

Time Line for Work and Careers Using C.W. Mills "Sociological Imagination"

This exercise serves as basis for class discussion and practice for our first examination

| 1900 | 1920 | 1940 | 1960 | 1980 | 2000 | 2010

a. State the **Social Issues** of the time

b. Name major events & social processes which impact if, how and where we work

c. Check good or bad period to launch a career in this column

= **Private Lives**

I. In the top line, write in a) major social issues and b) historical events for each time period which you think impacted people's opportunities;

II. In the second line (c), add a x or y to the period, indicating whether you think it was a good or bad time to launch a career in US history. Check off the good periods with a Y. Check off the bad periods with an X.

III. In thinking about the relationship between social issues and private lives, incorporate your knowledge of the literature on work by

- 1) referring to **Moen**: does gender make a difference in ability to advance in the workplace? How?
- 2) referring to **Gornick and Myers**: How does US policy differ from other industrial nations' in facilitating or constraining people's ability to effectively combine work and family responsibilities?
- 3) referring to **Thomas Friedman** and the video in which he talks about his book, *The World is Flat*. What is his perspective on global competition?
- 4) referring to **Jeremy Rifkin** (*The End of Work*) -- what does he say about the impact of the changing world economy? Is his perspective different than Friedman's?

IV. Outline your key points on the back of this page.

Go back to the reading you've done and your notes from watching the films in order to critically analyze these diverging arguments.

I will collect this page, give you feedback for the exam -- but it will not be graded.

