

For this paper assignment, I have chosen to focus on the topic of women, which this topic came with three journal articles to analyze. The first journal article is by Julie Hardwick, who wrote "*Early Modern Perspectives on the Long History of Domestic Violence: The Case of Seventeenth-Century France*." The second journal article is by Olwen Hufton, "Women in History. Early Modern Europe." Finally, the third journal article is by Merry E. Wiesner-Hanks, who composed "Early Modern Perspectives on the Long History of Domestic Violence: The Case of Seventeenth-Century France." It's important to note that the first two journal articles highlight the importance of early modern women and their role in society, while the third journal article takes a different approach where it focuses on women's history and gender studies, ranging from the early 1980s - early 2010s. In short, this paper is organized by answering each question in the order of the labeled "paper assignment" on D2L. Likewise, this paper will analyze the three journal articles and compare and contrast them to see how exactly they emphasize the importance of women's history during the early modern period and late 20th and early 21st centuries.

To begin, the paper assignment will start by examining each thesis statement and arguments of each source. The first journal is "Early Modern Perspectives on the Long History of Domestic Violence: The Case of Seventeenth-Century France," by Hardwick, in which she addresses the issue of women's domestic violence in seventeenth-century France, both in urban and rural areas. Hardwick's thesis in the article is about how women's domestic violence in France relates to the culture, politics, location, and social hierarchy of the time.<sup>1</sup> As for the

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<sup>1</sup> Julie Hardwick, "Early Modern Perspectives on the Long History of Domestic Violence: The Case of Seventeenth-Century France," *The Journal of Modern History* 78, no. 1 (2006): 4-5, <https://doi.org/10.1086/499793>.

second article, "Women in History. Early Modern Europe," by Hufton, whose topic is how women's history is mentioned in the achievements in understanding women's roles are the multiple aspects women's role in daily life. Hufton's thesis statement is how women's history impacted the roles of women in Early Modern Europe society. Furthermore, Hufton also wrote this journal article as a survey essay to offer her audience new groundbreaking evidence in the roles of early modern women in Europe.<sup>2</sup> In the third article, "Early Modern Perspectives on the Long History of Domestic Violence," the author, Wiesner-Hanks, focuses on theoretical and methodological trends that have emerged from this intersection.<sup>3</sup> Wiesner-Hanks's thesis statement is how women's history and gender studies are necessary and how these factors relate to the church's history. While at the same time, it also examines how the study of women's history and gender issues has influenced and intertwined with the understanding of church history during this period.

Moving on to analyzing what arguments and information each author is using to develop and support their thesis, respectively. For the first journal article, Hardwick presents several arguments and pieces of information to develop and support her thesis. One of Hardwick's first arguments is how the culture and politics of spousal violence were influenced by cultural and political factors that varied based on time, location (rural and urban), and social status (peasant class, the working class, or the elite) of Early Modern France. These factors helped in shaping the history of gender, family violence, and privacy.<sup>4</sup> Another argument by Hardwick is how

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<sup>2</sup> Olwen Hufton, "Women in History. Early Modern Europe," no. 101 (1983): 128.  
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/650672>.

<sup>3</sup> Merry E. Wiesner-Hanks, "Early Modern Perspectives on the Long History of Domestic Violence: The Case of Seventeenth-Century France," *The Journal of Modern History* 78, no. 1 (2006): 600.  
<https://doi.org/10.1017/S000964070013029X>.

<sup>4</sup> Hardwick, "Early Modern Perspectives," 4.

women of higher rank were sometimes reluctant to use courts for aid, due to being afraid of publicizing their difficulties, so they used private remedies.<sup>5</sup> In one of the arguments between husband and wife, Hardwick describes in her text how one of the neighbors heard sounds of a husband beating his wife. In the many examples listed in the text, it was either due to wives verbally challenging their husbands when the husband asks for the wife's money,<sup>6</sup> a husband being susceptible to drinking,<sup>7</sup> or many other factors where the husband would drag their wives to the streets to "correct her". Due to multiple reports of spousal battery, over time, French society began to recognize what a problem spousal battery was, so French courts began to draw the line between when is it correct to discipline one's wife and when it wasn't.<sup>8</sup> Another, argument for this source is how women receive aid from their communities via neighbors, maids, priests, and others.<sup>9</sup> Finally, an argument that builds up the previous three arguments is that over time, there began to be a shifting perception of response to the spousal battery, where they began to re-evaluate the roles of men and women in families, where if a husband was in the wrong for disciplining his wife, it will hurt him more than her, due this wrongful discipline hurting the husband's reputation will be damaged.<sup>10</sup>

Now looking at Hufton's article, she likewise presented several arguments of information to support her thesis. One argument that I highlighted is the importance of integrating women's experiences into the broader narrative of history, rather than subjecting their experiences to only women's history, and causing it to be considered a separate field of study.<sup>11</sup> Another argument is

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<sup>5</sup> Hardwick, "Early Modern Perspectives," 8.

<sup>6</sup> Hardwick, "Early Modern Perspectives," 11.

