seriously restricted the opportunities for boys and young men to participate in competitive athletics, especially on the collegiate level.

Since 1972 billions of dollars have been funneled into this derivative of affirmative action. Non-revenue sports for men such as gymnastics, tennis, wrestling, track and swimming were eliminated to maintain a gender balance. The fact that the majority of girls have higher priorities than sports and don't require that kind of false equality only acerbated the abject idiocy of the law.

How potentially devastating is this social engineering experiment to the future of American exceptionalism? When asked how he won the Battle of Waterloo in 1814, the Duke of Wellington said

it had been won *on the playing fields of Eton*. That aphorism might have easily been applied to the playing fields of America until 1965.

To limit or eliminate America's sports for boys is another giant step in the undermining America. Without definite male leadership the country becomes more vulnerable to its political and military enemies. Eventually the ramifications of these policies will possibly create a sonic boom, not only in the corridors of the Pentagon but wherever the American military is stationed.

### Emotional Child Abuse

Sex education for children as young as five is just another attempt of the radical left to rob children of their modesty, innocence and self-respect. Sex education can be devastating on boys who can quickly become susceptible to the seductive teachings that disarm their natural moral sense. Exposing them to graphic pictures and illustrations years before their readiness is emotional child abuse.

This liberal sword also has a double edge. The minute boys show the slightest bit of sexual expression or play, the feminist blade cuts swiftly. Sommers recounts the case of a nine-year-old boy who drew a picture of a nude woman in art class, after a visit to the National Gallery of Art. He then rubbed up against a girl in the cafeteria line. The boy was arrested, handcuffed, fingerprinted, and charged with *aggravated sexual battery*.

Young boys are also the targets of an increasing number of pederasts, that is, sexual predators who exclusively seek carnal relationships with boys. The clerical scandal that has rocked the Catholic Church is just the tip of the American iceberg. Predators have been discovered on several secular college campuses and lurk anywhere young boys can be found.

The North American Man/Boy Love Association (NAMBLA) is a pederast advocacy society that wants to abolish age of consent laws which criminalizes adult sexual involvement with minors. Because its deviant philosophy is consistent with the ideas of Alfred Kinsey, the reputed creator of American sexual mores, NAMBLA has enjoyed a legitimate status in American culture to the detriment of young boys.

### A Band of Brothers

Many critics including Christine Sommers fail to see the deep-seated agenda that harkens back to the library stacks of Berlin and the prison cells of Ustica. The *war on boys* is not accidental. It is a subspecies of the Gramscian

strategy to destroy Western Civilization through the *band that rocks the American cradle*.

There is always hope, no matter how bleak the situation may be. Many young boys have been able to avoid the pedagogical and moral snares of the feminist movement that has permeated American culture. In many areas of this country, the belief still rings true that boys and girls are complementary genders and each has his or her God-ordained role in society. Most Catholic grade schools still believe that boys will not only be boys but will become good men one day. Youth groups, such as the Boys Scouts of America and others still rely on the Christian virtues of faith, hope and charity.

A recent article in a Catholic newspaper reported a perfect example of personified hope. In the *St. Louis Review* Lisa Johnson profiled seven young men who were able to avoid the *feminist plot* by joining the Boy Scouts while in elementary school. The seven had made an *unofficial pact* with each other in their early years to achieve the Eagle Scout rank, the highest rank in Scouting.

Theirs was a rigorous process that required public service, self-discipline, and charity in order to earn the required 21 merit badges. As Johnson reported, what makes their story unique is that they all *stuck together, encouraging each other to get to the finish line*. Scouting also gave them confidence in their ability to succeed.

Now in five different Catholic high schools, this veritable *Band of Brothers*, like most Scouts, have an abiding religious faith they practice daily. All of them are regular churchgoers who are engaged in their local communities. They all pray at meetings and before meals. Each one comes from a strong religious family whose constant support made the Eagle Scout award possible.

There is little wonder why radical feminism fears the traditional family and organizations like the Boy Scouts as serious obstacles to their anti-American agenda. Americans must never forget that the left's total *war on boys* is little more than a sortie in its larger war on men, family and the United States of America.

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