

- I. Women's roles— depend on class and time period
1. daughter (use as political or economic pawn)
 2. wife (help husband succeed)
 3. mother (provide children, esp. sons)—since the death rate was so high for young children, women usually had a child every year-and a half to two years. Out of every 5 children, one survived on average.
 4. worker (peasant women work in homes at productive jobs to keep the family going—spinning, weaving, sewing, making candles, soap, BREAD and other foods, preserving foods for winter, raising small animals and chickens, growing fruit and vegetables, going to market)
 5. NOTE: our idea of "housewife jobs"—childcare, cleaning and cooking—were not as important
 6. nun (or provider of religious teaching for the family)

II. Women's roles by time period—

A. Renaissance— Was there a real "renaissance" for women? Mostly their roles were unchanged from earlier—wife, mother, nun, peasant worker, helper of husband in town. End of serfdom does not change very many women's lives. Their marriages were still arranged and were mainly for economic or political purposes.

1. Some women became extremely powerful through their marriage-- Isabella d'Este and Catarina Sforza
2. Women could only reach their true intellectual potential by learning (and wielding any power) through the Church.
3. Castiglione's The Courtier details what the ideal woman of virtue was like—she had to speak several languages, patronize the arts, be able to discuss politics at parties, and most of all, she had to push her husband to be the best that he could be in all things.

4. Petrarch's Love Sonnets to a woman named Laura set the tone for what a woman should look like—tall and thin with blonde hair and blue or green eyes (not what most Italian women looked like).
5. Artists painted marriage portraits of women draped in their dowries of gems (especially pearls), which they often never wore again. (Bottecelli is famous for these portraits.)

B. Northern Renaissance—

1. Ferdinand and Isabella unite Spain when they marry and rule together. They defeat the Muslims and bring the Inquisition to Spain to hunt Moors and Marranos.
2. Anne of Brittany is much sought after as a bride by French Kings Charles VII and Louis XI due to her inheritance of Bretagne.
3. Elizabeth Woodville marries Henry VII (Tudor) after the Wars of the Roses to secure his place on the throne.

C. Reformation and Religious Wars—changes a woman's place in the church due to end of convents but home-life roles stay the same.

1. Luther marries Katharina von Bora, an ex-nun
2. Luther says a woman's roles are "Kinder, Kuchen und Kirche"—children, kitchen and church.
3. Female children in Protestant families would be taught to read since everyone was supposed to read the Bible, and since it was usually the woman's job to teach religion to the children. This also helped them to play a bigger role in family businesses.
4. Several women played important roles in The Catholic Counter Reformation.
 - a. Catherine d'Medici—regent for her three sons, power behind the throne, extreme Catholic, St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre
 - b. Mary I (Tudor)—changes religion back to Catholicism in England, brings Inquisition to England, kills about 300 Protestants during her 3 year rule, marries Philip II of Spain
 - c. Saint Theresa of Avila was a Spanish nun who set up monasteries and convents, wrote many books about her visions (which were investigated by the Inquisition) and played a large role in the *devotion moderno* movement.
5. Women rulers play a big role during the Religious Wars—
 - a. Marguerite de Navarre—protected Protestants, ruled territory while brother was away fighting

- b. Margot d'Medici—used as a pawn to stop the religious wars through her marriage to Henri de Navarre
 - c. Catherine of Aragon—Henry VIII's first wife, daughter of Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain-- and Anne Boleyn, Henry's 2nd wife for whom he broke from the Catholic Church and granted himself a divorce from Catherine (other 4 wives don't matter much)
 - d. Elizabeth I—makes Anglican Compromise to keep her country from Civil War, rules with Parliament but without a husband, defeats the Spanish Armada, backs the Netherlands against Spain, kills Mary Stuart Queen of Scotland
 - e. Mary Stuart of Scotland—married first to Francois II of France, then to Lord Darnley (she possibly had him assassinated), mother of James VI of Scotland who becomes James I of England, fled to England when Scotland became Protestant.
6. Many women were caught up in the Witch Craze, since the majority of those executed were older females.

