

# Abortion and its Multiple Contexts

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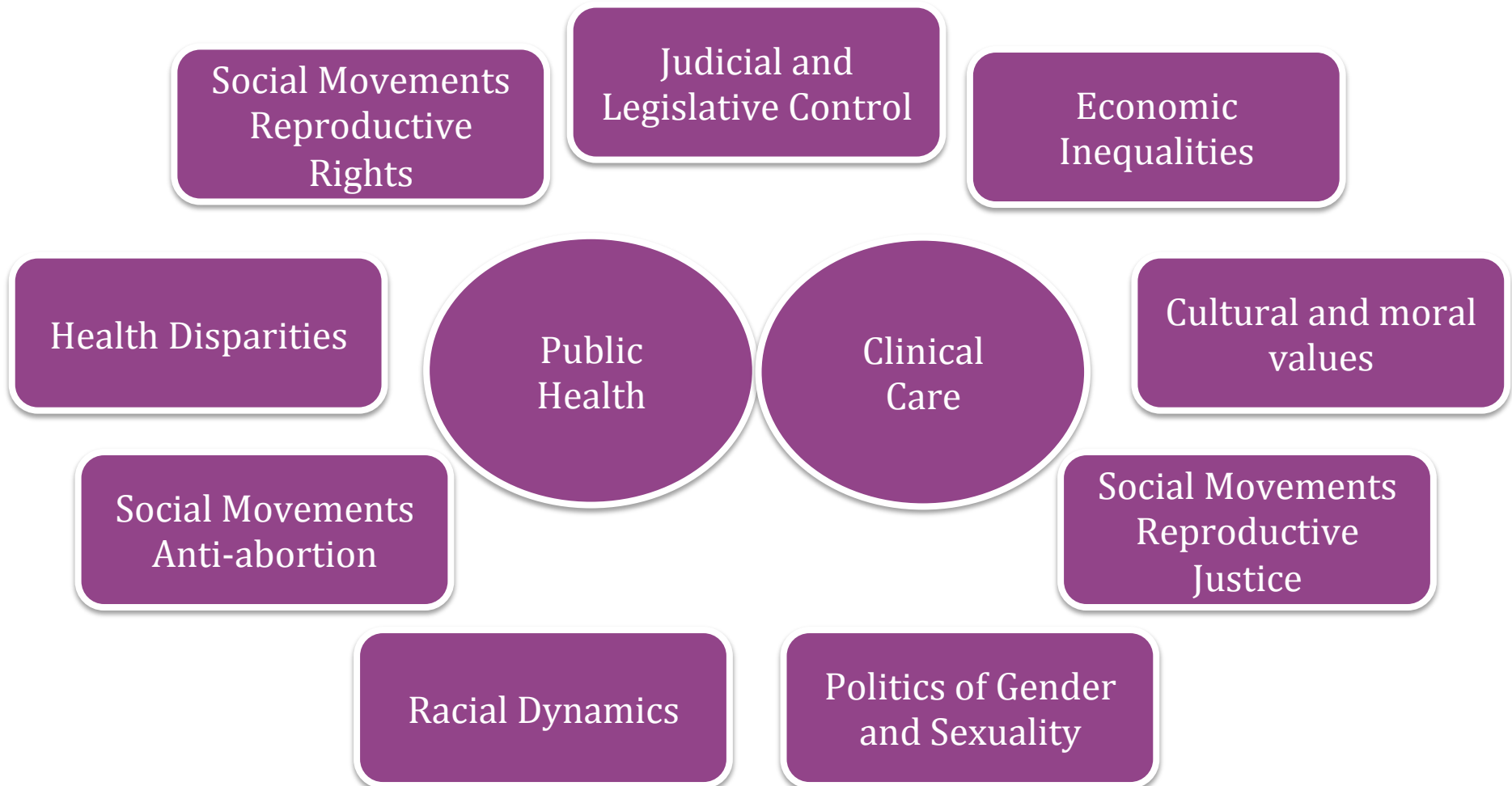