<sup>7</sup> Hardwick, "Early Modern Perspectives," 6.

<sup>8</sup> Hardwick, "Early Modern Perspectives," 15.

<sup>9</sup> Hardwick, "Early Modern Perspectives," 36.

<sup>10</sup> Hardwick, "Early Modern Perspectives," 34-35.

<sup>11</sup> Hufton, "Women in History," 127.

the various roles women have in society. [For example, in France, Spinsters (men and women over the age of 50 who never married) represented 14 percent of the population of France in 1784-85.<sup>12</sup> Another example is the role of women in the household, how some women in France engaged in wet nursing to support their families,<sup>13</sup> or for young women to build their own dowry, in which will aid them in their future endeavors.<sup>14</sup> Hufton also compares women's education between European countries, as this, for Hufton, is a vital for women's studies. For example, in France, women were more likely to be educated than in other countries like England, but at the same time, women were less likely to have basic literacy skills than men.<sup>15</sup> As for Wiesner-Hanks, she also supported her thesis of how the study of women and gender is crucial to understanding the history of the church. Wiesner-Hanks argues that in the past, historians used to only study male history, but recently began to look at women's history. Likewise, Wiesner-Hanks argues how historians have tried to fit them into established categories like countries, time periods, social groups, or religion, but soon realized that this wasn't enough and that historians must also take into account women's experiences to understand their impact in history.<sup>16</sup> Other topics include queer theory Another and postcolonial theory, which focuses on how race, sexuality, and identity shape history. On the other side of queer theory, critics claim that it falls outside the pattern of traditional history, of how it doesn't pay enough attention to differences between men and women.<sup>17</sup> Another interesting argument is how women's history was beginning to be discussed in universities around the world (the United States, Britain, Israel, and Australia).

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<sup>12</sup> Hufton, "Women in History," 129.

<sup>13</sup> Hufton, "Women in History," 131.

<sup>14</sup> Hufton, "Women in History," 131.

<sup>15</sup> Hufton, "Women in History," 134-135.

<sup>16</sup> Wiesner-Hanks, "Early Modern Perspectives," 601.

<sup>17</sup> Wiesner-Hanks, "Early Modern Perspectives," 611.

By the late 1970s, hundreds of colleges in the U.S. offered courses in women's history, and many had separate programs in women's history and studies, though, by the nineties, it was reported that researching women's history could get you pegged and hurt your career.<sup>18</sup>

Now shifting gears towards why was the subject of each author's argument important, and to what extent did the events and themes they conveyed bring about change to European history, as well as to what extent does the historian emphasize continuity with the past? We first look at Hardwick's article, in which we see how the Hardwick's view on domestic violence in seventeenth-century France is important by shedding light on the history of gender and family, as well as on the history of violence and privacy. As for how the extent the events and themes the author conveyed brought about genuine change in the history of Europe and to what extent the historian emphasizes the continuity with the past, for the most part, it shows an emphasis on addressing the serious issue of women's domestic violence, and how even though it was a serious issue in the early modern period, it still an issue that persists today. As you read her article, Hardwick article also explains how domestic violence was an issue, and how it began to be recognized by French society as an issue, since neighbors, priests, and even courts began to recognize its importance, where if a woman were to address the issue to court, it most of the time, she would receive separate property,<sup>19</sup> and even she doesn't, her husband will be stripped of his position of the head of the house, and affect his role in the community.<sup>20</sup>

Upon examining the second article, we see how Hufton's view of women's history is significant because it challenges the traditional narrative of history that frequently gets excluded or even marginalized. As for addressing change over time, the author highlights the diversity of

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<sup>18</sup> Wiesner-Hanks, "Early Modern Perspectives," 615.

<sup>19</sup> Hardwick, "Early Modern Perspectives," 26.

<sup>20</sup> Hardwick, "Early Modern Perspectives," 15.

women's experiences and the need to use a variety of sources and methodologies to examine the history of women and their roles in society. By reading the history of women and their roles in society, historians can gain an understanding of women's roles in society and how women's roles in society changed in today's time. One example is women working as midwives during the early modern period, and now being able to become doctors.<sup>21</sup> Likewise, women worked in the industrial workforce during the early modern period where they were involved in converting Lyonnaise silk, whereas now they work in higher-end jobs in the industrial workforce.<sup>22</sup>

Then, in Wiesner-Hanks' text, she explains how the point of view of women, gender, and church history is important being it disrupts traditional historical categories and paradigms, forcing the reader to reconsider the way history is organized and structured. In how the text brought about change over time, Wiesner-Hanks explains how including women and gender in church history, we can gain a more complete understanding of the past. Wiesner-Hanks argues that while there have been changes in attitudes towards women and gender roles over time, there is also a lot of work to be done. An example is women's position in the church, where women have been excluded from certain positions of power and authority, and their contributions have been overshadowed. The importance are the challenges faced by female historians in identifying themselves as "Reformation historians" and how they have overcome challenges while declaring the significance of religious history to their feminist friends.<sup>23</sup> Wiesner-Hanks's goal is to motivate future generations of historians of this issue.<sup>24</sup>

As for comparing and contrasting, it is evident that the three authors have many

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<sup>21</sup> Hufton, "Women in History," 138.

