

SEMINAR STUDIES

IN HISTORY



Women and the First World War

图书馆

Susan R. Grayzel

ROUTLEDGE

SEMINAR STUDIES

IN HISTORY

Women and the First World War

SUSAN R. GRAYZEL

 **Routledge**
Taylor & Francis Group
LONDON AND NEW YORK

First published 2002 by Pearson Education Limited

Published 2013 by Routledge

2 Park Square, Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxfordshire OX14 4RN

711 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10017

First issued in hardback 2014

Routledge is an imprint of the Taylor & Francis Group, an informa business

Copyright © 2002, Taylor & Francis.

The right of Susan R. Grayzel to be identified as author of this work has been asserted by her in accordance with the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988.

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reprinted or reproduced or utilised in any form or by any electronic, mechanical, or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publishers.

Notices

Knowledge and best practice in this field are constantly changing. As new research and experience broaden our understanding, changes in research methods, professional practices, or medical treatment may become necessary.

Practitioners and researchers must always rely on their own experience and knowledge in evaluating and using any information, methods, compounds, or experiments described herein. In using such information or methods they should be mindful of their own safety and the safety of others, including parties for whom they have a professional responsibility.

To the fullest extent of the law, neither the Publisher nor the authors, contributors, or editors, assume any liability for any injury and/or damage to persons or property as a matter of products liability, negligence or otherwise, or from any use or operation of any methods, products, instructions, or ideas contained in the material herein.

ISBN 13: 978-1-138-83535-1 (hbk)

ISBN 13: 978-0-582-41876-9 (pbk)

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data

A CIP catalogue record for this book can be obtained from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

A CIP catalog record for this book can be obtained from the Library of Congress

Typeset by 7 in 10/12 Sabon Roman

Women and the First World War

This book is for my daughters: Sarah, Rebecca and Miranda.
May they help to promote peace and justice in
our war-torn world.

INTRODUCTION TO THE SERIES

Such is the pace of historical enquiry in the modern world that there is an ever-widening gap between the specialist article or monograph, incorporating the results of current research, and general surveys, which inevitably become out of date. *Seminar Studies in History* is designed to bridge this gap. The series was founded by Patrick Richardson in 1966 and his aim was to cover major themes in British, European and World history. Between 1980 and 1996 Roger Lockyer continued his work, before handing the editorship over to Clive Emsley and Gordon Martel. Clive Emsley is Professor of History at the Open University, while Gordon Martel is Professor of International History at the University of Northern British Columbia, Canada, and Senior Research Fellow at De Montfort University.

All the books are written by experts in their field who are not only familiar with the latest research but have often contributed to it. They are frequently revised, in order to take account of new information and interpretations. They provide a selection of documents to illustrate major themes and provoke discussion, and also a guide to further reading. The aim of *Seminar Studies in History* is to clarify complex issues without over-simplifying them, and to stimulate readers into deepening their knowledge and understanding of major themes and topics.

AUTHOR'S ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The research and writing of this book was aided by a Faculty Small Research Grant and a Liberal Arts Summer Research Grant from the University of Mississippi. As my book is a work of synthesis as well as analysis, I am indebted to many scholars, too numerous to acknowledge here, whose work may be found in the bibliography. Among those whose direct assistance has been most valuable, I would like to thank Gordon Martel; the staff of the Interlibrary Loan Office of the J.D. Williams Library, University of Mississippi; staff at the Imperial War Museum, London; Fara Shook, Debbie Townsend, and Rachael Paillet for the extraordinary care they have given my children; Deborah Cohen for her invaluable comments; and Joe Ward for making its writing and my life better.

PUBLISHER'S ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are grateful to the following for permission to reproduce copyright material:

The literary executors of Vera Brittain for her poem 'The Superfluous Woman' published in *Verses of a VAD*; Coopers Square Press for extracts from *With the Armies of the Tsar: A Nurse at the Russian Front in War and Revolution 1914–1918* by Florence Farmborough; HMSO for the table on 'Wartime birth rates for Great Britain' published in the *Annual Report of the Registrar General for England and Wales, for Scotland, for Ireland and for Northern Ireland* © Crown Copyright; and Presses Universitaires de France for the table on wartime birth rates in France published in *La Population de la France Pendant la Guerre* by Michel Huber © Presses Universitaires de France.