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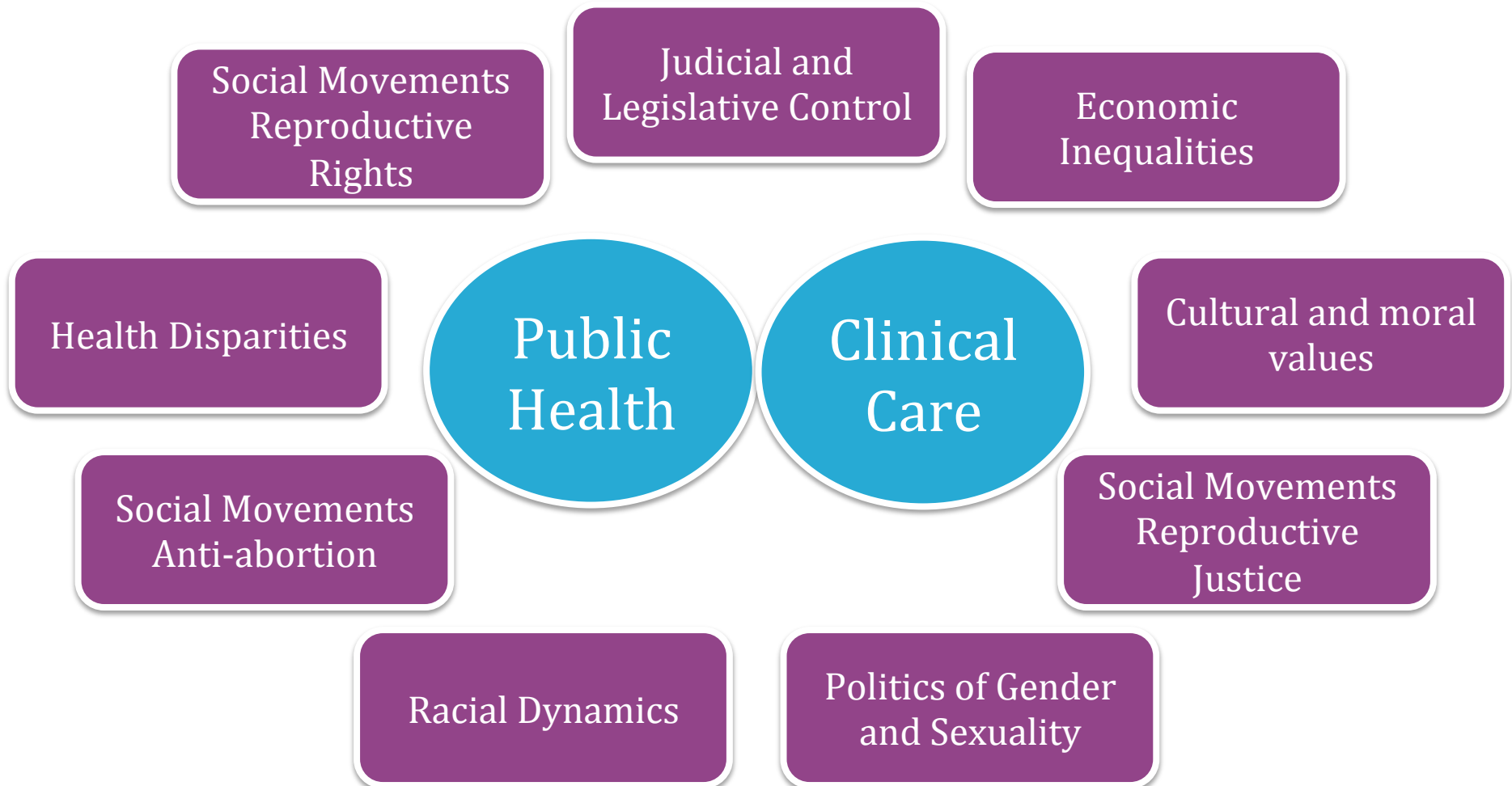
# Reproduction highlights fundamental questions of human experience

