Assignment Sheet 7: RADICAL WOMEN OF THE EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY

READING
Woloch: 342-347; 363-379
Ware: 74-92
Handouts: “Radical Women;” Helen Keller on the IWW; Flynn on the Lawrence Strike
Graduate students only: Sklar and Dublin: 127-139; 140-153

NECESSARY BACKGROUND INFORMATION
1. The primary activities of radical groups in the early twentieth century, including those connected to opposition to World War I and the Red Scare after the war.

STUDY QUESTIONS
1. Summarize the main similarities and differences between the beliefs, aims, actions, and impact of each of the following: the Socialist Party, IWW, Helen Keller, Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, Mother Jones, Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Emma Goldman, Crystal Eastman, Woman’s Peace Party, Margaret Sanger.
2. What were the main causes, steps, and results of the textile mill strike in Lawrence, Massachusetts in 1912? Compare the roles played in this strike by the AFL, the WTUL, and the IWW. What special problems did the strikers face and how did they try to deal with them?
3. What contributions did women make to radical organizations that included men and what special problems did they sometimes have in them?
4. What problems did early twentieth century women face concerning birth control; what was done to try to change that; and what were the results of attempts at reform, particularly those of Margaret Sanger?

IDENTIFICATIONS
Industrial Workers of the World (IWW; Wobblies)
Socialist Party
Mother Jones
Elizabeth Gurley Flynn
1912 Lawrence Textile Strike
Charlotte Perkins Gilman
Women and Economics
The Home
Emma Goldman
Crystal Eastman
Woman’s Peace Party
Margaret Sanger
Woman Rebel
Havelock Ellis
National Birth Control League