

| <i>Time Period</i> | <i>Big Ideas</i> | <i>Specifics</i> |
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| To 600 CE | Family units emerge; Labor divided by gender; Organized religion normally had different roles for women; Different rights depending upon civilization; | India: Sati |
| 600 – 1450 | Women had secondary roles; Political rights were minimal or nonexistent; Occupational roles were sharply defined; Basic freedoms, such as dowry rights; Managed households and family finances; supervised the education of children; Cultural patrons; Nuns; Matrilineal lines in some African cultures; Lower class women normally had less freedoms; Women blamed for magic and witchery | Medieval Europe: 15% of women would die in childbirth; could own and inherit property; women could enter religious life as nuns; ran household when men were away (Crusades); lower class women had more freedom; China: arranged marriages; Neo-Confucianism increased patriarchy system; foot-binding; lower class had more freedom of movement as they did not have to live under “proper” norms; inheritance and property rights; Andean: women were property; could serve as in temples; |
| 1450 – 1750 | Limited role; Marriage primarily an economic arrangement – a way to transfer wealth; only legitimate heirs could inherit; European women began to seek more education, participate in business; Informal influence by educating children, running households; | Europe: upper class women increased education; divorce easier for women to obtain; could own businesses (normally with men); victims in witch hunts; nuns and protestant women stressed literacy; writers, artists, and scientists in limited numbers; a few monarchs (Elizabeth, Isabella, and Catherine); Ottoman Empire: informal roles to powerful men; women often controlled marriage alliances; harem women gained influence as mothers to children; women could own property; however, they were rarely seen in public; could testify in court Tokugawa, Japan: Confucian influence on Samurai class limited role of women; had to obey husbands or face death; did not attend schools; could write; expected to show social graces; lower class women worked in fields and were viewed as more valuable; some involved in social protests; daughters were less valued and at times were put to death or sold into prostitution; |

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| | | <p>Mughal: Female aristocrats were awarded titles, earned salaries, owned land, and ran businesses; some were educated; creative fields open to women; all women were allowed to work; could inherit land; in reality, often cloistered inside the home (upper class)</p> <p>Africa: West Africa had many matrilineal lines; wives, mothers, and sisters of chief and others in high levels had lots of power; Queen Nzinga ruled the Mbundu people and defended people from Portuguese; could sell land; women formed council that administered local markets; North Africa: upper class women were cloistered and wore veils; lower class women worked outside the home</p> |
| 1750 – 1900 | <p>Western women affected by Enlightenment ideas; Industrial Revolution led to women having more economic freedom; Separation of working and domestic spheres; Cult of domesticity in Europe; Suffrage movements begin;</p> | <p>Europe: Mary Wollstonecraft considered the founder of modern feminism; Victorian society valued women as wives and mothers; gained full property rights by the end of the 19th century; divorce laws; higher education; more advanced jobs; suffragist movements; active in politics: child welfare, alcohol, and labor issues; had the right to vote in Norway, Finland, New Zealand, and Australia; although the early Industrial Revolution provided women with more economic opportunities, after men entered higher-paying jobs, most “middle class” women stayed home; lower class women always worked; women began leaving for the U.S. and Australia for more economic opportunities;</p> <p>Africa: imperialism led to men leaving villages to work in mines; women left to subsistence farming; prostitution and sexual diseases increased; most jobs reserved for men</p> |
| 1900 - Present | <p>Women suffrage in most countries; WWI moved many women into the workforce leading to a call for more freedom; Women started serving in the armed forces in western cultures; Birth control</p> | <p>Europe/USA: Suffrage mainly achieved; WWI economic role increased; Russia granted women great freedoms; WWII led to more women in work force; higher education; legal changes</p> <p>Russia: Revolution saw ideological equality of women in military, government, and workforce. However, not always the case in reality.</p> <p>Asia: Increased roles in workforce in government; but, traditional roles in rural areas.</p> <p>Middle East: Varies by state (Sunni v. Shi’ite)</p> |