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0521653223 - Gender, Race, and the Writing of Empire: Public Discourse and the Boer War

Paula M. Krebs

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All of London exploded on the night of 18 May 1900, in the biggest West End party ever seen. The mix of media manipulation, patriotism, and class, race, and gender politics that produced the “spontaneous” festivities of Mafeking Night begins this analysis of the cultural politics of late-Victorian imperialism. Paula M. Krebs examines “the last of the gentlemen’s wars” – the Boer War of 1899–1902 – and the struggles to maintain an imperialist hegemony in a twentieth-century world, through the war writings of Arthur Conan Doyle, Olive Schreiner, H. Rider Haggard, and Rudyard Kipling, as well as contemporary journalism, propaganda, and other forms of public discourse. Her feminist analysis of such matters as the sexual honor of the British soldier at war, the deaths of thousands of women and children in “concentration camps,” and new concepts of race in South Africa marks this book as a significant contribution to British imperial studies.

Paula M. Krebs is Associate Professor of English at Wheaton College, Massachusetts. She is co-editor of *The Feminist Teacher Anthology: Pedagogies and Classroom Strategies* (1998) and has published articles in *Victorian Studies*, *History Workshop Journal*, and *Victorian Literature and Culture*.

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PAULA M. KREBS

Wheaton College, Massachusetts



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To my mother, Dorothy M. Krebs, and to the memory of
my father, George F. Krebs, who knew war and
knew not to glamorize it.

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