

ABSTRACT

TWENTIETH-CENTURY CUBAN FEMINISM AND MOTHERHOOD

This study analyzes twentieth-century Cuban feminist movements through the lens of motherhood. Although ideologically based in socialist Marxism, the Cuban feminist movement between 1902 and 1940 was significantly different than the women's movement following the Revolution of 1959. A top-down analysis of prerevolutionary radical feminist intellectuals, such as Mariblanca Sabas Aloma, shows that the prerevolutionary feminist model depended on motherhood as the vehicle for women's progress. Following the Revolution of 1959, Fidel Castro and the Federation of Cuban Women president, Vilma Espin, attempted to institutionalize revolutionary motherhood. Consequently, the means for women's progress on which prerevolutionary feminists had relied was appropriated by the revolutionary state. This thesis examines the differing ways in which motherhood was used by both prerevolutionary feminists and revolutionaries to dictate how women's progress would materialize.

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