

CURRENT HISTORY

FOUNDED IN 1914

MARCH 2006

VOL. 105, NO. 689

Editor

WILLIAM W. FINAN JR.

Associate Editor

ALAN T. SORENSEN

Production Editor

JENNICA A. MUSSELMAN

Editorial Intern

DANIEL T. BOLGER

Contributing Editors

BRUCE CUMINGS

University of Chicago

DAVID B. H. DENOON

New York University

LARRY DIAMOND

Hoover Institution

BARRY EICHENGREEN

University of California, Berkeley

RICHARD FALK

Princeton University

SUMIT GANGULY

Indiana University

MARSHALL I. GOLDMAN

Wellesley College

JEFFREY HERBST

Princeton University

G. JOHN IKENBERRY

Princeton University

MICHAEL T. KLARE

Hampshire College

JOSHUA KURLANTZICK

The New Republic

PAULINE JONES LUONG

Brown University

MICHAEL MCFAY

Stanford University

RAJAN MENON

Lehigh University

AUGUSTUS RICHARD NORTON

Boston University

PETER ROSENBLUM

Columbia Law School

DAVID SHAMBAUGH

George Washington University

MICHAEL SHIFTER

Inter-American Dialogue

JESSICA STERN

Harvard University

ARTURO VALENZUELA

Georgetown University

JEFFREY WASSERSTROM

Indiana University

President and Publisher

DANIEL MARK REDMOND

DANIEL G. REDMOND
Editor and Publisher, 1943–1955

DANIEL G. REDMOND JR.
Publisher, 1955–1988

EDITOR'S NOTE

As we were completing work on this special issue, two women died who had long been associated with both women's and civil rights. One, Coretta Scott King, the widow of Martin Luther King, was seen as the living link with her husband's quest to bring real equality to black America. The other, Betty Friedan, wrote *The Feminine Mystique*, the 1963 revolutionary work that helped spark the modern feminist movement in the United States.

King brought attention to and championed women whom many believed Friedan had ignored or initially slighted in her work. But Friedan's book catalyzed a sequence of political actions that saw women given the opportunity to be judged on the content of their character, and not their sex.

Friedan, who also helped found the National Organization for Women, gave new life to the idea that women—all women, of all races and classes—should have equal standing with men when it comes to work, education, and marriage. This concept has since become a modernizing force throughout the developed and developing world. In both of those worlds it also has run up against a fundamentalist backlash. Kavita Ramdas takes on this topic directly in her opening essay. The message she delivers, along with that of most of the other authors in this issue, is an optimistic assessment of what women can do and have done to counter the forces of regression and inertia to see that the age-old "woman question" becomes an antique concern.

Current History (ISSN 0011-3530) is published monthly (except June, July, and August) by Current History, Inc., 4225 Main Street, Philadelphia, PA 19127. Copyright ©2006 by Current History, Inc. Current History® and History in the Making® are registered trademarks. Periodicals postage paid at Phila., PA, and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: send address changes to Current History, 4225 Main Street, Philadelphia, PA 19127. Annual individual subscription rate: \$35.00. Foreign: \$45.95; Canada: \$45.95 (GST included). Canadian BN #13244 6592 RT. Institutional rate: \$49. Indexed in *The Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature*, *The Abridged Reader's Guide*, *Book Review Index (BRI)*, *ABC POL SCI*, *PAIS*, *SSCI*, *Current Contents*, *Historical Abstracts*, *Academic Index*, *Magazine Index*, *Magazine Articles Summaries*, and *America: History and Life*. Indexed on-line by *DIALOG*, *BRS*, and *Information Access Magazine Index*. Electronic full text available by subscription from Current History, OCLC, and Ebsco Online. Microfilm: University Microfilms, Ann Arbor, MI. Requests to photocopy should be sent directly to Current History. No responsibility is assumed for the return of unsolicited manuscripts. Book reviews will be considered if accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Customer Service e-mail: curhistpub@aol.com
ADVERTISING SALES: Contact Mark Redmond, Publisher, *Current History*, 1-800-726-4464, 215-482-9923 (fax).

Printed in the United States