- Biological reproduction
- Social reproduction
- Economic inequalities
- Role of government
- Cultural values
- Gender relations and sexuality

# Abortion and its many frameworks



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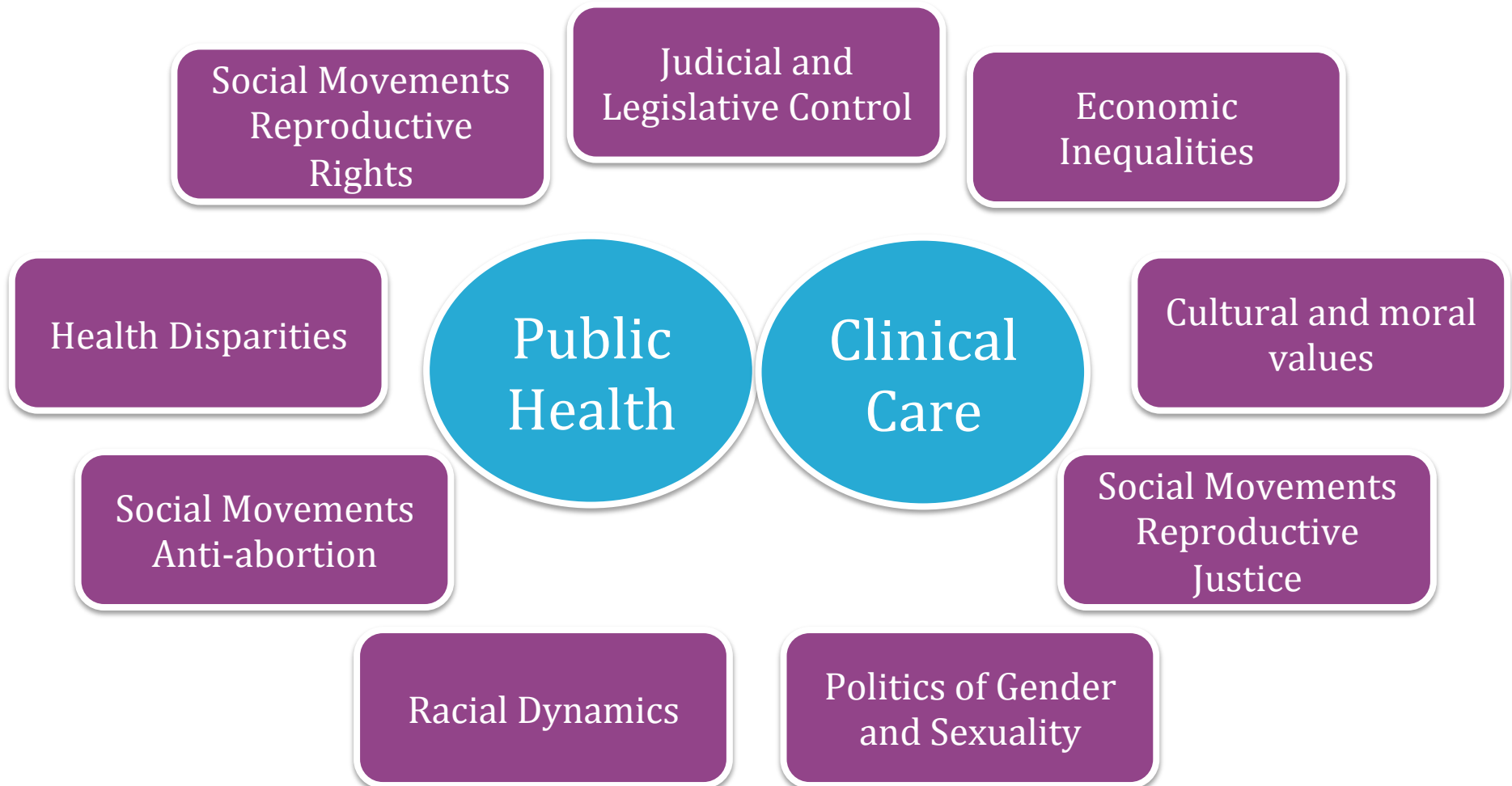
# Clinical Care

