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# ***AHR Forum* The Rise and Fall of an International Counterculture, 1960–1975**

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author describes how she “gradually, without seeing it clearly for quite a while ... came to realize that something is very wrong with the way American women are trying to live their lives today.”<sup>1</sup> Despite the outward appearance of wealth and contentment, Friedan argued that the Cold War was killing happiness. Women, in particular, faced strong public pressures to conform with a family image that emphasized a finely manicured suburban home, pampered children, and an ever-present “housewife heroine.”<sup>2</sup> This was the asserted core of the good American life. This was the cradle of freedom. This was, in the words of Adlai Stevenson, the “assignment” for “wives and mothers”: “Western marriage and motherhood are yet another instance of the emergence of individual...

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