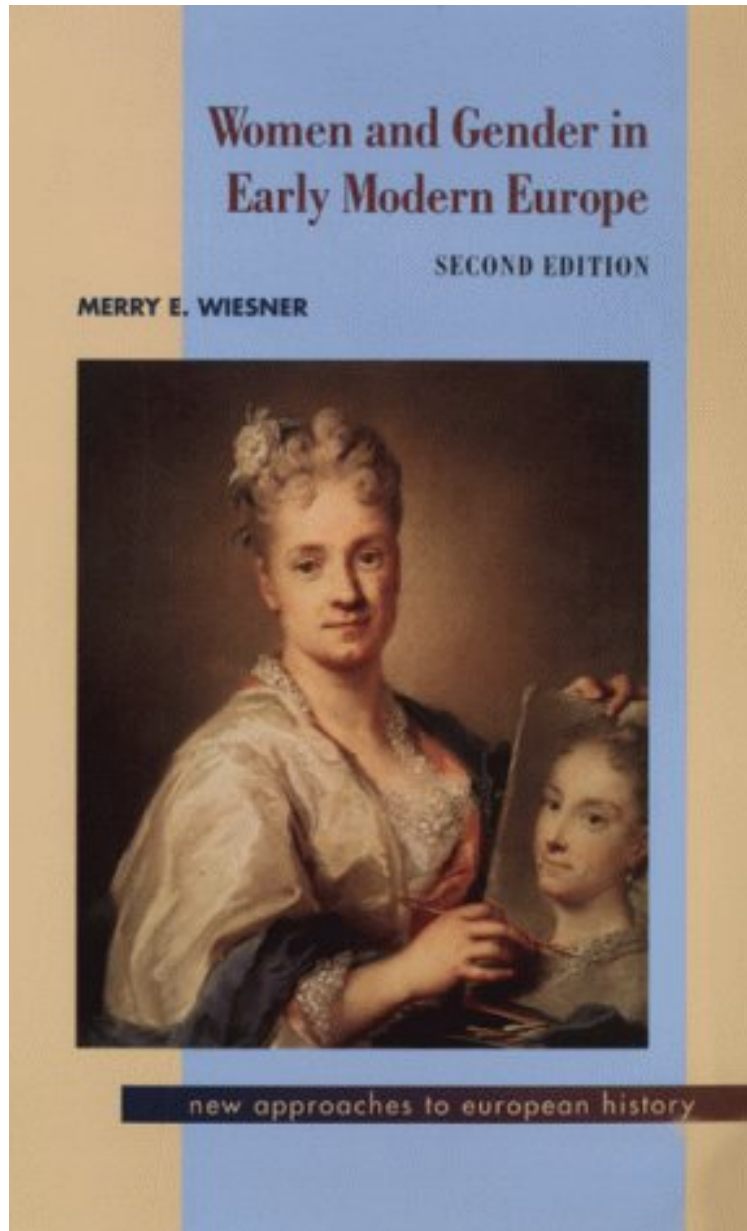


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Women and Gender in Early Modern Europe (New Approaches to European History)

Merry E. Wiesner

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before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Women and Gender in Early Modern Europe (New Approaches to European History):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A historyBy joeThis book was very impressive. It is hard finding good history books on gender, women and family. This book was very well structured and organized. Wiesner-Hanks has done a great job in her research and presentation of her information. Many other historical books on gender and women usually have a negative connotation toward gender in Early Modern Europe, looking at it through a modern perspective. Wiesner-Hanks is able to show what life was like for women in Early Modern Europe and their relationship to the state, community and family. My only problem with it was that she did make a large distinction between rural and urban women, placing them in the same category. Also she brushes over class distinction at some points. Both geography and class were major divisions in how people lived or were treated. This does not take away from the overall reading and information she provides. It is well written and is perfect for any women studies or history majors, or even just the curious person.1 of 3 people found the following review helpful. good book for history course on womenBy bookworm12Ok, so this book may look a little intimidating, but it is actually a really good source for those of us historians that are studying the womens era of history. The author seems to be approaching the subject in a nonbiased way, even though she is a woman. The only drawback about this book is that she seems to focus on one specific area of Europe and not being very broad in either her approach or her specifics.13 of 18 people found the following review helpful. Great Introduction to Womens Lives 1500-1750By G. MessersmithThis book covers topics from Laws regarding Women and Women's Economic Role to Religion and Witchcraft. For a 21st century reader some of the ideas are almost comical, unfortunately, it's how people really felt at the time. One particular chapter entitled "The Female Life-Cycle" talks about the mis-understanding of menstruation and thus it was often compared to male nosebleeds or hemorrhoids. Not to mention that menstruation carried a great many religious taboos. Under the chapter of female education there was an interesting topic about women writers of the time period. Since sex of any type was rarely, if ever, discussed, it is very difficult to find any type of writing, but particularly, by a woman which talks about sexual activity. One of my favorite chapters is entitled "Women and the creation of culture" which covers culture as being dominated by religion but how women influenced culture anyway. Female artists of the time are discussed and it is explained how they got away with being artists in a time when it was highly discouraged. Sofonisba Anguissola and Judith Leyster are both discussed and some of their paintings are available in this book.This is an excellent book for research or just general knowledge of women and the time period. All the chapters are interesting and easy to read.

This is a major new edition of a stimulating and authoritative book. Merry Wiesner has updated and expanded her prize-winning study; she has added new sections on topics such as sexuality, masculinity, the impact of colonialism, and women's role as consumers. Other themes investigated include the female life cycle, literacy, women's economic role, artistic creation, female piety--and witchcraft--and the relationship between gender and power. Accessible, engrossing, and lively, this book will be of central importance for those interested in gender history, early modern Europe, and comparative history.

"...a clear and stimulating textbook that introduces undergraduates and general readers to the topic of early modern European women and to the extensive literature available in English on various dimensions of their lives....Wiesner's command of this scholarship and the clarity of her analysis make this the best single volume on the topic." ChoiceAbout the AuthorMerry Wiesner-Hanks is a Distinguished Professor in the Department of History at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. She is the co-editor of the Sixteenth Century Journal. Her previous publications include Early Modern Europe 1450-1789 (2006), Women and Gender in Early Modern Europe, 2nd edition (2000), Gender in History (2001), and Christianity and Sexuality in the Early Modern World (2000).