In some cases we have been unable to trace the owners of copyright material and we would appreciate any information that would enable us to do so.

CHRONOLOGY

This chronology of the First World War highlights events of special significance to women.

1914

- 28 June Assassination of Archduke Ferdinand and his wife, Sophia, in Sarajevo by Serb nationalist Gavrilo Princip.
- 5 July 5,000 French women demonstrate in Paris for women's suffrage.
- 28 July Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia.
- 31 July French Socialist leader Jean Jaurès is assassinated.
- 1 August Germany declares war on Russia.
- 3 August Germany declares war on France, and sends troops through Belgium.
Italy declares its neutrality.
- 4 August Britain declares war on Germany.
Millicent Fawcett, leader of the NUWSS, and others address a women's peace meeting in London.
- 5 August Clara Zetkin, a German socialist feminist, calls for proletarian women to resist war.
- 6 August Austria-Hungary declares war on Russia.
Serbia declares war on Germany.
- 8 August Britain passes the Defence of the Realm Act (DORA), which is revised throughout the war, and initiates censorship.
- 10 August Britain and France declare war on Austria-Hungary.
Suffragettes imprisoned in Britain are offered an amnesty.
- 11 August Austria-Hungary invades Serbia.
- 30 August First bombing of Paris by German aeroplanes.
- 5–12 September First Battle of the Marne ends the German advance and starts trench warfare.
- Late September Women's Volunteer Reserve and Women's Defence Relief Corps are set up in Britain.
- 30 October International Women for Peace mass meeting in New York.
- 1 November Russia declares war on the Ottoman Empire.
- 5 November Other Allies declare war on the Ottoman Empire.
- 21 December German air raid on Dover, Britain.

1915

- 7 January First official reports of German violations of human rights in occupied France are published. They launch a debate over 'the children of rape' in France (which lasts until May).
- 10 January Founding of the American Women's Peace Party.
- 19 January First German Zeppelin raid on Britain.
- 1 February Endell Street Military Hospital (first to be staffed entirely by women) opens in London.
- 2 February British naval blockade of Germany begins.
- 4 February Germany announces its own blockade of Britain and initiates submarine warfare to ensure this.
- 18 February Imprisonment of Rosa Luxemburg for anti-war actions.
- Late February Protests in London and Berlin over the rising cost of living and food shortages respectively.
- 17 March War Service Register for British women opens, after the government and unions reach an agreement to employ women in munitions factories.
- 25–27 March Clara Zetkin organises an anti-war conference of socialist women in Berne, Switzerland.
- 22 April Gas is used for the first time by Germany on the Western Front.
- 24 April Genocidal attacks on the Ottoman Empire's Armenian population begin.
- 25 April British and Australian forces land at Gallipoli.
- 28 April–1 May The Women's International Peace Conference meets at The Hague, with no French women attending – the largest French women's organisations instead issue their own address to women of neutral nations. The Hague Conference does create an International Women's Committee for a Permanent Peace which later becomes the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.
- May Bryce Report, an investigation into alleged German atrocities in Belgium, is issued in Great Britain.
- 7 May *Lusitania*, a British ocean liner, is sunk by German submarines.
- 19 May British Coalition government is formed.
- 23 May Italy declares war on Austria-Hungary.
- Late May More demonstrations by women in Berlin and Trieste.
- 10 June French minimum wage law now applies to women in the clothing trade working at home.
- 17 July Women's 'Right to Serve' march takes place in London.
- 29 July Clara Zetkin is arrested for treason for distributing a manifesto emerging from the Berne Conference.
- 4–6 August More Zeppelin raids on British towns.

- August Military Service Law in Germany requires all men and women between the ages of 15 and 25 to register for war service.
- August National Register for men and women between the ages of 16 and 65 is set up in Great Britain.
- 5–8 September Socialist Conference in Zimmerwald is divided between support for peace and advocacy of class warfare.
- 2 October Louise Saumoneau, French socialist feminist, is arrested.
- 12 October Germany executes British nurse Edith Cavell for aiding the escape of Allied soldiers from Belgium.
- 14 October Bulgaria enters the war.
- 23 October More demonstrations by German women protesting against high prices.