- Technical aspects of abortion procedure
  - Safety, efficacy, efficiency, pain control
- Comprehensive care by multi-disciplinary team
  - Emotional needs of the patient

# Public Health

- Prevalence and demographics of abortion
  - Who gets abortions?
- Abortion safety
  - Mortality rates, compared to childbirth
  - Consequences of unsafe abortion

# Abortion and its many frameworks



# Cultural and Moral Frameworks

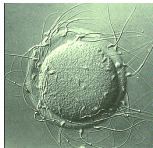
- Shared values- family, society, community
- Personal experiences
- Religious identity
- Scientific knowledge as a cultural value
- Ethical norms



# Cultural and Moral Frameworks

“When does life begin?”

Conception?



Heartbeat?



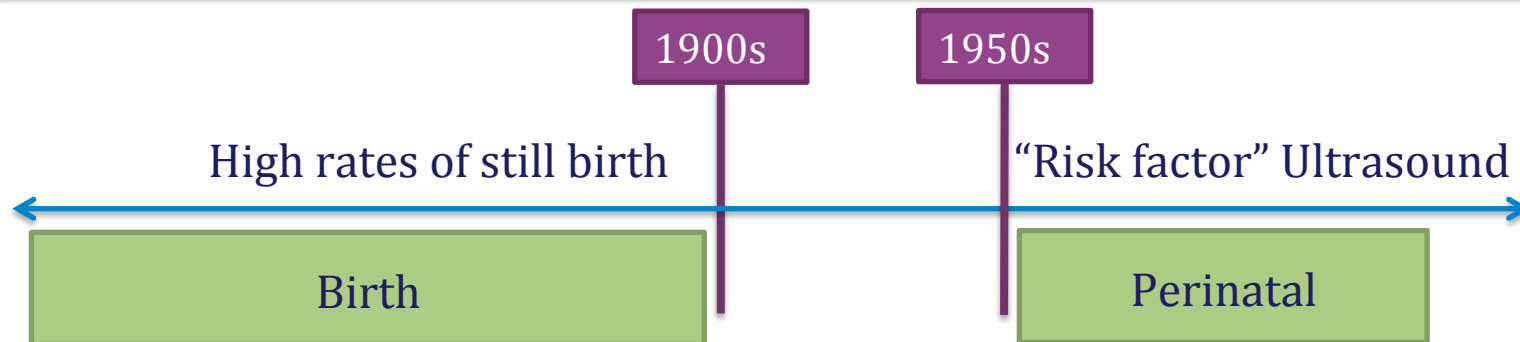
Viable outside the womb?



Quality of life



Cultural History of the “threshold of life”<sup>1,2</sup>



# Judicial and Legislative Control



## Key judicial precedents:

- Roe v. Wade (1973)
- Planned Parenthood v. Casey (1992)

