

# Women and Gender Status in World History - Review

## 8000 BCE to 600 CE

comparatively high status due to food gathering responsibilities  
small number of children due to mobility and breast feeding up to four years prevented pregnancies

settled life, surplus of food led to larger # of children  
women more tied to home, children, household tasks  
men concerned about paternity before land inherited by oldest son  
beginnings of patriarchy

information limited to paintings of elite women  
treated w/ more respect, legal rights, and social freedoms than other ancient, advanced, urban cultures of this time period

tight family structure with husband and father firmly in control  
many women often constrained to homes w/ little participation in public/political life, except as priestesses  
some women active in business and owned some urban property

lived in small communal groups, sharing food and income  
women sometimes took turns leading religious services

three submissions: parents, husband (& mother in law), then son  
arranged marriages, lived w/ husband's family  
rigid patriarchy, as Confucianism adopted during this period

## 600 to 1450 CE

key economic roles in clan life, but often performed drudge labor  
did not wear veils and were not secluded  
both sexes had multiple marriage partners  
males honored as warriors favored for property, inheritance, divorce

more favorable status of Arab women prevailed over traditional seclusion, veiling, and male domination of Middle East/SW Asia  
Muhammad strengthened women's legal inheritance & divorce rights  
women could have only one husband, men four wives (treated equally)  
adultery of both genders equally denounced

males believed women possessed incurable lust, must be segregated harems, veiling, concubines symbols of male subjugation  
poor women economically active, elite women kept at home

Muslim women in urban areas not secluded or veiled, participate in public life, private discussions, as entertainers/singers  
relative freedom of action and clothing shocked Ibn Battuta  
M.E. demand for these women as concubines/slaves threatened them and was factor for Arab slave trade

foot binding of upper socio-economic class women in second half of this culture's time period - extreme patriarchy of Neo-Confucianism  
women excluded from education, civil service, inheritance, other rts.

as in most cultures, increasingly complex, more urban cultures led to male dominated institutions, patriarchy, restrictions for women  
male Christian hierarchy reinterpreted Bible to restrict women  
skill in weaving esteemed, but many hours grinding maize by hand  
passed on property, but subordinate to males in political & social life

women at court expected to be as cultured as men, but lives mostly isolated, studying Buddhism and writing  
other women became appendages of warrior fathers or husbands, lost ritual roles in religion and replaced in theaters by men

women active in community, political life, and wet rice farming  
most freedom and influence of any women of this time period  
Truongs sisters who led first century CE revolt against Han invasions  
national heroes

typical of nomadic cultures, women had greater freedom of movement  
rights to property, and other opportunities  
some women hunted and went to war  
refused to adopt foot binding when culture controlled China

patriarchy, sati, child marriages  
required wedding dowries meant females a burden for poor families  
some female infanticide

## 1450 to 1750

later marriage among non elites/ordinary people led to smaller and nuclear families, less harsh discipline of children, more affection between family members  
women most common targets of witchcraft hysteria

sexual exploitation of indigenous and African women by European male settlers  
very few European women led to many ethnic intermarriages  
women under male authority, machismo male attitudes  
upper class European or creole women confined to household work  
lower class women active in many economic activities

women subordinate to fathers and husbands  
elite women had few opportunities for expression outside household  
harems, veiling, concubines continues

short lived attempts to outlaw sati  
discourage arranged, child marriages  
special market days to end seclusion of Hindu & Muslim women

sati increased among upper classes  
increased arranged, child marriages, seclusion of Hindu & Muslim women  
required wedding dowries meant females a burden for poor families  
some female infanticide

desired for sexual and domestic employment in Ottoman Empire  
not as valuable for slavery in western hemisphere  
some cultures matrilineal (passed down family name thru mothers)

confined to home, status based on bearing male children  
main way to some independence as courtesan or entertainer  
foot binding continued among upper classes  
some female infanticide