D. Explorers often had native women helping them as guides or as slaves.

- 1. French fur traders often took native wives, either by force or through sale.
 - a. Sacajawea, wife of a fur trader, helped Lewis and Clark find the Pacific Coast of America.
- 2. Cortez had a native woman he called Maria who translated for him to the Aztecs
- 3. Latin American social classes developed out of interbreeding (not intermarriage) between Spanish, slave and native populations
 - a. mestizo
 - b. mullato
 - c. zambo
 - d. African
 - e. Native
- 4. English Puritans and Pilgrims brought along their entire families.

E. Absolutism and Constitutionalism— women act as regents for rulers, rule with men and form alliances through marriage. No change in home roles yet.

- 1. Regents—

- a. Marie d'Medici rules for Louis XIII after the death of Henri IV.
 - b. Anne of Austria rules with Cardinal Mazarin for Louis XIV after Louis XIII's death.
2. Queens with much influence on husbands—
- a. Henrietta Maria of England often advised her husband Charles II.
 - b. Anne of Austria over Louis XIII of France
 - c. Maria Theresa of Austria over son, Josef II
 - d. William III and Mary II ruled England together.
 - e. Their daughter Queen Anne did not rule by herself, but allowed the Prime Minister and Parliament to run the country.
3. Enlightened Despots
- a. Maria Theresa (Hapsburg) of Austria- had to fight Frederick II of Prussia in the War of Austrian Succession. She ruled alone, then with her son Josef II, as Holy Roman Emperor.
 - b. Catherine II of Russia- was not very enlightened. Killed her husband to take the throne; had to allow nobles to keep a lot of power; practically enslaved serfs; partitioned Poland with Frederick II of Prussia; persecuted Jews
4. Ordinary women still had very few options for careers.
- a. Artemesia Gentilleschi was a Baroque painter who learned from her father and was later apprenticed to another painter who raped her. When she accused him in court, she was tortured to see if she was telling the truth. Her father married her off to an old man, effectively banishing her. Her incredibly violent paintings showing the torture of female saints and women killing men are evidence of her harsh life.
 - b. First "finishing schools" for girls were opened in the 18th century, but they did not teach much and were often lampooned—see Moliere's School for Women, for example.
 - c. A woman whose husband was a shopkeeper could sometimes keep his shop running herself and was allowed by law to do so in most countries. It was often easier to marry one of her husband's journeymen to keep the shop going, since she also

had to be raising her children and keeping her household going as well.

- d. With the beginning of the Agriculture Revolution (new farming methods grow more on less land, animal breeding became more popular, enclosure of common land hurt poor) in the late 1700s, many farm families had to leave their ancestral farms and move to the cities. With few jobs available, many women became beggars, prostitutes and criminals to provide for their families.
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F. French Revolution and Napoleon— women played important roles during the French Revolution but lost much power under Napoleon

1. Women ran the salons—
 - a. Mlle de Lespinasse
 - b. Mme d’Alembert
2. Women of the urban working class started many of the bread riots.
 - a. Attack on the Bastille
 - b. The March to Versailles—fishwives
3. Women sat in on meetings of the National Assembly
 - a. Tricoteuses= knitting ladies
 - b. Mme de Stael
4. Some women worked for women’s rights too
 - a. Olympe de Gouges wrote A Declaration of the Rights of Women and the Citizeness
 - b. Hubertine Auclerc
 - c. Women gained the right to own land and shops, sue in court and divorce their husbands.
 - d. Expansion of schools under the Jacobin rule allowed many more men and women to learn to read.
 - e. Closure of monasteries and convents caused some nuns to be turned out of their homes.
5. Anger at noble women like Marie Antoinette caused many to be guillotined
 - a. Marat’s newspaper called her the Austrian Whore
 - b. Later, Marat was murdered by a woman revolutionary, Charlotte Corday, as he sat in his bathtub (famous painting by David portrayed Marat as a martyr, akin to Jesus)

6. Women lost many of their rights during the Reign of Terror
 - a. They had formed their own Jacobin clubs—now they were closed down.
 - b. Revolutionary women like Olympe de Gouges and Charlotte Corday were guillotined.