# Legal ≠ Accessible

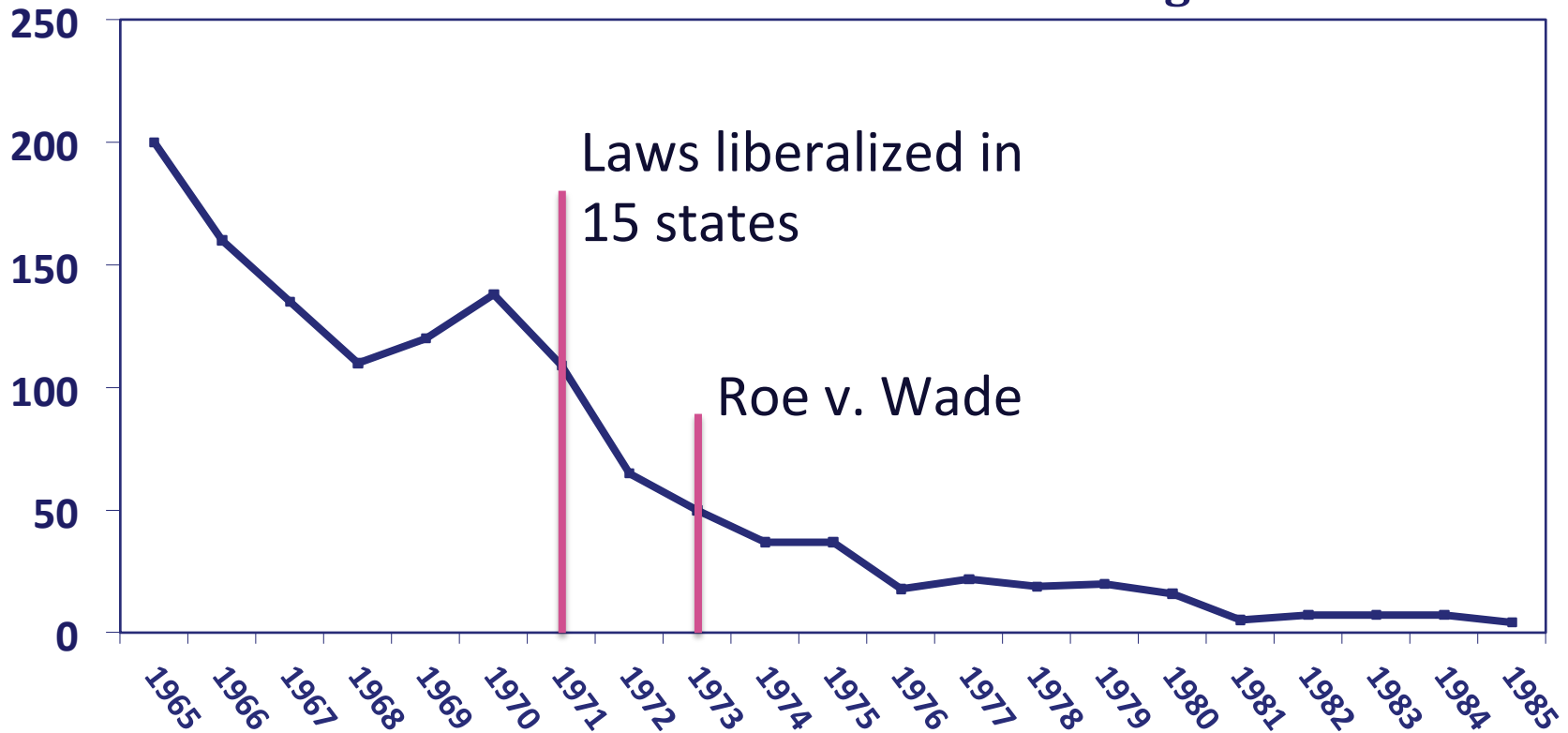
- 89% of counties have no abortion provider
- Laws governing minutiae of abortion care:
  - Mandatory wait periods
  - Parental consent
  - Clinic architecture rules
  - Admitting privileges
  - Gestational age limits



In 2013:  
22 states  
70 laws

Illegal ≠ Non-existent  
Illegal = Unsafe

Deaths from Abortion Decreased after Legalization



# Social Movements: Reproductive Rights



- Second wave feminism
  - Repressive norms of domestic gender stereotypes
- Deaths from unsafe abortions
- Civil rights framing
  - Individual autonomy
  - Freedom from control

