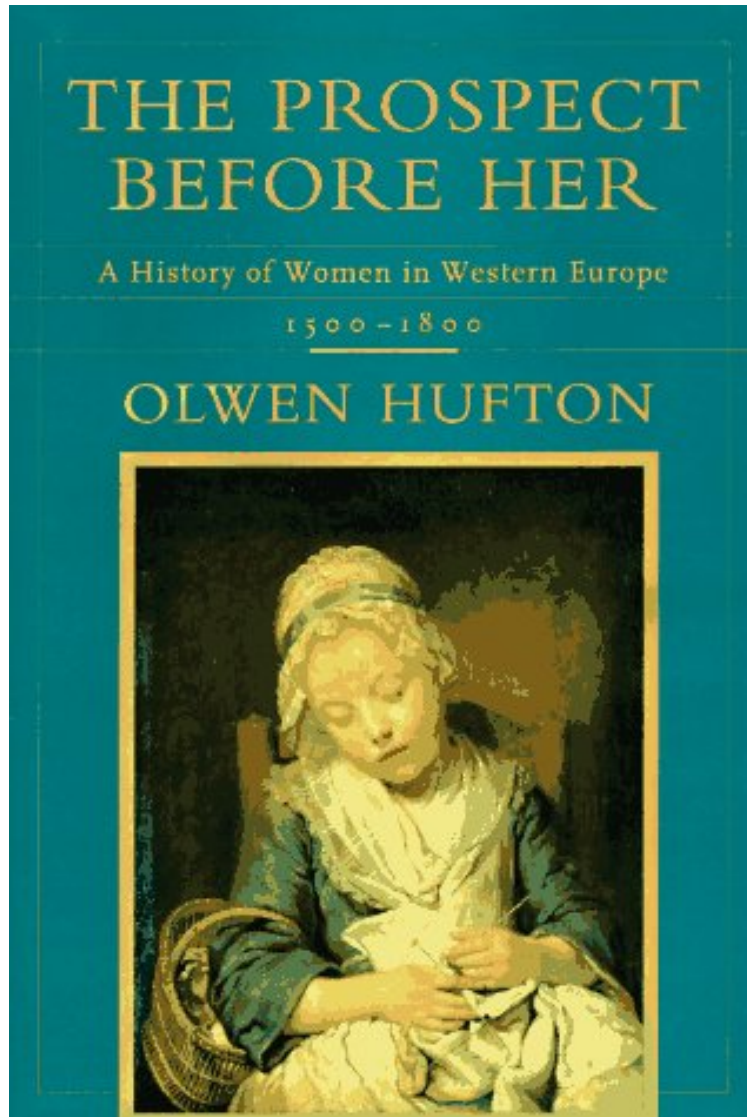


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The Prospect Before Her: A History of Women in Western Europe, 1500-1800

Olwen Hufton

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Olwen Hufton : The Prospect Before Her: A History of Women in Western Europe, 1500-1800 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Prospect Before Her: A History of Women in Western Europe, 1500-1800:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An informative and fascinating read By Kiwimezzo I got this book out of the library ten years ago and couldn't put it down. Since then I've always wanted a copy so when I went hunting

and found it here I pounced. On re-reading it, I am even more impressed by the measured, informed and scholarly approach to the whole subject not only of women in the workplace, but society in general. In examining the lot of women in the 300 year period which Hufton deals with, we are presented not only with women's concerns, but are given a unique insight into the lives of men, so very different from the politically slanted views we are used to. A wonderful read. This one can't go back on the library shelf. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Marvelous History By TR This book is not for the faint of heart, but it really opens your eyes as to what the condition of women was during this period. The author deals with women across the entire spectrum of society, and divides the periods of a woman's life according to the events that would have shaped her destiny the most. It would be perfect for graduate or doctoral students, or writers seeking to gain broad knowledge of a certain period. Highly recommended. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. at times tiresome (perhaps because the reality it brings before you is ... By Customer Thorough, helpful, at times tiresome (perhaps because the reality it brings before you is simply sad), but a helpful and informative history.

Already hailed by English critics as "one of the most important works of history to be published since the Second World War," Olwen Hufton's fascinating and brilliantly learned study begins, in this first of two volumes, with a wide ranging exploration of women's fate in Western Europe from medieval times to the early modern age. of illustrations.

.com The great insight of social history is that the record of the lives of Great Men offers a skewed vision of human experience. Similarly women's history seeks to address the unbalanced written record of humanity. Olwen Hufton, the author of several previous studies concerned with women and the history of ideas, has crafted a descriptive history of the lives of a wide variety of women over the 300-year period from 1500 to 1800. Her work is neither an act of prescription nor a narrative written as a means to empowerment. Rather, the details testify to the inequality of women's lives. Hufton seeks no single representative woman whose story conveys the experience of women writ large, but instead offers appropriately complicated interpretations of the diverse women she discusses. From Publishers Weekly Combining meticulous scholarship and elegant prose, this immensely rewarding history restores women to their key role in the birth of modern Europe. Defined by family status and limited job potential, condemned as lustful sinners or born hysterics by Church authorities and male doctors, ostracized and persecuted as witches, women nevertheless confounded patriarchal strictures and stereotypes. They farmed, midwived, joined urban workshops, sold goods in markets and on quays, worked at home in cottage industry, ran day-schools for children of working parents. Women in England, France, Germany and Holland took part in bread riots, political protests, rebellions, religious riots. Many women went to court seeking separation, divorce, protection from (or the incarceration of) abusive or drunken spouses. Drawing on women's diaries and memoirs, medical and theological tracts, advice manuals and legal documents, Hufton has unearthed a wealth of information on marriage, divorce, parenting, the Inquisition (between one-third and half of its victims in Spain and Portugal were women), infanticide, rape, prostitution, women writers and religious leaders. She traces the roots of modern feminism from Renaissance Venice, where nun Arcangela Tarabotti attacked the dowry system and men's greed, to the radical women's groups of the French Revolution and English polemicist Mary Wollstonecraft's fiery appeals for women's rights. Illustrated. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Hufton, one of the pioneers of women's studies and a highly respected historian, here investigates the prospects of a female child in the period 1500-1800, including marriage, spinsterhood, widowhood, or single motherhood, with such "careers" as silk worker, sausage maker, wet nurse, and prostitute. By 1800, women were beginning to protest the constraints on their lives. (LJ 11/15/96) Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.