7. They lost even more under Napoleon.
 - a. The Napoleonic Code is very authority-based.
 - b. It gives men almost total control over their wives.
 - c. Men had all property rights, could sue in courts, could divorce their wives. Women could not. Men always won custody of children.

G. 19th Century—The Romantic and Victorian Periods

1. The Romantic View of Motherhood and the Child began with Jean-Jacques Rousseau.

- a. Emile and The New Heloise are about the correct way to raise children. (back to nature, no swaddling, breastfeeding instead of wet-nursing)
- b. Children came to be seen as good instead of evil. Beating children came to be seen as bad for them.

2. Women had few or almost no rights. Writers had to use men's names to get published.

- a. Aurore Dupin (George Sand) wrote many books including La Mare au Diable—wanted to leave her husband but he refused to divorce her and threatened to keep their kids away. She moved out and tried to live off her writing, but he would periodically come to her apartment and take everything out of it—since he was the man, technically he owned everything. He would even empty her bank account. At last she became desperate and began to dress like a man, smoke cigars, have affairs with many men (Chopin and Alfred de Musset are two). Finally her husband agreed to a divorce.

- b. George Eliot whose real name is Mary Ann Evans wrote The Mill on the Floss, Adam Bede, and Middlemarch, among many other books.

3. Some women depicted the society of the times and the frivolous nature of middle and upper class women's lives.

- a. Jane Austen—Pride and Prejudice is about the desire of upper middle class women to marry well.

- b. Charlotte Bronte—Wuthering Heights—and Anne Bronte—The Tenant of Wildfell Hall
 - c. Emily Bronte wrote Jane Eyre, which shows the life of a governess (one of the few acceptable jobs for middle class women who were down on their luck)
 - d. A woman who did the unthinkable and had an affair often met with a sad end—Madame Bovary by Flaubert is a good example.
 - e. Painter Mary Cassatt, who studied with the Impressionists in Paris, regularly painted women with their children.
 - f. Some upper and middle class women began to work for causes such as the Temperance Movement, anti-Prostitution Leagues, some even set up Sunday Schools for working children.
4. Lower class women moved off the farms and went to work in factories, where they were often paid half as much as men. (Please stress to your students that before the Industrial Revolution, women DID WORK!!!)
- a. women often sent their babies out to the countryside to be wetnursed by women there.
 - b. Child labor was also found everywhere that factories existed, and children were often sent deep into dangerous coal mines.
 - c. Out-of-wedlock childbirth became a major problem, causing cities to set up orphanages and workhouses.
 - d. Romantic writers like Victor Hugo (Les Miserables) and Charles Dickens (Oliver Twist) depicted life for destitute women and their children in the workhouses.
 - e. In England the Factory Acts were attempts to help women and children working in the factories by limiting their hours and the age of children. (Notice that women are lumped in here with children as people who need protecting.)
5. Middle class women who saw even lower-class men getting the right to vote in many countries began to work for suffrage for themselves.
- a. Many women now went to private schools and some women's colleges opened up.
 - b. Emeline and Christabel Pankhurst formed the Women's Social and Political Union in England.