# Social Movements: Anti-Abortion



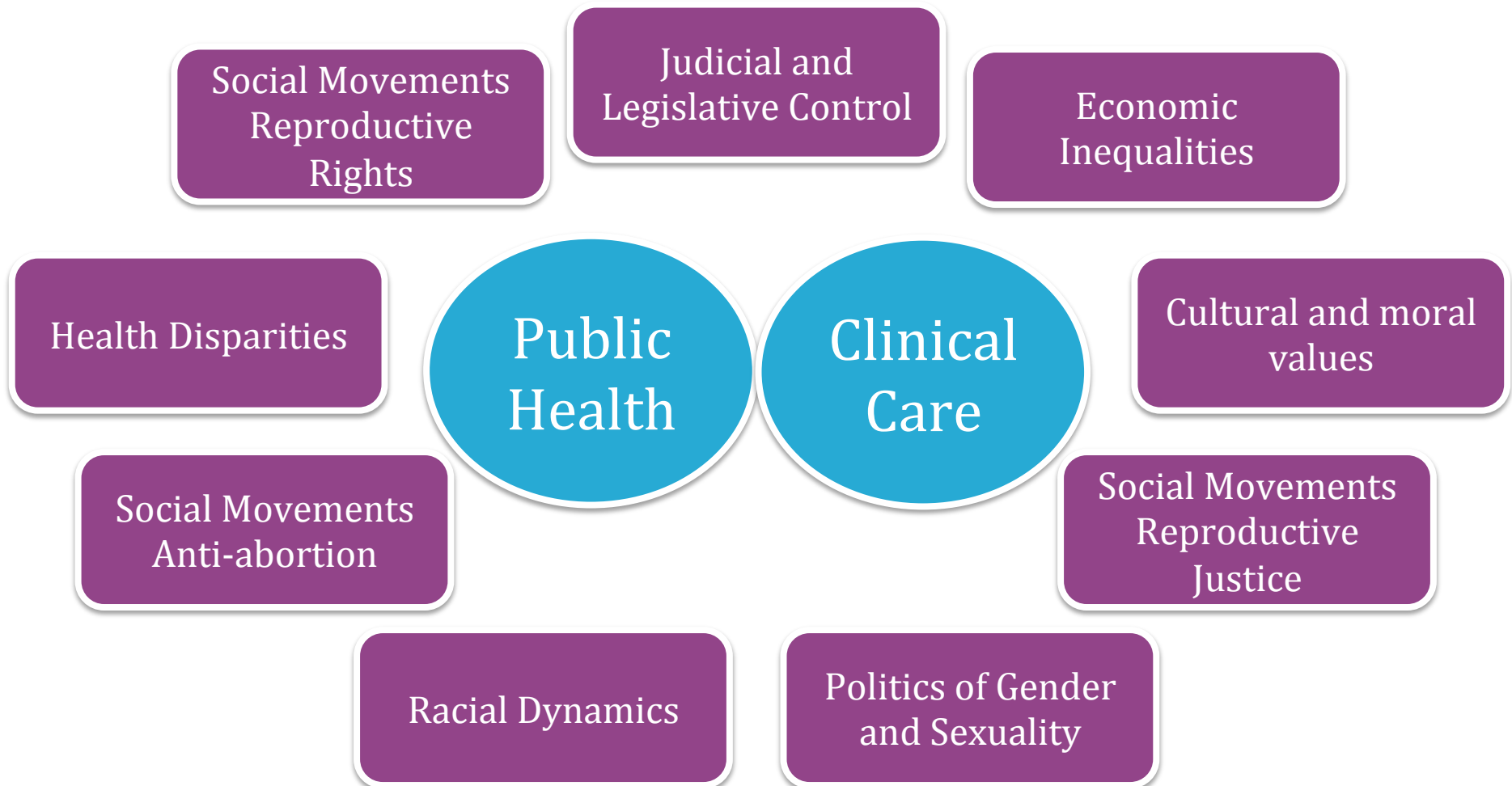
- Moral emphasis
- “Pro-Life”
- “Abortion hurts women”
- Some movements with violent tactics
  - Clinic blockade and bombings
  - Murder of abortion providers

# Social Movements: Reproductive Justice



- Narrow focus of “rights” movement
  - Minimized race and class dynamics
- Emphasizes individuals *and* communities
- All should have resources and power to make decisions about their lives and reproduction
  - Structural inequalities

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