Time frame

- No reproductive rights, but “voluntary motherhood”
- We need full sexual freedom
Who was she?

- Birth control activist and educator
- Founder of American Birth Control League, which became Planned Parenthood Foundation of America
- Impetus?
  - Large family
  - Witnessed too many botched attempts
What did she do?

- Circulated contraceptive information
- Opened clinic in 1916
- Why did she do this?
  - Women's health & personal freedoms
  - Voluntary motherhood
  - Eugenics
  - Overpopulation
Activism and Work

- Launched “The Woman Rebel” newsletter (1914)
- Started family planning and birth control Clinic (1916)
- Founded American Birth Control league (1921)
- Published Woman and the New Race (1920)
Rationale and Beliefs

“children should be

1. Conceived in love
2. Born of the mother's conscious desire
3. And only begotten under conditions which render possible the heritage of health. Therefore we hold that every woman must possess the power and freedom to prevent conception except when these conditions can be satisfied”

-principles of American birth control League
“Woman and the New Race” (1920)

“Nor have famine and plague been as much ‘acts of God’ as acts of too prolific mothers...causes in overpopulation”

“Through birth control she will attain to voluntary motherhood...the basic freedom of sex, she will cease to enslave herself and the mass of humanity”
Comparison to Sojourner Truth

“Let it be realized that this creation of new sex ideals is a challenge to the church”

-Sanger, Women and the New Race (1920)

“That little man in black there, he says women can't have as much rights as men, 'cause Jesus Christ wasn't a woman! Where did your Christ come from? From God and a woman! Man had nothing to do with Him.”

-Sojourner Truth, Ain’t I a Woman speech (1851)
Criticism

- Criticized for eugenic Beliefs (unfit should not reproduce) and sterilization advocacy

- However, did not advocate racist ideologies and worked with black communities to open clinics
Legacy

- Sanger increased access and the legalization of birth control
- Spread awareness and education of female health and sex pushing for reproductive rights
- Supported research that eventually resulted in oral contraception
- Helped create the International Planned Parenthood Federation
Questions

How does Planned Parenthood benefit women today?

How has control over women’s bodies changed? Are women fully autonomous with their body today?

What effect does birth control have on a woman’s moral development?

What do you think about the pro-life or pro-choice debate?
Sources

Images from Google images -> “Margaret Sanger”


http://time.com/4081760/margaret-sanger-history-eugenics/