

Name: _____ Date: _____

Women, Caste and Reform

Q1. Why did Phule dedicate his book Gulamgiri to the American movement to free slaves?

Ans. _____

Q2. What did Raja Ram Mohan Roy do to end the practice of sati?

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Q1. Why did Phule dedicate his book Gulamgiri to the American movement to free slaves?

Ans. In 1873, Phule wrote a book named Gulamgiri, meaning slavery. Some ten years before this, the American Civil War had been fought, leading to the end of slavery in America. Phule dedicated his book to all those Americans who had fought to free slaves, thus establishing a link between the conditions of the "lower" castes in India and the black slaves in America. This comparison also had the expression of hope that one day, like the end of slavery in America, there would be an end to all sorts of caste discriminations in Indian Society.

Q2. What did Raja Ram Mohan Roy do to end the practice of sati?

Ans. Rammohun Roy was particularly moved by the problems widows faced in their lives. He began a campaign against the practice of sati. Rammohun Roy was well versed in Sanskrit, Persian and several other Indian and European languages. He tried to show through his writings that the practice of widow burning had no sanction in ancient texts. By the early nineteenth century, many British officials had also begun to criticise Indian traditions and customs. They were therefore more than willing to listen to Rammohun who was reputed to be a learned man. In 1829, sati was banned.