Preface

The Centre for American Studies and the Centre for Women's Studies and Feminist Research, both at the University of Western Ontario, are respectively engaged in the two areas from which the present volume initially drew its major scholarly resources: the study of the United States from a Canadian viewpoint and the study of women's issues. The conference in May 1989 that led to this volume was a product of a collaborative consultation among faculty and students at Western who are associated with these two centres and who do research and teach on aspects of the women's movement in Canada and the United States.

Begun in 1984, the Centre for American Studies is an interdisciplinary working unit of scholars at the University of Western Ontario, primarily in the fields of history, law, business, political science, geography, and economics, who are interested in studying the United States. The Centre for Women's Studies and Feminist Research was established in 1987. Its purpose is to promote scholarly research and teaching in the field of women's studies and feminist research.

The central objective of the present volume is to examine the women's movements in Canada and the United States with a particular emphasis on the last generation, since the movements became highly visible. At the most general level, two questions are explored: what have been the achievements and experiences of the women's movements to date, and what remains to be accomplished?

Reliance on a comparative perspective between Canada and the United States is one attractive and informing aspect of the present
volume, especially since so little comparative work has been done on
the women's movement in general. One way of outlining the volume
intellectually is as an assessment of the similarities and differences
among Canadian and American feminists who live on the North
American continent. It contributes to greater communication between
academic feminists in North America with a direct examination of
commonalities and differences in their respective experiences. As the
following pages demonstrate, contributors from Canada are more
likely than Americans to have knowledge of the development of the
recent women's movement in both countries. This collection of essays
may assist, at least in part, in redressing the balance.

As a joint project of the Centre for Women's Studies and Feminist
Research and the Centre for American Studies, the co-editors are
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