

FOOT BINDING: A FEMINIST POINT OF VIEW

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Foot binding is a cultural tradition that has been portrayed in terms of feminism and subjugation of women. Generally, in the United States, it is not *per se* illegal. Arguments against it, which have not persuaded the law, but have infiltrated culture, appear to be xenophobic or bigoted. Section II of this Article examines some historical notes about foot binding in China and describes cultural input from Christians. Section III analyzes relevant law, which may be used to deter foot binding activities. Section IV compares ballet shoes and other western forms of body modification to Chinese foot binding. Section V criticizes feminist cultural attacks on foot binding. Section VI concludes that foot binding is an acceptable form of cultural expression.