## 1750 to 1914

lower class women paid 1/3 wages of men in mines and factories  
public education increases for middle class women  
elite women influence Enlightenment as writers, organizing salons  
women active in revolutions, slavery abolitionism, early socialism  
beginning of women's suffrage (voting rights) movements

working class women work w/ husbands in agriculture or business  
Confucianist submission, caring for home and family, other work  
cannot inherit or own property, foot binding continues (upper class)  
some fight in women's brigades in 1850-64 Taiping Rebellion and  
1911 Revolution  
some educational opportunities at Christian missionary schools  
some female infanticide

women from home textile production to industrialized silk/cotton  
mills - poorly paid single women in grim working conditions  
laws reinforced Confucian patriarchy, restrictions of political rights  
public education encourages girls to be "good wives, wise mothers"

participated in 1820s independence movements, but no resulting  
political rights  
women owned and operated textile, craft, food businesses  
spin, weave, garden to assist family income  
culture of machismo influenced rigid standards of female behavior  
primary role as wives and mothers reinforced by Catholicism

participated in resistance to colonial conquest and rule  
performed ~85% of all work  
men control cattle & other livestock (source of status) -women do not  
threatened by slave trade up to late 1800s  
men often worked in distant European owned mines or factories, while  
women stayed in home village, town, or city  
Islamic expansion from 1750 influenced women's roles and rights  
some educational opportunities at Christian missionary schools

## 1914 to 1991

worked in WWI war industries, lost jobs after war  
won voting rights, voted about the same as men  
prosperity and falling birth rates gave them more freedom  
1950s increased educational opportunities increased % employed,  
but mostly teachers, secretaries, clerks, and nurses

1960s and later feminist movement - access to birth control, divorces, abortions, and day care changed options and issues rapidly decreasing birth rates, population declined in some countries

women's rights often meant hard physical labor job, then apartment work and child rearing w/ little help from husbands  
focus on industrialization and military build up, few consumer goods, including birth control - ~7 abortions ave. per married women

U.S. occupation, education for women, voting & other legal rights  
traditional culture/patriarchy limited female options in reality  
university grads often low pay/status "office ladies" until marriage  
focus on household tasks & child rearing, husband worked long hours, little recreational and leisure time activities w/ husband/father lead to fewer women marrying and rapidly declining birth rate

reformers feared women tied to Catholic church, might become a conservative political force, so role of women changed slowly  
activist feminist movement and voting rights did not end male prejudice against equal participation of women in political life  
by 1980s women of this region closest to Western female patterns than other non Western world regions

European schools in peripheries created educated, articulate and politically active women, participated in independence movements  
European style education liberating, but full equality after independence not realized yet  
less and inferior education and health care for women, poor sanitation, lack of food, high infant and maternity death rates, male oriented culture/ tradition, and religious fundamentalism lowered female quality of life and gender equity

many worked in new occupations in Communist Revolution ranks  
after Revolution succeeded in 1949, received legal equality to men  
some freedom in choosing marriage partners, but expected to work outside home/apartment

Mao Zedong committed to liberation of women  
"Women hold up half the sky."

Active efforts by government to lower population growth rates last twenty years w/ one and two child policies  
mostly one child families in urban areas  
abortions of female fetuses in rural areas, so to have male babies to carry on family name, perform family rituals, take care of elderly parents  
severe shortage of young, marriageable women as % of population

British outlawed sati, female infanticide  
less education and health care for girls, abortions of female fetuses, arranged marriages, dowries, dowry deaths continue in rural areas  
severe shortage of young, marriageable women as % of population  
quality of life for females in urban areas improved

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## 8000 BCE to 600 CE

<b>Nomadic Women</b>	comparatively high status due to food gathering responsibilities small number of children due to mobility and breast feeding up to four years prevented pregnancies
<b>Early Settled, Agricultural Communities</b>	settled life, surplus of food led to larger # of children women more tied to home, children, household tasks men concerned about paternity before land inherited by oldest son beginnings of patriarchy
<b>Egyptian Women</b>	information limited to paintings of elite women treated w/ more respect, legal rights, and social freedoms than other ancient, advanced, urban cultures of this time period
<b>Classic Greeks and Romans</b>	tight family structure with husband and father firmly in control many women often constrained to homes w/ little participation in public/political life, except as priestesses some women active in business and owned some urban property
<b>Early Christianity</b>	lived in small communal groups, sharing food and income women sometimes took turns leading religious services
<b>Han China Women</b>	three submissions: parents, husband (& mother in law), then son arranged marriages, lived w/ husband's family rigid patriarchy, as Confucianism adopted during this period

