The entry for **feminism** from the Oxford English Dictionary Online:

1. The qualities of females.

   **1851** in **OGILVIE**.

2. [After F. *féminisme*.] Advocacy of the rights of women (based on the theory of equality of the sexes). (Cf. **WOMANISM**.)

   **1895** *Athenæum* 27 Apr. 533/2 Her intellectual evolution and her coquettings with the doctrines of ‘feminism’ are traced with real humour.

   **1908** *Daily Chron.* 7 May 4/7 In Germany feminism is openly Socialistic.

   **1909** *Ibid.* 29 May 4/4 Suffragists, suffragettes, and all the other phases in the crescendo of feminism.


   **1882** *Syd. Soc. Lex.* II, *Feminism*, the qualities of a female. Also Lorain’s term for the arrest of development of the male towards the age of puberty, which gives to it somewhat of the attributes of the female.

   **1945** H. BURROWS *Biol. Actions Sex Hormones* xxiii. 453 The symptoms of adrenal virilism and feminism are caused by an excessive production of androgen or oestrogen by the adrenal.