

# Thematic Timelines:

## Women

### Period 1 – Period 2

#### Period 1 – Post-Classical Era – 1200 CE – 1450 CE

- Patriarchy continued throughout most of the world, however in the Americas, West Africa, Southeast Asia, and with the Mongols, women exercised greater influence and power.
- **Neoconfucianism** kept China strongly patriarchal (foot binding in the Song Dynasty), as did **Islam** in the Middle East and North Africa (but not West)
- In the West, **Christianity** offered new opportunities for women to escape childrearing and become literate as nuns in convents
- Some Muslim territories, however, began to give divorce initiation rights to women (**Khula** – consensual divorce)
- **Margery Kempe** travel all around the world on various pilgrimages the first autobiography in the English language
- **Mongols and other nomads** had a more egalitarian approach, even giving women some property and inheritance rights, and allowing participation in battle (**Khutulun-Mongolian princess**)
- In West Africa, women retained their cultural identities, and 'companionship' remained a more egalitarian norm
- Gender parallelism in the Americas allowed women to operate in society with different roles, but were not seen as inferior or subordinate
- **'A'ishah al-Ba'uniyyah** was a Sufi master who likely composed more works in Arabic than any other woman prior to the 20<sup>th</sup> century

#### Period 2 – Early Modern Era – 1450 CE – 1750 CE

- European and Muslim traders were dependent on trade in South East Asia with female merchants such as **Nyai Gede**
- **Harem** politics played an important social function within the Ottoman Court, and demonstrated considerable political authority in Ottoman affairs

# Thematic Timelines:

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### Period 3 – 1750 CE – 1900 CE

#### Period 3 – Modern Era – 1750 CE – 1900 CE

- **Mary Wollstonecraft** criticized male dominance of society and education, suggesting women should be afforded educational opportunities
- **Olympe de Gouge** criticized the hypocrisy of the French Rev's call for equality and suffrage for male citizens only
- Classical liberals, such as **John Stuart Mill**, began calling for universal suffrage, including women
- **Flora Tristan** championed early 19th century feminism and advocated working alongside unions and socialists to move towards voting rights in the 1830s
- **Susan B Anthony** championed suffragette movements in the US
- First feminism / suffragette meeting in Seneca Falls, US
- **Lola Rodríguez de Tió** was the first Puerto Rican-born woman poet to establish herself a reputation as a great poet throughout all of Latin America
- **Yaa Asantewaa** was a female who led the Ashanti war known as the Yaa Asantewaa War against British colonialism in 1900

# Thematic Timelines:

## Women

### Period 4: 1900 CE – Present

#### Period 4 – Contemporary Era – 1900 – Present

- Advances in birth control and abortions allowed for greater sexual freedom and control of lives for women
- Women's participation in the work force during the World Wars elevated the status and empowered women in Western society
- **Suffragette movements** were successful in obtaining Western voting rights by nearly all Western nations by the early 20th century
- **UN Declaration of Rights** extended recognition and aid to women in oppressive societies in 1948
- **Second-wave feminism** called for female social equality and empowerment, criticizing the sole role of women as housewives after **the Counterculture Movement in 1968** (Simone de Beauvoir and Betty Friedan)
- Women franchised **White Revolution** in Iran (1963-1979)
- **The Greenbelt Movement** was started by **Professor Wangari Maathai** to empower women and advocate environmentalism
- Greater literacy and education to women empowered females to be more active in the work force
- Increased political participation enabled women to take prominent roles in politics: **Margaret Thatcher, Hillary Clinton, Angela Merkel**