

Women's History with Merry Wiesner-Hanks

Context on source: Merry Wiesner-Hanks is distinguished professor emerita at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and the former president of the World History Association. Merry is an expert on early modern Europe, women's history, and the Protestant and Catholic Reformations. She has written *A Concise History of the World* and she was the editor of *Cambridge World History in 7 volumes*. I'm talking to her today about the field of women's history and the lives of women in medieval and early modern Europe. Merry is so much fun to talk to and her knowledge on this topic is just so expansive.

Questions

1. What is women's history?
2. What should everyone know about women's history?
3. What are the challenges to studying and understanding women's experiences 500 to 1000 years ago?
4. Were most women in history "housewives?" Why or why not?
5. What jobs might women have had outside of the home in the medieval period?
6. What impact did the Protestant Reformation have on women?
7. Why is women's history during the medieval and early modern periods important?

Reflection Questions

1. Which aspect of the conversation did you find most interesting? Important? Surprising?