Women and Gender in Early Modern Europe

Third Edition

This new, updated edition of Merry E. Wiesner-Hanks’s prize-winning survey of women and gender in early modern Europe features an entirely new chapter on gender and race in the colonial world; expanded coverage of eighteenth-century developments including the Enlightenment; and enhanced discussions of masculinity, single women, same-sex relations, humanism, and women’s religious roles within Christianity, Judaism, and Islam. All of the chapters incorporate the newest scholarship, and the book preserves the clear structure of previous editions with its tripartite division of mind, body, and spirit. Within this structure, other themes include the female life cycle, women’s economic roles, artistic creations, education, and witchcraft. Coverage is geographically broad, including Russia, Scandinavia, the Ottoman Empire, and the Iberian Peninsula. This is essential reading for all students of early modern Europe and gender history and is accompanied by a Web site featuring extensive updated bibliographies, Web links, and primary source material.

Merry E. Wiesner-Hanks is a Distinguished Professor in the Department of History at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee. She is the coeditor of the Sixteenth Century Journal. Her previous publications include Early Modern Europe 1450–1789 (2006), Gender in History (2001), and Christianity and Sexuality in the Early Modern World (2000).

The companion Web site for this textbook can be found at www.cambridge.org/womenandgender.
New Approaches to European History is an important textbook series, which provides concise but authoritative surveys of major themes and problems in European history since the Renaissance. Written at a level and length accessible to advanced school students and undergraduates, each book in the series addresses topics or themes that students of European history encounter daily: the series embraces both some of the more “traditional” subjects of study and those cultural and social issues to which increasing numbers of school and college courses are devoted. A particular effort is made to consider the wider international implications of the subject under scrutiny.

To aid the student reader, scholarly apparatus and annotation is light, but each work has full supplementary bibliographies and notes for further reading; where appropriate, chronologies, maps, diagrams, and other illustrative material are also provided.

For a list of titles published in the series, please see the end of the book.
For Kai and Tyr
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Acknowledgments

A study like this that attempts to survey the entire life experience of half the European population from Spain to Scandinavia over 300 years would not be possible without the kind assistance of a huge number of people and the financial support of foundations and institutions. On the latter, I first thank the Regents of the University of Wisconsin, from whom I received a fellowship at the Institute for Research in the Humanities at the University of Wisconsin – Madison, which allowed me a year off from teaching to write the first edition of this book and subsequent sabbaticals to work on several other books whose ideas shaped the second and third editions. Much of the information from Germany comes from my own research in libraries and archives there over the years, which was supported by grants from the Fulbright Foundation, the Deutsche Akademische Austauschdienst, and the American Council of Learned Societies. My familiarity with women’s writings in many languages was enhanced by a summer at the Center for Renaissance Studies at the Newberry Library, for which I thank the Exxon Foundation. My first venture into gender history on a global scale was supported by a fellowship from the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation.

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