## 600 to 1450 CE

<b>Pre Islamic Arab Women</b>	key economic roles in clan life, but often performed drudge labor did not wear veils and were not secluded both sexes had multiple marriage partners males honored as warriors favored for property, inheritance, divorce
<b>Early Islamic Women in Umayyad Caliphate 661-750 CE (Damascus, capital city)</b>	more favorable status of Arab women prevailed over traditional seclusion, veiling, and male domination of Middle East/SW Asia Muhammad strengthened women's legal inheritance & divorce rights women could have only one husband, men four wives (treated equally) adultery of both genders equally denounced
<b>Abbasid Caliphate Women 750-1258 (Baghdad, capital city)</b>	males believed women possessed incurable lust, must be segregated harems, veiling, concubines symbols of male subjugation poor women economically active, elite women kept at home
<b>Sudanic (grasslands) Africa Ghana Emp. 500s -1076 Mali Emp. 1230s - 1433</b>	Muslim women in urban areas not secluded or veiled, participate in public life, private discussions, as entertainers/singers relative freedom of action and clothing shocked Ibn Battuta M.E. demand for these women as concubines/slaves threatened them and was factor for Arab slave trade
<b>Tang 618-907 and Song 960-1127 dynasties</b>	foot binding of upper socio-economic class women in second half of culture's time period - extreme patriarchy of Neo-Confucianism women excluded from education, civil service, inheritance, other rts.

<b>Medieval European Women</b>	as in most cultures, increasingly complex, more urban cultures led to male dominated institutions, patriarchy, restrictions for women male Christian hierarchy reinterpreted Bible to restrict women
<b>Aztec women</b>	skill in weaving esteemed, but many hours grinding maize by hand passed on property, but subordinate to males in political & social life
<b>Heian and Kamakura Japan (Kyoto - capital)</b>	women at court expected to be as cultured as men, but lives mostly isolated, studying Buddhism and writing other women became appendages of warrior fathers or husbands, lost ritual roles in religion and replaced in theaters by men
<b>Vietnam</b>	women active in community, political life, and wet rice farming most freedom and influence of any women of this time period Truongs sisters who led first century CE revolt against Han invasions national heroes
<b>Mongol (and later Yuan Dynasty) women</b>	typical of nomadic cultures, women had greater freedom of movement rights to property, and other opportunities some women hunted and went to war refused to adopt foot binding when culture controlled China
<b>India (outside Mughal Emp.) regional Hindu kingdoms</b>	patriarchy, sati, child marriages required wedding dowries meant females a burden for poor families some female infanticide

### 1450 to 1750

<b>Europe</b>	later marriage among non elites/ordinary people led to smaller and nuclear families, less harsh discipline of children, more affection between family members women most common targets of witchcraft hysteria
<b>Latin America</b>	sexual exploitation of indigenous and African women by European male settlers very few European women led to many ethnic intermarriages women under male authority, machismo male attitudes upper class European or creole women confined to household work lower class women active in many economic activities
<b>Ottoman &amp; Safavid Empires</b>	women subordinate to fathers and husbands elite women had few opportunities for expression outside household harems, veiling, concubines continues
<b>Mughal India under Akbar</b>	short lived attempts to outlaw sati discourage arranged, child marriages special market days to end seclusion of Hindu & Muslim women
<b>Mughal India after Akbar</b>	sati increased among upper classes increased arranged, child marriages, seclusion of Hindu & Muslim women required wedding dowries meant females a burden for poor families some female infanticide

**African women** desired for sexual and domestic employment in Ottoman Empire  
not as valuable for slavery in western hemisphere  
some cultures matrilineal (passed down family name thru mothers)