- c. Many working women, as they worked for rights in the factories, also worked for rights for women—Rosa Luxembourg.
 - d. Socialism was an inherently “equal” movement. A person was worth his work, so women could be equal to men.
6. As unions formed, women and children worked less and less in the factories and men were paid enough to support a family.
- a. After 1870 in France, and somewhat later in England and Germany, public schooling came to be required for children through elementary school.
 - b. By the later 1800s, unmarried women might be working, particularly as secretaries, teachers, telephone operators, etc.
 - c. The Cult of Domesticity began—women were housewives, using new “labor-saving devices” to keep their homes and families clean. It was not acceptable for married women to work.
 - d. Doctors increasingly took over from midwives.
 - e. People used science to “prove” that men and women were not equal and to justify the domination of men over women.
 - a. Sigmund Freud—Biology is destiny.
 - b. Proudhon—formula for showing male superiority
7. There were few women rulers of this period. They could still wield great power. But they usually ruled with male prime ministers.
- a. Queen Victoria—first ruled with her husband, Prince Albert. Indeed, she let him run the country until his death.

H. WWI, Russian Revolution and WW II—

1. Women took men’s jobs during the wars. They proved that they could do hard work.
 - a. The women’s suffrage movements, which had been put on hold as unpatriotic during the war, began again afterwards.
 - b. Many countries granted women the vote after WWI. (Not France until after WWII.)

2. During the Russian Revolution, women participated in bread riots and workers' marches.
 - a. The February Revolution of 1917 began as a bread riot in St. Petersburg.
 - b. Lenin saw women as equal in the pure Marxist way.
 - c. Lenin's lover, Nadia Krupskaya went through exile and the entire revolution with him. She started up women's revolutionary groups and was Deputy Commissar for Education and Enlightenment in the new Bolshevik government.
 - d. Alexandra Kollontai published writings about women and advocated for a National Women's Day holiday.
 - e. Stalin closed down women's revolutionary groups and took all the women's rights away again (as well as all the men's).
3. After WWI was over, most women went home again, but after WWII, many women kept their jobs.
 - a. Many women had joined the military in WWII and now wanted to continue a military career.
 - b. Large number of civilian casualties meant that women were needed to replace men.
 - c. Colleges and Universities allowed more women.
4. Women writers detailed the problems of women seeking equality and showed the disillusionment of society in general.
 - a. Existentialism—Jean-Paul Sartre and his lover, Simone de Beauvoir shocked society by not getting married
 - b. Beauvoir's The Second Sex that women still needed to make strides to reach equality.

I. Cold War to Today—

1. French women get right to vote in 1945. They also get the right to attend school through high school.
2. Women continue to fight for rights in the 1950s and 1960s
 - a. Women's Liberation movement gains ground
 - b. Invention of the birth control pill in 1960s
 - illegal many places at first
 - not legal until 1980s in Italy
 - c. Abortion not legalized in Ireland until late 1990s
 - Still illegal in Italy
 - Influence of the Catholic Church

- d. Equality in pay and in access to most jobs granted in 1970s.
3. There are still many small peasant farms in Europe, especially in Eastern Europe and Russia. Farm wives live similarly to the way they have always lived.
 - a. Girls as well as boys all go to school through high school.
 - b. If they pass baccalaureat exams (or O- or A-level in England), their university schooling is paid for by the government in most countries.
 - c. Students who don't pass exams go to trade schools to learn a job. Most farm children do not stay on the farm.
 4. Women make some strides as political figures but there are still very few compared to men.
 - a. Margaret Thatcher
 - Conservative Prime Minister of England
 - friend and supporter of Pres. Reagan
 - sent Royal Navy against Argentina in the Falkland Islands War in 1980s
 - b. No leaders of France, Germany, Italy, Russia, etc. are women
 - c. There are still some queens but they have little or no power
 - Queen Elizabeth II of England
 - Queen Beatrice of Belgium
 5. Most women, until the 1990s stayed home with their children and kept house while men went off to work
 - a. Many small specialty shops required daily shopping
 - b. No supermarkets in most areas until 1990s
 - c. Emphasis on home-cooked, not frozen pre-made food until recently
 - d. Today women still do nearly all the housework and child-rearing, but many of them also work jobs