1916

- 27 January Conscription is introduced in Britain (except for Ireland) with the First Military Service Bill.
- 29–31 January German Zeppelins raid Paris and parts of England.
- 21 February Battle of Verdun begins (very heavy French and German casualties, lasts until December).
- March Women's National Land Service Corps is created in Britain.
- 22 April Deportations of young women in occupied France for forced labour begins.
- 24 April–1 May Easter Rising in Ireland.
- 29 June First strike by French women munitions workers.
- 1 July Start of the Battle of the Somme (produces very high casualties and lasts until November).
- 27 August Romania enters the war on the Allied side.
- 15 September Introduction of tank warfare by Britain on the Western Front.
- 3 October Deportations of Belgians for forced labour begin.
- 2 November Women's anti-war demonstration in Dresden.
- 27 November Greece declares war on Germany.
- 1 December Women's Army Auxiliary Corps is created in Britain.
- 5 December Auxiliary Service Law is enacted in Germany and compels war work of all German men aged between 17 and 60.
- 7 December British Prime Minister Asquith is replaced by Lloyd George.

1917

- 8 January Strikes by women workers in Paris and Leeds.
- 10 January US Women's Suffrage advocates picket the White House.

-
- 23 January Coal rationing begins in France; there are demonstrations in Paris over coal shortages.
- 31 January Germany declares no restrictions on its submarine warfare.
- February Demonstrations continue in Germany over the cost of, and access to, food.
Loi Violette authorises French women to serve as guardians.
- 4 February Strikes in Petrograd on the anniversary of 1905 Bloody Sunday.
- March Wave of strikes hits France.
- 3 March Women's Army Auxiliary Corps enrolls its first members.
- 8 March The 'February' Revolution begins in Russia after women strike and participate in food riots in conjunction with mutinying soldiers.
- 16 March Tsar Nicholas II abdicates.
- April More demonstrations against the war and its costs in Germany.
- 1 April Women demonstrate in Petrograd for the right to vote.
- 6 April The United States of America enters the war.
- 16 April Start of French offensive along the Chemin des Dames, and of the resulting mutinies.
- 12 May Start of more strikes in France, especially of women workers; also mutinies in the French army continue until June.
- 21 May Maria Botchkareva launches the first Russian Women's Battalion of Death.
- 13 June Daylight air raids in London do extensive damage.
- 25 June First American Expeditionary Forces reach France.
- 31 June Start of the Battle of Passchendaele.
- August Riots by women in Turin, Italy.
- 2 August Russian Provisional Government passes universal adult suffrage.
- 14 September Canada passes legislation enfranchising women who are close relatives of men serving in the military.
- 20 September Canadian women performing war service are enfranchised.
- 15 October Mata Hari, alleged German spy, is executed in France.
- 24 October Battle of Caporetto.
- 7 November Second phase of the Russian Revolution leads to the Bolshevik takeover of government with the 'October Revolution'.
- 16 November Clemenceau assumes the position of Prime Minister of France.
- 18 November Arrest of Hélène Brion for treason.
- 29 November Women's Royal Naval Service is created in Britain.
- 15 December Armistice between Russia and Germany takes Russia out of the war.