**Ming China 1368-1644** confined to home, status based on bearing male children  
main way to some independence as courtesan or entertainer  
foot binding continued among upper classes  
some female infanticide

### 1750 to 1914

**Western Europe** lower class women paid 1/3 wages of men in mines and factories  
public education increases for middle class women  
elite women influence Enlightenment as writers, organizing salons  
women active in revolutions, slavery abolitionism, early socialism  
beginning of women's suffrage (voting rights) movements

**Qing China 1644-1911 (Manchus)** working class women work w/ husbands in agriculture or business  
Confucianist submission, caring for home and family, other work  
cannot inherit or own property, foot binding continues (upper class)  
some fight in women's brigades in 1850-64 Taiping Rebellion and  
1911 Revolution  
some educational opportunities at Christian missionary schools  
some female infanticide

**Meiji Japan 1868-1918** women from home textile production to industrialized silk/cotton  
mills - poorly paid single women in grim working conditions  
laws reinforced Confucian patriarchy, restrictions of political rights  
public education encourages girls to be "good wives, wise mothers"

**Latin America** participated in 1820s independence movements, but no resulting  
political rights  
women owned and operated textile, craft, food businesses  
spin, weave, garden to assist family income  
culture of machismo influenced rigid standards of female behavior  
primary role as wives and mothers reinforced by Catholicism

**Sub-Saharan Africa** participated in resistance to colonial conquest and rule  
performed ~85% of all work  
men control cattle & other livestock (source of status) -women do not  
threatened by slave trade up to late 1800s  
men often worked in distant European owned mines or factories, while  
women stayed in home village, town, or city  
Islamic expansion from 1750 influenced women's roles and rights  
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### 1914 to 1991

**Western Europe & United States** worked in WWI war industries, lost jobs after war  
won voting rights, voted about the same as men  
prosperity and falling birth rates gave them more freedom  
1950s increased educational opportunities increased % employed,  
but mostly teachers, secretaries, clerks, and nurses  
1960s and later feminist movement - access to birth control,  
divorces, abortions, and day care changed options and issues  
rapidly decreasing birth rates, population declined in some countries

<b>Soviet Union</b>	women's rights often meant hard physical labor job, then apartment work and child rearing w/ little help from husbands focus on industrialization and military build up, few consumer goods, including birth control - ~7 abortions ave. per married women
<b>Japan</b>	U.S. occupation, education for women, voting & other legal rights traditional culture/patriarchy limited female options in reality university grads often low pay/status "office ladies" until marriage focus on household tasks & child rearing, husband worked long hours, little recreational and leisure time activities w/ husband/father lead to fewer women marrying and rapidly declining birth rate
<b>Latin America</b>	reformers feared women tied to Catholic church, might become a conservative political force, so role of women changed slowly activist feminist movement and voting rights did not end male prejudice against equal participation of women in political life by 1980s women of this region closest to Western female patterns than other non Western world regions
<b>Women in African and South Asian nationalist movements</b>	European schools in peripheries created educated, articulate and politically active women, participated in independence movements European style education liberating, but full equality after independence not realized yet less and inferior education and health care for women, poor sanitation, lack of food, high infant and maternity death rates, male oriented culture/ tradition, and religious fundamentalism lowered female quality of life and gender equity
<b>Communist China</b>	many worked in new occupations in Communist Revolution ranks after Revolution succeeded in 1949, received legal equality to men some freedom in choosing marriage partners, but expected to work outside home/apartment Mao Zedong committed to liberation of women "Women hold up half the sky." Active efforts by government to lower population growth rates last twenty years w/ one and two child policies mostly one child families in urban areas abortions of female fetuses in rural areas, so to have male babies to carry on family name, perform family rituals, take care of elderly parents severe shortage of young, marriageable women as % of population
<b>India</b>	British outlawed sati, female infanticide less education and health care for girls, abortions of female fetuses, arranged marriages, dowries, dowry deaths continue in rural areas severe shortage of young, marriageable women as % of population quality of life for females in urban areas improved