

A man and a woman according to deresiewicz

[Science](#), [Social Science](#)



Deresiewicz gives references from politics and history. The writer gives an account that in historical times friendship between the opposite sexes was not a norm. It was believed that women are inferior and did not match the standards of men. A friendship between opposite sexes was only seen in a few literary circles. Apart from that amicable relation between men and women was impossible in the West and still is in various cultures. Historical changes appeared when women were portrayed differently.

The writer further investigates the relation between men and women and turns his attention towards feminism. The writer turns to feminism to prove his argument because prior to the advent of feminism women were considered inferior. In the 1890s when the term feminism was made public. The New Woman was a term coined for a reinvented woman who was intelligent, strong-willed, well-read and outspoken. The writer suggests that the new kind of woman is responsible for the companionship and friendship among men and women.

The writer mentions platonic friendship which constitutes of everything except sexual relations. The origin of this word dates back to Plato, who used it to explain the emotion of love with or without the involvement of sex.

Feminists such as Mary Wollstonecraft were not in favor of platonic friendships because they could end up in damage such as sexual relations.