<sup>22</sup> Hufton, "Women in History," 132.

<sup>23</sup> Wiesner-Hanks, "Early Modern Perspectives," 615.

<sup>24</sup> Wiesner-Hanks, "Early Modern Perspectives," 616.

similarities and differences in their articles, respectively. Beginning with the similarities, one similarity is that both Hufton and Wiesner-Hanks address religion in their articles. Hufton mentions how religious beliefs were important in how people thought of women, both among leaders and the general population. The role of women in religion during movements like the Reformation and Counter-Reformation, and their support or opposition to traditional beliefs are significant aspects of women's history.<sup>25</sup> While in Wiesner-Hanks's article, her thesis concerns women's history and gender studies and its relation to the church. Another similarity is between Hardwick and Hufton, who cover the same time periods, early modern Europe, and France. As for the differences, Hardwick and Hufton cover the early modern era, while Wiesner-Hanks cover the early to mid 1980s - early 2010s. Another important difference to note is the types of sources each author uses. Hardwick uses primary sources, Hufton primarily secondary sources, and Wiesner-Hanks both primary and secondary sources. Likewise, there is another difference, Hardwick's article focuses more on relationships between husband and wife and how the wife is most of the time abused by the husband. While Hufton and Wiesner-Hanks focus on more broader terms relating to women, for example, women in impacting society or women and their efforts in religion, and how it is undermined by the church for their views. Similarly, another difference is Another difference is Hufton covers modern topics like women's studies, including LGBTQ+ issues, which are not addressed by other authors, which isn't addressed by the other authors.

Finally, we will compare the methodologies, sources, and forms of historical reasoning used by each author, and answer the question: can the points of disagreement or contrast between the assigned works of history be explained by different methodologies, different sources, or

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<sup>25</sup> Wiesner-Hanks, "Early Modern Perspectives," 136.

different forms of historical reasoning? Starting with Hardwick, who uses a combination of methodologies, sources, and forms of historical reasoning to explore the history of domestic violence in seventeenth-century French cities. Addressing the methodologies, Hardwick used a comparative style to analyze the similarities and differences between the examples of spousal violence. The author also uses the generated approach to examine the impact of domestic violence between husband and wife. As for the sources, the author uses a variety of primary sources and testimonies of witnesses that are from a larger research project, "Courting Families: Litigation and the Political Economies of Daily Life in Early Modern France," which were given to her by a yearlong fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities.<sup>26</sup> And for the forms of historical reasoning, the author used sound reasoning to explore the characteristics that shaped the husband's actions and wives' choices, and the author compares the culture and politics of spousal violence and critically analyzes sources to develop arguments.

As for the author Hufton, for her methodology, she uses the historical reasoning method to explore women's role in society and the comparative method to identify women's role in society in different European countries. As for the sources, Hufton uses a variety of secondary sources within the text. According to the author, the reason for her having these sources is because she wanted to pick out recent works that she found particularly interesting, and also the text that has made covered new ground or has suggested other lines of inquiry, that are not dedicated to women alone.<sup>27</sup> In terms of historical reasoning, the author uses her historical reasoning to argue against ordinary historical narratives of history that marginalize women's history, and that studying women's history is crucial for getting a complete understanding of

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<sup>26</sup> Hardwick, "Early Modern Perspectives," 1.

<sup>27</sup> Hufton, "Women in History," 128.



human history overall. Correspondingly, Wiesner-Hanks also uses a combination of methodologies, sources, and forms of historical reasoning to explore the role of women and gender in the church. Addressing the methodologies, Wiesner-Hank's use of embodied experience highlights the significance of the human body. Also, the use of the comparative method to address women's role in the church. This text uses both primary and secondary sources, which are all articles about Women, Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality in church History.<sup>28</sup> As for the forms of historical reasoning, she uses critical analysis of documents and other sources to uncover hidden assumptions and biases. As for the question itself, the reason the text says different things, even though the topic is about women's history, is due to each other focusing on a certain time/place. For example, Both Hardwick and Hufton focus on women's history in Early Modern Europe, but Hardwick primarily focuses on France, while Hufton focuses on general Early Modern Europe. And Wiesner-Hanks focuses more on modern (Ish) day women's history, with an emphasis on women's studies.

To recap, this paper assignment was made to address how the three journal articles that were written by Julie Hardwick, Olwen Hufton, and Merry E. Wiesner-Hanks, respectively, emphasized the importance of women's history during the early modern period and late 20th and early 21st centuries. Furthermore, this paper assignment was structured by questions posted on D2L. In other words, each article's thesis, similarities, and differences, supported arguments, sources, historical perspective, as well as methodologies, were thoroughly analyzed to the best of my ability.

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<sup>28</sup> Wiesner-Hanks, "Early Modern Perspectives," 616.