1918

- January Strikes by German workers protesting about food shortages halt the munitions industry; similar strikes occur this month in Vienna and Budapest.
- 6 February Representation of the People Act passes through the British Parliament, enfranchising most women over the age of 30.
- 25 February In Britain, rationing of meat and fats begins.
- 3 March Treaty of Brest-Litovsk recognises independent states and cedes Russian imperial territory to Germany.
- 21 March German offensive on the Somme begins.
- 23 March Long-range German cannons bombard Paris.
- 29 March Trial of Hélène Brion concludes with a guilty verdict of 'treason' and a suspended sentence.
- 1 April Women's Royal Air Force is created in Britain.
- 2 April First US troops engage in battle on the Western Front.
- 9 April Britain's Women's Army Auxiliary Corps is renamed Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps.
- 29 April American women arrive in France to serve in the US Signal Corps.
- May More strikes in France protesting against the war.
- 1 May Bombing of the British hospital at Etaples.
- 19 May Bombing of the Canadian hospital at Etaples kills nurses.
- 29–30 May Bombing of hospitals at Abbeville and Etaples – WAACs and nurses are among the dead.
- 27 June Hospital ship is sunk and life boats are attacked – the dead include 14 Canadian nurses.
- 15 July Second Battle of the Marne.
- 27 July A Women's Signal Corps is created in Germany.
- 8 August Passage of Maternity and Child Welfare Act in Britain.
- 29 September Bulgaria signs an armistice with the Allies.
- 29 October German naval mutiny begins at Kiel.
- 30 October Ottoman Empire signs an armistice with the Allies.
- November French women workers are 'demobilised'.
- 3 November Austria-Hungary signs an armistice with the Allies.
- 8 November Insurrection in Munich — workers declare a Republic.
- 9 November Abdication of Kaiser Wilhelm II; Social Democrats assume control of the government amid strikes and unrest.
- 11 November Germany signs an armistice with the Allies.
- December Demobilisation of the British army begins.

1919

- 15 January Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht are murdered.
- 18 January Paris Peace Conference begins.
- 10 February Conference of Allied Women convenes for the duration of the Peace Conference.
- February–May Debates over the vote for women begin in France. It will be passed by the lower house but is delayed and then voted down in the Senate in November 1922.
- 12–20 May Women's International Peace Congress in Zurich.
- 28 June Treaty of Versailles is signed.
- 12 July Blockade of Germany is shut down.
- 28 November Nancy Astor becomes the first woman Member of Parliament.
- 23 December British Sex Disqualification Removal Act allows women to enter trades and professions.

1920

- 31 July Enactment of a law to repress abortion and outlaw advertising for contraception in France.
- 11 November Unveiling of the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior in London and of the Unknown Soldier in France.

CONTENTS

Introduction to the Series	ix
Author's Acknowledgements	x
Publisher's Acknowledgements	xi
Chronology	xii
PART ONE: BACKDROP	1
1. INTRODUCTION	3
PART TWO: EXPERIENCES OF WAR	7
2. THE WAR BEGINS: PROPAGANDA, RECRUITMENT AND STATE SUPPORT OF FAMILIES	9
Feminine Images in Propaganda	10
The 'Rape of Belgium', the Bryce Report and Atrocity Propaganda	16
Beyond Images: White Feathers and the Recruiting of Men	20
Separation Allowances and Widows' Pensions	22
3. WOMEN'S WAR WORK: REMUNERATIVE, VOLUNTARY AND FAMILIAL	27
Recruitment, Mobilisation and Experience	27
Waged War Work in Factories	28
Social Welfare and Police Work	35
The Medical Professions	37
On the Land	41
Female Spies and the Question of Wartime Treason	43
Women's Unpaid Work	45
'The Kitchen is the Key to Victory': Work in the Home	49
Munitions versus Motherhood: Attitudes to War and Work	49
4. WOMEN IN THE LINE OF FIRE	51
Life under Occupation in Europe	52
In the Army: Women's Military Services	53
The Experience of Battle at Home	57
5. MORALE, MORALITY AND SEXUALITY	62
Loosening the Double Standard?: Morale and Morality at Home	62
'War Babies': Illegitimacy and Sexuality	65
Women as 'Suspect'	67
Prostitution, Regulation and 'The Hidden Scourge'	69
The War and Gender Disruption	77

6.	PACIFISM, DISSENT AND REVOLUTION	79
	Women's Anti-militarism and War Resistance, <i>c.</i> 1914–16	80
	The Prosecution of Women's Anti-war Activity	85
	Strikes, Protests and War-weariness, 1917	89
	Protests and Radicalism in Asia	90
	Women and Revolution: Ireland, Russia and Germany	92
	PART THREE: EFFECTS OF WAR	99
7.	ASSESSING THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE WAR FOR WOMEN	101
	Wartime and Postwar Changes in Women's Political Rights	101
	The Effect on Women's Employment	106
	Social Welfare Policy and Cultural Change	109
	Mourning and Commemoration	111
8.	CONCLUSION	117
	PART FOUR: DOCUMENTS	121
	Glossary	160
	Who's Who	163
	Bibliography	166
	Index	180

